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Title: Need to utilize multi-sectoral Development Funds earmarked for minority concentration districts in various parts of the country.

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS (WAYANAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I wish to raise a very important issue before this august House and would like to draw the attention of the Government.

Sir, the Sachar Committee Report was tabled in 2006. The Government took many initiatives after that and one of the most important initiatives taken by the UPA Government was the evolving of Multi Sectoral Development Plan for the minority dominated districts. Though the Sachar Committee was meant only for the Muslim Community, the UPA Government took into consideration all the minority communities, identified 90 districts as minority-concentrated districts and earmarked Rs. 2,400 crore for infrastructure development in those districts. But unfortunately the State Governments have withered away from their responsibility. Out of Rs. 2,400 crore, an amount of Rs. 2,100 crore has already been distributed to the States, but only 28 per cent of the funds have been utilized so far and the remaining 72 per cent remains unutilized. In this respect, I would like to point out that two State Governments in India are at the bottom in respect of implementing the recommendations of the Sachar Committee Report for the welfare of the minorities. The total sanctioned money for West Bengal was Rs. 534 crore, but the Government of West Bengal was able to spend only 30 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS : Sir, my constituency Wayanad is the only district in Kerala where large number of minorities are there and no project was submitted by the Government of Kerala. Even then the UPA Government allotted Rs. 75 lakh to Wayanad district, but so far no amount has been spent by the State Government. I request the Central Government to look into the matter and take corrective measures.