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Title: Need to provide budgetary support to the Government of West Bengal for setting up Madarsas.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): In our State, West Bengal, minorities contribute 2.57 crore, that is 28.1 per cent of the total population. The present Government has increased the budgetary support for development of minorities by five times, from Rs.472 crore in 2010-11 to Rs.2,383 core during the current fiscal year.

We met the hon. Minister, Shrimati Najma Heptulla with a delegation just two days back at her residence in the morning and discussed in detail. We have some issues. Firstly, scholarships are offered by the Central Government under the 15 point programme. In West Bengal, it was 20 lakhs, this year we have received applications of near about 30 lakhs. We would like to appeal to the Central Government to consider increase the quota from 20 lakhs to 30 lakhs.

Secondly, Multi Sectoral Development Programme during 2015-16, the Government made an appeal for a grant of Rs.415 crore, and only Rs.100 crore has been allotted. The balance may kindly be delivered at the quickest possible time.

About the clusters of minority areas outside NCBs, proposals for approval of minorities clusters under the MSDP are pending, approval may be given to the name. About Cyber Gram, the State has proposed to the Minister this. This Government has sanctioned 243 Madrasas, out of 615 Government-aided Madrasas. Balance may be released as per the proposal.

The State Government has undertaken the project of Skill Development Programme with a project cost of Rs.86.46 crore under MSDP; Rs.6.02 crore has been sanctioned towards administrative cost for this purpose. But the same has not yet been realized.

West Bengal is one of the largest minority dominated States in the country. Next to Jammu and Kashmir and Assam, West Bengal is the third larges minority dominated State in the country. I would like to appeal to the Central Government to extend their hands of cooperation with the State Government and to take up their issues with top priority.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: DR. Ratna De, Shrimati Arpita Ghosh, Shrimati Pratima Mondal, and Shrimati Renuka Sinha are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay