

# Multi Sectoral Development Programme for Minorities (MSDP)

The Multi Sectoral Development Programme for Minorities (MSDP) is an area development initiative to address the developmental deficits of minority concentration areas by creating social infrastructure and providing basic amenities. As notified under section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains are considered minority communities. MSDP is a two-fold effort to supplement existing schemes in minority concentration areas and to undertake innovative projects for minority welfare.

## Objective

Launched in 2008-09 in 90 Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs), MSDP is one of the major schemes implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The aim of the scheme is to provide minority groups better infrastructure for education, pucca housing, roads, and drinking water and create income generating opportunities for them. The Ministry notifies appropriate feature additions or deletions from the programme from time to time based on other initiatives being undertaken for minority welfare.

Currently the scheme covers 710 minority concentration blocks (MCBs) in 155 backward districts and 66 minority concentration towns outside of these MCBs.

- Minorities account for almost 19% of Indian population: 13.4% Muslims, 2.3% Christians, 1.9% Sikh, 0.8% Buddhists, and 0.4% Jain (Census 2001).
- Literacy rate among Rural Muslims is 53% as compared to national average of 64.8% (Sanchar Committee Report, 2006)
- Sex Ratio amongst Sikhs is 893, lesser than the national average of 955. (National Commission for Minorities, 2008)
- Only 19% Muslims have piped water supply. (International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, 2012)

## Features

The main feature of MSDP is to support infrastructure development in basic areas related to ensuring a good quality of life. The areas of focus are education, health, sanitation, drinking water, pucca housing and roads. Skill development has been shifted to a different scheme called “Sikho and Kamao” under Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Two kinds of projects can be undertaken under MSDP:

- **Gap Filling Projects:** To provide additional funds and resources to infrastructure development projects being undertaken by other central schemes. Guidelines of the main scheme are followed for these projects.
- **Innovative Projects:** New ideas to fulfil area specific needs of the minority group which are not being fulfilled under any other existing scheme. Centre-State funding ratio is 80:20 for North-East and 60:40 for rest of India.

Block is the unit of planning and execution for MSDP projects. A block level facilitator is appointed on contractual basis to act as a bridge between the minority communities and the Government programmes. She/he supports block level committee in preparing plans, monitors and reports progress, and assists social audit committee.

Plans designed by Block Level Committee are screened by District Level Committee and are forwarded to the State Level to Rs. 10 crore can be approved by State Level Committee. Projects up to Rs. 10 crore can be approved by State Level Committee. Empowered Committee at the Centre would approve the overall plan of the block/town and clusters of villages and the projects of more than Rs. 10 crore.

Aspects that need to be considered for a project are as following:

- Location of assets being proposed under the scheme has to be selected ensuring that the catchment area has at least 25% minority population.
- Funds should not replace central or state government funds already being provided to the district.
- There should not be duplication with other schemes with similar objectives in the target area.
- Target should be to improve socio-economic condition and bring the district at par with national average.

The scheme does not allow for any project cost over-run. State governments have to bear all such costs.

## Key Features

- Target areas: 710 blocks and 66 towns with minority concentration
- Supplement funds for central schemes projects or fund innovative projects
- Projects related to infrastructure development, focus on education, health and livelihoods
- Block is the main unit for planning and implementation- project catchment area should have at least 25% minority population
- A dedicated Block Level Facilitator for implementation and monitoring of projects
- New post creation or cost over-run are not allowed or supported

## Framework for Implementation and Monitoring

The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** is responsible for overall implementation of the scheme. **Empowered Committee** chaired by Secretary, MoMA is the ultimate decision authority on all decisions related to MSDP.

**State/UT Level Committee**, chaired by Chief Secretary, ensures that all proposals meet the guidelines and provides approval for projects up to Rs 10 crore. It needs to verify and ensure that state government will be able to bear the state's share of project cost and the recurring expenses thereafter and also provide support staff.

**District Level Committee** is the first level for plan scrutiny and approval. In addition to gap filling projects, DLC also identifies area specific projects with minority welfare as focus.

**Block Level Committee**, led by Block Development Officer, and Block Level Facilitator are the key resources responsible for identification of opportunities, proposal presentation and project execution. They should involve civil society.

Independent agencies, qualified monitors, social audits and conferences and visits are deployed by the Ministry to monitor the progress of various projects physically and financially and to evaluate the impact on minorities. Additional monitoring steps of the main scheme in case of gap-filling model are also followed.

## Role of MPs

Project Identification	Project Monitoring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that deserving blocks, towns and village clusters get funds for appropriate projects</li> <li>• Intervene for timely approvals and release of funds</li> <li>• Mobilize NGOs for conducting awareness campaigns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure projects being undertaken in the scheme add value to the life of minorities</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate financial and physical progress, especially via social audits</li> </ul>

### Impact of MSDP on Muslims, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh

Under MSDP, a sum of Rs 2,635 lakh was allocated to Moradabad from 2009 to 2011. The funds were utilized for construction of Anganwadi Centres, Indira Awas houses, Primary health centres, sub-centres, along with installation of hand pumps. As a part of internal monitoring mechanism, at the district level a Task Force consisting of different district level officials verified the assets created under MSDP from time to time and reported to the Chief Development Officer, CDO, as well as District Magistrate through District Minority Welfare Officer. An IT Cable Cell was established and operated under the scheme for monitoring and inspection.

More than 36 percent households were benefitted from housing facilities (IAY) under MSDP. Anganwadi Centres are being used by more than 50% of eligible households. Although several inefficiencies were observed and there is room for better implementation, 80% households surveyed said that projects under MSDP had improved the conditions of the villages in several aspects.

