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Title: Need to include all blocks in Malappuram alongwith Wayanad in Kerala in Multi Sector Development Programme and extend centrally sponsored scholarship schemes to more students by raising the income ceiling.

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS (WAYANAD): After the Tabling of Sachar Committee report in 2006, the UPA Government initiated a host of measures aimed at uplifting the minorities. Multi Sectoral Development Funds (MSDF), earmarked for the infrastructural development in the Minority Concentrated Districts was a unique engagement by the Union Government.

In the Multi Sectoral Development Programme, during the 11<sup>th</sup> plan period, 19 districts were selected. In Kerala only Wayanad was selected but there was a serious omission as Malappuram district, with 70% of Muslim population was not included. Now, during the 12<sup>th</sup> plan, it is envisaged that in place of Minority Concentration Districts, Minority Concentration Blocks would be considered.

I would request the Union Government to include all blocks in Malappuram along with Wayanad in the program. It is also learnt that a huge amount has lapsed in MSDP program, reason being the nodal agencies empanelled to implement the projects were not given administrative expenses. In the case of disbursal of minority scholarship, a administrative expense of 2% is accorded.

For pre-matric scholarship, 16.5 lakh students applied. This rate is higher than last years 10.3 lakh applications of which only 690,000 were qualified for the scholarship. The main reason for this lacuna is that scholarship is being allotted as per their population. In the case of SCs/STs, the disbursal is demand driven. All eligible students are given scholarship in this case.

The ceiling of income limit for scholarship is very unscientific. It is Rupees one lakh and two lakhs as parents' income fixed for pre metric and post metric scholarship respectively. The creamy layer limit is Rs. 4.5 lakhs and at least, scholarship fourteen law schools in the country are not included and the Government must take steps to include these schools. I would hence request the the income limit should be set as Rs. 4.5 lakhs. In the 'merit-cum' means Union Government and the Ministry of Minority Affairs to look into these issues and take necessary steps immediately.