

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3267
ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023

MANF FOR PHD AND M.PHIL

3267. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- a) the details of Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) provided to minority students during last five years;
- b) whether Government has decided to discontinue the MANF for minority students studying M.Phil and Ph.D, if so, the reasons therefor;
- c) whether Government has noted the widespread objection against this decision;
- d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- e) whether Government proposes to withdraw the decision to discontinue the MANF, if so, the details thereof; and
- f) the steps taken/being taken by Government to provide Fellowship to minority students for studying M.Phil and Ph.D?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (f): The Government implements various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including minorities, especially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society, through various schemes of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Rural Development.

Ministry of Minority Affairs also implements various schemes, including various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes, across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the notified minority communities.

It has been observed that Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) Scheme of UGC and CSIR is open for students of all social categories and communities including minorities. Further, students from minority communities are also covered under National Fellowship Schemes for Scheduled Castes and OBCs implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Tribes implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. In view of the overlap among the aforesaid Schemes and possibilities of misuse and duplication, it has been decided to discontinue the MANF Scheme from 2022-23 onwards. The existing MANF Fellows will

continue to receive Fellowships till the end of their respective tenure, subject to compliance with the extant guidelines.

The MANF Scheme was implemented by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and as per the data provided by UGC, 4689 candidates were selected besides the ongoing renewal fellowship under the Scheme between 2017-18 and 2021-22 and fellowships to the tune of ₹ 470.22 crore were distributed during the same period.

There is no proposal to withdraw the decision of discontinuation of Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme.
