

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 714
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023

DISCONTINUATION OF SCHEMES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

714. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) list of schemes and scholarships discontinued during the last five year; and
- (b) the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) and (b): The Government implements various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including minorities, specially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society, through various schemes of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Rural Development. Ministry of Minority Affairs specifically implements various schemes across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities. These schemes give representation to all weaker segments of society including minorities.

To align the schemes with the New Education Policy, 2020, in interest of uniformity across similar schemes of other Ministries/ Departments and to avoid duplicity/ overlapping of schemes in education sector, the following Schemes and Scholarships have been discontinued from financial year (FY) 2022-23:

- 1) Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme: Similar schemes like 'Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) Scheme' of UGC & CSIR are open for all categories. Also, students from Minority Community are also covered under 'National Fellowship Scheme 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.

- 2) Padho Pardesh Scheme: National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a PSU under Ministry of Minority Affairs, also provides educational loans for education abroad at very low rate of interest, exclusively to students of minority communities. Also, educational loans are easily available to all students through Public Sector Banks without any collateral security and third-party guarantee.

- 3) Naya Savera- Free Coaching and Allied scheme: The New Education Policy, 2020, does not support coaching programs, rather it emphasises the need to reform the existing system of Board and Entrance Exams to eliminate the need for Coaching Classes.

- 4) Nai Udaan: To align with the practices and Schemes followed by other Ministries and to attain uniformity.

- 5) Coverage under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme has been revised from FY 2022-23 and made applicable for classes IX and X only: As the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education (class I to VIII) to each and every child and similar scholarship schemes are being implemented by other Ministries.
