

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1514  
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

**Implementation of MANF**

1514. SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS:

Will the Minister of Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of applications received and selected for the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) for the academic year 2023-24;
- (b) the community-wise and gender-wise details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of the MANF scheme; and
- (d) the status of disbursement of fellowship stipend and contingency grant to the selected candidates, month-wise and year-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): The Government has implemented 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 has specifically implemented various schemes, including Pre-Matric, Post Matric and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship schemes, across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six notified minority communities.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India has been implementing the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme on the lines of the JRF Scheme of UGC and CSIR.

The UGC and CSIR Fellowship Schemes are open for candidates of all social categories and communities including minorities. In addition to this, students from minority communities are also covered under the Fellowship Schemes being implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs for SC and OBC students and for ST students respectively. In view of the overlap among the aforesaid Schemes - it has been decided to discontinue the MANF Scheme from 2022-23 onward. The existing MANF Fellows will continue to receive Fellowships till the end of their respective tenure, subject to compliance with the extant guidelines.

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