

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2350
ANSWERED ON 16/12/2024

DISCONTINUED SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

2350 SHRI S. KALYANASUNDARAM:

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to reintroduce or replace the discontinued scholarship schemes for minority students;
- (b) whether Government provide a detailed analysis of the reasons behind the discontinuation of these schemes during the last five years;
- (c) whether there are any plans to increase the budget allocation for minority student scholarships to compensate for the schemes that were discontinued; and
- (d) whether Government will ensure that the scholarship schemes for minority students are effectively reaching the intended beneficiaries across various regions?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Minority Affairs has been implementing various schemes for socio-economic empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities including various educational empowerment Schemes such as (i) Pre-Matric, (ii) Post-Matric (iii) Merit-cum-Means based scholarships. The coverage under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme has been revised from 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 (classes I to VIII) to each and every child. This modification has also been done to harmonize the scheme with identical Scholarship schemes implemented by other Central Government Ministries. Further, Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship Schemes for girls, which was implemented by Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), has been subsumed with Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes for Minorities from 2022-23.

(c): Budget allocations for 2024-25 under the Scholarship Schemes are sufficient to meet the operational requirements for the year.

(d): To ensure that the benefits of Scholarship Schemes reach the genuine beneficiaries, this Ministry has made Aadhaar based bio-metric authentication and Aadhaar Payment Bridge System mandatory for all applicants.
