

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1871**  
ANSWERED ON 17/03/2025

**BUDGET FOR EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT OF MINORITIES**

1871 SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government acknowledges the sharp reduction in budgetary allocation for educational empowerment of minorities from ₹1,575.72 crore in 2024-25 to ₹678.03 crore in 2025-26 and if so, the rationale behind this drastic reduction despite the persistent educational disparities faced by minority communities; and
- (b) whether Government intends to restore or enhance funding for key schemes like pre and post-matriculation scholarships, Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) and free coaching, given their crucial role in enabling socio-economic mobility for minority students and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) : Ministry of Minority Affairs implements 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 and (iii) Merit-cum-Means based scholarships which is implemented across the country covering rural as well as urban areas. The reason for reduction in the budget is attributed to the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 which makes it obligatory for the Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child. Accordingly, Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme has been restricted to students studying in classes IX and X. Similarly, considering the overlap of Maulana Azad National Fellowship and Padho Pardesh interest subsidy scheme for over studies, with similar schemes of other Ministries/ Departments, the schemes have been discontinued. Moreover, the schemes have not been approved for implementation for the year 2024-25.
- (b): As of now, there is no such proposal to reinstate such discontinued schemes.

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