

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1712**  
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

**DISCONTINUATION OF MAULANA AZAD FOUNDATION GRANTS**

1712. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether scholarships and grants schemes previously offered through the Maulana Azad Education Foundation such as those for minority girls and women-led self-help groups have been discontinued since 2023;
- (b) whether the discontinuation of these schemes has adversely impacted educational and entrepreneurial opportunities for minority women in Bihar, particularly in rural and backward districts; and
- (c) alternative support mechanisms introduced to fill this gap, and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c): The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) was set up in 1980s to promote education amongst the educationally backward minority communities in particular and other weaker Sections in general when there were no formal arrangements/agencies to promote education amongst the minorities. Now, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has been created for the welfare of minorities including their socio-economic empowerment including promoting education among the minorities. Since the establishment of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the flow of benefits to minority communities has improved manifold as compared to activities undertaken through MAEF whether it relates to disbursement of scholarships specifically to minority girls, skill training to minority youth, infrastructure enhancement in areas with high minority populations, etc. The Ministry has streamlined its efforts to serve minority communities by consolidating a vast array of programs, which has resulted in significant cost savings, eliminated redundant efforts, and reduced the overall expense of public service delivery.

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