

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2836
ANSWERED ON 18/08/2025

DELAY IN DISBURSAL OF FUNDS UNDER MANF

2836. SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reason for the delay in disbursement of funds to beneficiaries under Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme;
- (b) the details of action taken or intended to be taken by Government for the disbursement of fellowship funds without any delay;
- (c) the details of minority students enrolled in CSIR and UGC Fellowship since 2023-2024; and
- (d) the details of action taken or intended to be taken by Government to encourage Ph.D. application among minority communities, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Minority Affairs has implemented Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme on the lines of the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) Scheme of University Grants Commission (UGC) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The scheme has been discontinued from 2022-23 due to its apparent overlap with similar schemes of other ministries. However, the existing MANF fellows will continue to receive fellowships till the end of their respective tenure. Vide sanction order dated 14.07.2025, funds have been released to nodal agency following which fellowships have already been released to the fellows.

(c): As informed by Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), they have been supporting 7289 doctoral and post doctoral fellows across more than 650 academic and R&D institutions across the country. CSIR has categorised its fellowship beneficiaries under Category as 'General', 'Other Backward Classes', 'Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribes', 'Economically Weaker Section (EWS)' and 'Divyangjan (PwD)' only.

Further, as informed by the University Grants Commission (UGC), a total number of 36072 students were enrolled under NETJRF during 2023-24 which includes minority students also.

(d): The Ministry of Minority Affairs has been implementing MANF Scheme for M.Phil/ Ph.D aspirants on the lines of Junior Research Fellowship and Senior Research Fellowship scheme of University Grants Commission.

Padho Pardesh scheme aims to award interest subsidy on educational loan to minority students for studying abroad to pursue approved courses of study at Masters, M.Phil. and Ph.D. levels. The scheme has been discontinued from 2022-23 as education loan is available at cheaper rates through various other Government interventions.

UGC is implementing Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) to support students/ research scholars, including those from minorities, by providing financial assistance to pursue higher education/advance studies and research leading to Ph.D. degree in Humanities, Social Sciences, including languages, and Sciences.

Further, there is a Research Fellowship for M. Phil/ Ph.D. scholars in Central Universities who are not NET qualified and not receiving any financial assistance under any other schemes. The non-NET Fellowship scheme was started in Central Universities in 2006-2007. The duration of the fellowship for Ph.D. Students is three years and extendable by one year, and for M.Phil students, it is for the duration of the course or for 18 months, whichever is less.
