

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3777
ANSWERED ON 23.03.2023

IMPACT OF DISCONTINUATION OF SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

3777. SHRIMATI MALA ROY:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any survey to ascertain the impact of discontinuation of Pre-Matric scholarships upto class VIII and the Maulana Azad Scholarship;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that people who were getting the scholarships have not received the same during the last several months;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to rectify the same?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e): The Government implements 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 also implements various schemes, including various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes, across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the notified minority communities.

The coverage under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for classes I to VIII has been discontinued from 2022-23. Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child. The modifications have also been done to harmonize the scheme with identical Scholarship schemes implemented by other Central Government Ministries.

It has been observed that Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) Scheme of UGC and CSIR is open for students of all categories. Besides, students from minority communities are also covered under National Fellowship Schemes for Scheduled Castes and OBCs implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Tribes implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. As the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme overlaps with various fellowship schemes for higher education, the Government has decided to discontinue the MANF Scheme from 2022-23.
