

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 59
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

59. SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to discontinue Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) scheme and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether there is any possibility for a person to avail two Government fellowships at the same time and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the students from minority sections are covered under other fellowships and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the fellowship that would be available for the students from minority sections who are not coming under either OBC or SC/ST after the discontinuation of MANF scheme; and
- (e) whether special considerations to minorities and backward sections like reservation, fellowships and scholarships would be ended and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e): The Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) Scheme of UGC and CSIR is open for students of all communities/categories. Besides, students from minority communities are also covered under National Fellowship Scheme 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 overlapped with various ongoing fellowship schemes for higher education, implemented by various Central Government Ministries, the MANF Scheme has been discontinued from 2022-23.

As per MANF Scheme guidelines, a scholar is eligible to receive only one Central fellowship at a time.

At present, the Government implements 3 Scholarship schemes for minorities viz., Pre-Matric, Post Matric and Merit-cum-Means under which scholarship is awarded every year for pursuing studies from Class IX to Ph.D, including technical and professional courses at under graduate/ post graduate level and technical and vocational courses at class XI-XII level.
