

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 78
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

DISCONTINUATION OF MANF SCHEME FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

78. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:
KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has discontinued the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) scheme and proposes to stop pre-matric scholarships for the students belonging to minority communities i.e. Muslim, Sikh, Parsi, Buddhist, Christian and Jain since 2022-23;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the underlying reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to restore/ re-instate the said scheme and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the reasons for starting scholarship schemes by the Government during the last few years;
- (e) whether the minority students are not considered under any other reserved categories for continuing their studies and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the discontinuation of the said scheme would not affect the studies of the minority students and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (f): The Government has implemented 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 has specifically implemented 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 has been revised from 2022-23 and made applicable for classes IX and X only as the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child. This modification has also been done to harmonize the scheme with identical Scholarship schemes implemented by other Central Government Ministries.

It has been observed that the 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 Schemes 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.

As of now, there is no proposal to restore/ re-instate these schemes.
