

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 89
ANSWERED ON 20.07.2023

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

89. SHRI NATARAJAN P.R:
SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that the fund disbursement of Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme is delayed for many months and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether MANF is a monthly basis fellowship scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether MANF is distributed to the beneficiaries on monthly basis and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of action taken by the Government for the disbursement of fellowship funds without any delay;
- (e) the time by which the next disbursement is likely to be given;
- (f) whether the Government has decided to discontinue MANF citing overlapping issue and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether it is possible for one person to avail two Government fellowships at a time; and
- (h) if so, the number of such cases thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e): The Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme was implemented through the University Grants Commission (UGC) till September, 2022. Subsequently, National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) was designated as the Implementing Agency for MANF Scheme. The operational issues relating to the designation of NMDFC as Central Nodal Agency (CNA) was the reason for delay in disbursement of

fellowship amount. The payment process has been streamlined and fellowships are being disbursed on quarterly basis.

(f): It has been observed that Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) Scheme of UGC and CSIR is open for students of all social categories and communities including minorities. Further, 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. In view of the overlap among the aforesaid Schemes and possibilities of misuse and duplication, it has been decided to discontinue the MANF Scheme from 2022-23 onwards. The existing MANF Fellows will continue to receive Fellowships till the end of their respective tenure, subject to compliance with the extant guidelines.

(g): As per Scheme guidelines, a scholar is eligible to receive only one fellowship at a time.

(h): Does not arise.
