

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*458**  
ANSWERED ON 02/04/2025

**DISCONTINUATION OF SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES**

\*458. SHRI SUDAMA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for discontinuing Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF), Post Matric Fellowship and Padho Pardesh Scheme for minority students;
- (b) the budget allocated and utilised for these schemes during the last ten years, year-wise;
- (c) whether any committee has been formed to look into the issue of discontinuation of these fellowships, if so, the details of the recommendations of the committee along with the names and designations of the members of this body; and
- (d) whether any student body, organisation, NGO or community-based organisation working with minorities have been consulted before discontinuing these fellowships, if so, the details thereof along with the nature of consultations and their views on the same?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*458 ANSWERED ON 02.04.2025 ASKED BY SHRI SUDAMA PRASAD REGARDING “DISCONTINUATION OF SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES”**

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements various schemes for socio-economic empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities viz. Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Parsi and Sikh, including various educational empowerment Schemes such as (i) Pre-Matric, (ii) Post-Matric and (iii) Merit-cum-Means based scholarships, Maulana Azad National Fellowship and Padho Pardesh schemes, across the country.

The Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme was implemented by this Ministry on the lines of the JRF Scheme of UGC and CSIR. The UGC and CSIR Fellowship Schemes are open for candidates of all social categories and communities including minorities. In addition to this, students from minority communities are also covered under the Fellowship Schemes being implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs for SC and OBC students and for ST students respectively. In view of the overlap among the aforesaid Schemes, it has been decided to discontinue the MANF Scheme since 2022-23. No other fellowship scheme of this Ministry has been discontinued.

Similarly, Padho Pardesh- Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for the students belonging to Minority communities was implemented by this Ministry. In recent years the Government has eased the norms and made various educational loans available easily to all students through Public Sector Banks. As a result educational loan up to Rs. 7.50 lakh is sanctioned without any collateral security and third party guarantee by a lending institution to the eligible borrower for higher education as per Indian Banks Association Model Educational Loan Scheme for pursuing Higher Education in India and Abroad is covered under the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Educational Loans of Department of Higher Education. In addition to this, the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a PSU under Ministry of Minority Affairs, also provides educational loan for education abroad, at lower rate of interest, exclusively to students belonging to minority communities. It has also been observed that benefits of interest subsidy that get accrued to the beneficiaries under the Padho Pardesh scheme are limited and also that there is an apparent overlap with other similar schemes being implemented by other Ministries which are applicable to eligible minority community students as well. In view of this overlap, limited benefits and ease of availing education loans on lower rate of interest, it has been decided to discontinue Padho Pardesh Scheme since 2022-23.

The details of budget allocation and its utilization during the last ten years under the aforesaid schemes are as under:

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>MANF Scheme</b>		<b>Padho Pardesh Scheme</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Budget Allocation</b>	<b>Amount Sanctioned</b>	<b>Budget Allocation</b>	<b>Amount Sanctioned</b>
2014-15	1.00	0.12	3.50	3.50
2015-16	55.58	55.52	4.19	4.15
2016-17	120.00	119.92	5.32	4.00
2017-18	150.00	124.87	17.00	17.00
2018-19	153.00	97.85	45.00	45.00
2019-20	130.00	100.00	25.00	14.43
2020-21	100.00	73.50	22.00	20.19
2021-22	99.00	74.00	24.00	22.15
2022-23	99.00	98.85	24.00	24.00
2023-24	54.00	83.45	7.00	0.00
2024-25	45.08	25.00	15.30	0.00

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