

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3046
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025

CANCELLED OR DISCONTINUED SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOR MINORITIES

3046. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of scholarships and financial assistance schemes for students from minority communities that have been cancelled, discontinued or merged during the last ten years;
- (b) the total number of beneficiaries under these scholarships before their cancellation and the reasons cited for their discontinuation;
- (c) whether the Government has introduced alternative scholarship schemes to replace the discontinued schemes and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the cancellation of these scholarships has adversely affected the students from minority communities and if so, whether any study or assessment has been conducted on its the impact;
- (e) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure continued financial assistance for students from minority communities particularly those from economically weaker sections; and
- (f) the details of financial allocation and expenditure incurred upon all scholarships and financial assistance schemes for students from minority communities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (e): Ministry of Minority Affairs implements various schemes for socio-economic empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities including various educational empowerment Schemes such as (i) Pre-Matric, (ii) Post-Matric and (iii) Merit-cum-Means based scholarships which are implemented across the country covering rural as well as urban areas.

The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 makes it obligatory for the Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child. Accordingly, Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme has been restricted to students studying in classes IX and X. Similarly, considering the overlap of Maulana Azad National Fellowship and Padho Pardesh interest subsidy scheme for over studies, with similar schemes of other Ministries/ Departments, the schemes have been discontinued from 2022-23. Moreover, the schemes have not been approved for implementation for the year 2024-25.

A total of about 8.30 crore scholarships were awarded to minority students since inception of the aforesaid schemes.

Similar scholarship schemes, implemented by the Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment, Tribal Affairs, Education, etc, are available to the minority students for continued financial assistance.

(f): Out of budget allocation of ₹ 10432.53 crore, ₹ 7369.95 crore have been expended under the aforesaid schemes during the last five years including 2024-25.
