

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2887
ANSWERED ON 06/08/2025

IMPLEMENTATION OF MINORITY WELFARE SCHEMES

2887. MS IQRA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the Parliamentary Panel's recommendations on timely implementation of minority welfare schemes;
- (b) if so, the key recommendations including the need to expedite approvals, streamline processes, address delays in scholarship disbursement, review the discontinuation of schemes like Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) and Padho Pardesh and improve monitoring of implementation and expenditure;
- (c) whether any assessment has been conducted to evaluate the impact of discontinuing these schemes on minority students;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to mitigate such impact, including introduction of alternative support or restructuring of existing schemes; and
- (e) whether a timeline and monitoring mechanism has been fixed/put in place to ensure efficient delivery of minority welfare programmes and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) and (b) The Ministry has taken note of recommendations made in the Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs. In this regard, various measures have been introduced for streamlining/strengthening the prevailing system including introduction of Aadhaar Payment Bridge system and Bio-metric authentication system in order to streamline the process and timely disbursement of scholarships, special drives for verification, instruction to States to integrate their State Scholarship Portals with the National Scholarship Portal etc. The Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) and Padho Pardesh scheme have been discontinued due to the cognizant reasons of overlap of these schemes with similar schemes of other Ministries/ Departments.

(c) and (d) While no such assessment has been conducted, the UGC and CSIR Fellowship Schemes are open for candidates 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.

(e) Monitoring mechanisms for Schemes implemented by the Ministry are already in place for efficient implementation of the Schemes of this Ministry. With particular reference to Scholarship Schemes of the Ministry, the Ministry had already onboarded its all three scholarship schemes on a

dedicated scholarship portal i.e. National Scholarship Portal (NSP) 2.0 under URL: www.scholarships.gov.in. for applying online scholarship i.e. Pre-matric, Post Matric and Merit-cum-Means based scholarship schemes for students belonging to minority communities. Workshops were conducted and instructions were relayed to all concerned stakeholders to ensure that they take necessary action due on their parts in time to avoid any delay in implementation of these schemes. The State/UT administrations also monitor the implementation of these schemes regularly with their respective district formations and institutes of their respective States/UTs.
