

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 507
ANSWERED ON 23/07/2025

**DELAY IN STIPEND DISBURSEMENT UNDER MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL
FELLOWSHIP**

507. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:
SHRI K C VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the research students those who are already under the Maulana Azad National Fellowship have not received their stipends since December 2024, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for delay in the disbursement of stipend;
- (b) the details of the reason for not releasing funds to the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) by the Ministry since October-November 2024 along with the current status of the fund release process;
- (c) whether the 4.9 per cent reduction in funding for the fellowship in the year 2025-26 budget has contributed to the delay in stipend disbursement, if so, the manner in which it has delayed the stipend disbursement;
- (d) whether the Government has taken immediate measures or proposes to release the stipend and to prevent such delay in the future and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the alternative measures or schemes which are being considered to support PhD researchers for minority communities given that the fellowship was terminated for new applicants in the year 2022-23?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) to (d): Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) scheme has been discontinued from 2022-23 onward in view of the overlap among the other fellowship schemes. However, the existing MANF fellows will continue to receive fellowships till the end of their respective tenure. Committed liabilities under MANF were not paid from January onwards pending approval.

Recently, necessary approval was obtained on the release of funds to those students who have been on-boarded under the MANF in terms of the scheme guidelines/ DBT Mission guidelines. Following this, Ministry has released funds to nodal agency for disbursement of fellowship.

(e): 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 OBC's implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
