

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Maulana Azad National Fellowship.**SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR):** Hon. Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

The Maulana Azad National Fellowship was an important scholarship scheme for research scholars from Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist and Parsi communities. Yesterday, in reply to a question, the Minister of Minority affairs said that the Government has decided to discontinue this Maulana Azad National Fellowship since it is overlapping with other scholarships in the field. ... (*Interruptions*)

माननीय सभापति : राम कृपाल यादव जी, आपका विषय आ गया है, बैठ जाइए।

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN: Sir, it is really shocking to learn this and it will affect many aspiring research scholars from various minority communities. If there is overlapping, then the Government should systematically try and resolve that issue. Discontinuation of the entire scheme is not a wise idea. If there is no MANF, then students from the minority communities who are not coming under the purview of reservation in other categories, like the Scheduled Caste, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes, will be deprived from all other Fellowship schemes.

The decision to discontinue a fellowship named after Maulana Azad, India's first Education Minister, is an insult to his legacy. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Minority Affairs to withdraw the decision to stop the Maulana Azad National Fellowship immediately.

Thank you. ... (*Interruptions*)