

**Title: Regarding continuation of Pre-Matric Scholarship and Padho Pardesh Interest Subsidy Scheme for minority students.-laid**

**SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL (AURANGABAD):** Students belonging to minority communities can no longer avail of interest subsidies on education loans to study abroad. The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MOMA) has discontinued the Padho Pardesh Scheme. Under the Padho Pardesh Interest Subsidy Scheme, students who belong to minority communities and want to pursue higher studies are eligible to obtain interest subsidies on their entire loan amount for a specified time period (course period, plus one year or six months after getting job, whichever is earlier) There is also an income limit as per the Scheme, Only candidates (both employed and unemployed) with a total income of less than Rs 6 lakh annually can avail of the interest subsidy. Under the Scheme, 35% of seats are also earmarked for females. The Scheme was part of the then Prime Minister's Fifteen-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities in 2006. Last month, the Indian Banks' Association notified banks about the discontinuation of the Scheme from 2022-23. However, no reason has been specified for the change. The Ministry of Minority Affairs earlier discontinued pre-matric scholarship for minority students studying in classes one to eight; this is total injustice for the Minority students . I request Honorable Minister of Minority Affairs to continue the pre-matric scholarship and Padho Pardesh Interest Subsidy Scheme for the minority students.