

Title: Regarding budgetary allocation for Minority Fellowship Funds

ADV. A.M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA): The Budget allocation for the Ministry of Minority Affairs was reduced by 38% for the financial year 2023-24 in comparison to the year 2022-23. Maulana Azad Scholarship given to students from Minority Communities has been stopped. The schemes have been allotted funds of Rs. 44 crore this year, while the Budget for the same was Rs. 365 crore last year. The Ministry of Finance has also slashed the funds for the Pre-Metric Scholarship for Minorities for the financial year 2023-24 with over Rs. 900 crore. The scholarship funds in the last Budget were Rs. 1,425 crore, which has been reduced to Rs. 433 crore this year. The total allocation of the Budget for education at empowerment of minorities which was Rs. 2,515 crore last year has been reduced to Rs. 1,689 crore this year. In a massive fund cut, the Education Scheme for Madrasas and Minorities has been allocated Rs. 10 crore for the financial year 2023-24. The same is 93% less than the Budget allocation of 2022-23, which was Rs. 160 crore. This massive cut in the fellowship will affect the students from minority community especially, students of Kerala. So, I urge the Government to reinstate these Minority Fellowship Funds.