

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.720
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

SCHEMES FOR MINORITY COMMUNITY CHILDREN

720. DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:
SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:
SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:
DR. A. CHELLAKUMAR:
DR. AMAR SINGH:
ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:
SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:
SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of children belonging to the Minority community who have applied and been provided scholarships during the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for discontinuing the Maulana Azad Fellowship particularly when all the students from minority communities are not covered under OBC, SC or ST categories having specific fellowship schemes;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed any policy or scheme for children belonging to the Minority Community that provides opportunity to study abroad;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the Quantum of funds allocated by the Government to Minority Board or Entity across the country, State-UT-wise; and
- (f) the time by which the Union Government would increase the amount of fellowship under MANF as per new UGC JRF/SRF amount restriction?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): The Government has been implementing various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including minorities, especially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society, through different Ministries/Departments.

Ministry of Minority Affairs has specifically implemented various welfare schemes, including various Scholarship schemes, across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the notified minority communities. The details of the number of applications received from Minority communities and scholarships provided during the last five years, State-wise are available in the website of the Ministry i.e. <https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in>.

(b): The Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) Scheme of UGC and CSIR is open for students of all communities/categories. Besides, students from minority communities are also covered under National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Castes and OBCs implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Tribes implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. As the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme overlapped with various ongoing fellowship schemes for higher education, implemented by various Central Government Ministries, the Scheme has been discontinued from 2022-23.

(c) and (d): The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a PSU under Ministry of Minority Affairs, provides educational loan for education abroad, at low rate of interest, exclusively to students belonging to minority communities. It has also been observed that benefits of interest subsidy that got accrued to the beneficiaries under the Padho Pardesh scheme were limited and also that there is an overlap with other similar schemes being implemented by other Ministries viz. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry Of Tribal Affairs, which are applicable to eligible minority community students as well. In view of the aforesaid overlap, limited benefits and ease of availing education loans on low rate of interest, it has been decided to discontinue Padho Pardesh Scheme from 2022-23.

(e): Under the Scholarship Schemes of this Ministry, funds are not allocated to the Minority Boards and entities in the States/UTs.

(f): All aspects, including increase in fellowship amount under the Scheme, are looked into by the Ministry.
