

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*233
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2023

PRE-MATRIC AND POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

***233. SMT. MAUSAM NOOR:**

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has discontinued Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarships and fellowships for minority researchers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are any alternative actions that Government proposes to implement to support minorities on the aforementioned issue; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION *233 FOR ANSWER ON 22.03.2023 REGARDING PRE-MATRIC AND POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MINORITY STUDENTS ASKED BY SMT. MAUSAM NOOR

(a) to (d): The Government has implemented various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including minorities, especially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society, through various schemes of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Rural Development.

Ministry of Minority Affairs has also implemented various schemes, including various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes, across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the notified minority communities.

The coverage under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for classes I to VIII has been discontinued from 2022-23. Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child. The modifications have also been done to harmonize the scheme with identical Scholarship schemes implemented by other Central Government Ministries.

It has been observed that Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) Scheme of UGC and CSIR is open for students of all categories. Besides, students from minority communities are also covered under National Fellowship Schemes 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 overlaps with various fellowship schemes for higher education, the Government has decided to discontinue the MANF Scheme from 2022-23.

The Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for minorities continues to be implemented.
