

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 755
ANSWERED ON 10/02/2025

RE-INSTATING MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

755 Shri Abdul Wahab:

Will the Minister of **Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have ceased the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF), if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is considering to re-instate the MANF given the demand from students from minority community;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor; and
- (d) whether Government does not consider the act of ceasing the fellowship for students belonging to minority community alone as an act of Partisanship?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements various schemes for educational and socio-economic empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities. The Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India has been implementing the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme on the lines of the JRF Scheme of UGC and CSIR. The UGC and CSIR Fellowship Schemes are open for candidates of all social categories and communities including minorities. In addition to this, students from minority communities are also covered under the Fellowship Schemes being implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes. In view of the apparent overlap among the aforesaid Schemes, it has been decided to discontinue the MANF Scheme from 2022-23 onward. The existing MANF Fellows will continue to receive Fellowships till the end of their respective tenure, subject to compliance with the extant guidelines. For the above reasons, there is no proposal to resume the MANF scheme.
