Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Maulana Azad National Fellowship

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Thank you, Chairman, Sir.

The decision to annul the Maulana Azad National Fellowship is an anti-minority and anti-education move by the Government that jeopardizes the idea of Right to Education and access to education without hindrance for the economically weaker students from six notified minority communities, namely Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Parsi and Sikh. The move is an insult to Maulana Azad, and it also disregards all the freedom fighters and their memories of sacrifice.

The decision would make higher education inaccessible to the under-privileged students from minority communities, and it has a national impact as the Scheme covered all institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission.

The anti-minority sentiment behind the decision is evident, and the Union Minority Affairs Minister, Shrimati Smriti Irani told the Lok Sabha that the Maulana Azad National Fellowship was overlapping with other schemes under which the minority students were also covered. The excuse defies logic as any overlap can be identified by linking the Fellowship with Aadhaar or other universal documents. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, it is a very serious matter. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: The decision affects all minority students in higher education as students from six notified minority communities, namely Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Parsi and Sikh received financial help from the Scheme for higher education in MPhil. and Ph.D programmes, which will be affected as their scholarship is to be cancelled. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, it is a very important issue. … (*Interruptions*) We want a response from the Minister. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Today morning, I gave an Adjournment Motion on this issue. … (*Interruptions*) Minority student organisations are agitating in various parts of the country … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, we are all supporting the point. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I would like to request the hon. Minority Affairs Minister, through you, that this Fellowship should be restored. … (*Interruptions*)

***m02 SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):** It is sheer discrimination of the minority community of the country. … (*Interruptions*)

माननीय सभापति : रिक्वैस्ट आई होगी और मिनिस्टर चाहेंगे तो वह रिस्पोंड करेंगे ।

… (व्यवधान)

माननीय सभापति : डॉ. जयसिद्धेश्वर शिवाचार्य स्वामीजी ।