

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2918
ANSWERED ON 06/08/2025

PADHO PARDESH AND PRE-MATRIC SCHEMES

2918. SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to reinstate Padho Pardesh and Pre-Matric minority schemes and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand for timely release of the National Fellowship for Other Backward Classes (NFOBC) selection list and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to revise the fellowship amounts and HRA and fellowship amounts under non-NET and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to scrutinise the NSP blacklisting process and reinstate genuine institutions and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to conduct parliamentary review on the state of minority education in the country, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 makes it obligatory for the Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child. Accordingly, only students studying in classes IX and X are covered under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme of this Ministry. There is no proposal under consideration in this Ministry to re-introduce such coverage for classes I to VIII under the Pre-Matric Scholarship scheme. Padho Pardesh scheme aims to award interest subsidy on educational loan to minority students for studying abroad to pursue approved courses of study at Masters, M.Phil. and Ph.D. levels. The scheme has been discontinued from 2022-23 as education loan is available at cheaper rates through various other Government interventions. As such, there is no proposal under consideration to reinstate the Padho Pardesh scheme. The select list of National Fellowship for Other Backward Classes (NFOBC) is provided by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

(c): The Ministry of Minority Affairs has implemented Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme on the lines of the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) Scheme of University Grants Commission (UGC) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The scheme has been discontinued from 2022-23 due to its apparent overlapping with similar schemes of other ministries. The House Rent Allowance (HRA) was disbursed to the scholars as per Government of India norms.

(d): The existing structure of National Scholarship Portal provides parameters on the basis of which the verifying authorities can suspend a participating institute or revoke such suspension. Strengthening the end-to-end process of scholarship disbursement through various means is a continuous process.

(e): There is no such proposal under consideration at present in the Ministry.
