

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. *140
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2024

REINTRODUCTION OF SCHEME SIMILAR TO 'PADHO PARDHESH'

***140. MS IQRA CHAUDHARY:**

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to reintroduce a scheme similar to 'Padho Pardhesh' with more effective targeting mechanism to ensure that the unique challenges faced by the minority students are addressed and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has evaluated if schemes of other Ministries have ensured equitable access for minority students to overseas education and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by the Government to design targeted and non-overlapping scheme that addresses social and financial barriers faced by minority students in pursuing overseas education?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJIU)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *140 ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024 ASKED BY MS. IQRA CHOUDHARY REGARDING “REINTRODUCTION OF SCHEME SIMILAR TO 'PADHO PARDHESH'”

(a) to (c): Ministry of Minority Affairs has specifically implemented various schemes, including Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship, Maulana Azad National Fellowship and Padho Pardesh schemes, across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six notified minority communities.

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, 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 onwards. As of now, there is no such proposal to reinstate the Padho Pardesh Scheme or introduce any new scheme similar to it.
