**Discontinuing Maulana Azad National Fellowship have adverse impact on Sikh Students: MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney**
Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha raised the issue in parliament relating to Sikh student's benefits getting debarred due to discontinuation of Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Higher Studies.

Sh. Sahney said that Maulana Azad National Fellowship used to provide financial assistance to the six notified minority communities (Sikh, Muslim, Jain, Buddhist, Christians, Parsis) across the country for their socio-economic and educational empowerment. The government this year discontinue the fellowship without conducting any feedback/study/report etc on the pretext of other schemes offered by UGC for General Category and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Tribal Affairs for SC, ST and OBC Students

Sh. Sahney stated that Sikhs do not comes under SC, ST and OBC so they won’t be able seek benefit from any of the scheme mentioned by the minority minister in the answer given to him in the Parliament. It is very much evident that the community which will debarred from financial assistance for research studies will be Sikhs which is very unfortunate.

Mr. Sahney also stated that thousands of Students across the country and hundreds of students from Punjab used to receive average more than 3.5 lakh rupees annually for pursuing Ph.D. And M. Phil studies under this Fellowship scheme. “Research studies are very important and essential for inclusive and holistic development of any country; such steps will discourage students from pursuing it further and it will eventually have adverse effect on the Country as a whole” Sh. Sahney added

Along with this in his statement in Parliament Sh. Sahney also demanded a deliberative discussion on the Manipur Violence in the August house for parliament to function properly without any interruptions

