

**Primary schools for tribal population**

778. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open more primary schools in area/divisions/districts in which concentration of tribal population is more to bring the tribal literacy to a decent level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR): (a) to (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) implements a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)' which provides for opening of new schools, additional rooms and infrastructure like toilets, drinking water, ramps etc, teachers, teacher training, free text books, special training to mainstream out of school children, two sets of uniforms for all girls and children belonging to SC, ST & BPL families, school grants, learning enhancement programme and innovation fund for SC, ST children. As informed by MHRD, under the SSA, the districts with high concentration of population (*i.e.* 25% and above) of STs have been identified as Special Focus Districts (SFDs). Opening of schools is a need based continuous process. In 2017-18 for the 109 ST concentration districts, Rs 1083603.17 lakhs (13% of the total allocation under SSA) have been provided.

To improve literacy rate, Shakshar Bharat, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Adult Education and Skill Development is being implemented by MHRD in rural areas of 410 Districts in 26 States and 1 UT that had adult female literacy rate of 50 % and below as per Census 2011, and including left wing extremism affected Districts, with special focus on women and other disadvantaged groups. The principal target of the programme is to impart functional literacy to 70 million adults (60 million female) including 8 million STs (6 million female) in the age group of 15 years and beyond.

Government has also been implementing a number of interventions to improve the educational status of tribals including improvement of tribal literacy:

- (i) Ashram Schools: Funds are provided to States for setting up residential schools for STs for primary, middle, secondary and senior secondary levels of education.

- (ii) ST Hostels: Central assistance is given to States/UTs/Universities for construction of new hostel buildings and/or extension of existing hostels.
- (iii) Scheme of strengthening education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts: 100% grant-in-aid is given to NGO / Voluntary Organizations for running and maintenance of educational complexes for ST girls.
- (iv) Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs): EMRS are set up with capacity of 480 students per school under grants in aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution to States, to provide quality education to middle, secondary and higher secondary level ST students.
- (v) Post Matric Scholarship and Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students studying in classes IX & X.
- (vi) Funds are provided under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSP), Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution and Scheme for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) for various interventions relating to improvement of education including construction of hostels, schools, construction of boundary walls in schools, construction of playground, toilets and arrangement of drinking water, kitchen garden in schools etc.
- (vii) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has issued advisories to States for a series of measures to address issues of dropout, and for continuing education of tribal children including: development of bilingual Primers containing text both in regional and tribal language in local official script, school vacation synchronous with major tribal festivals; residential schools (200-300 students capacity) in block headquarters for quality education and physical safety, school management to engage teachers to overcome shortage, 100% screening of children for Sickle Cell Anemia/Trait, 100% physical enrolment of children.
- (viii) The National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) in the National Curriculum Framework, 2005 (NCF) makes it clear that language and culture are important to all children's learning including Scheduled Tribes. SSA aims to develop context specific interventions.
- (ix) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) scheme provides for residential schools for girls at upper primary level; a minimum of 75% seats are for

minority, SC, ST and OBC girls. KGBVs cover 69% ST girls in ST Special Focus Districts.

- (x) States are also advised for expansion of scope of education for Tribal children to include sports, physical education, vocational education, Tribal Art, painting, crafts, health, hygiene and nutrition, traditional food (minor millet) in school meals, etc. to make the school education useful, relevant and interesting for the children and tribal communities.

**Low literacy rate among STs in Tamil Nadu**

779. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any plan for increasing literacy rate among STs in some States including Tamil Nadu where there is a gap of more than 18 per cent in literacy rate of STs as compared to total population during 2011;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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