

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1252**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2021

**EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS**

1252 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

Will the Minister of **TRIBAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Budget for 2018-19 announced that every block with more than 50 per cent ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons will have Eklavya Model Residential Schools;
- (b) if so, initiatives taken so far in this regard;
- (c) whether Government has drawn any plan to set up such new schools across the country;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the other steps taken to ensure that tribal students get access to quality education in other schools and colleges also throughout the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SMT. RENUKA SINGH SARUTA)

(a) to (d) Yes Sir. In order to provide quality education to tribal students in their own environment, a separate Central Sector scheme was carved out in 2018 to improve the geographical outreach of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) to every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons. Prior to 2018, 288 EMRSs were sanctioned under 275(1) of constitution, where grants are given to States by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Under the revamped scheme, 452 blocks have been identified for establishment of EMRS schools. A total of 740 EMRSs (288+ 452) would be sanctioned by 2022 based on provision of suitable land by the States.

As on date, 632 EMRSs have been sanctioned, which include 288 under the old scheme and 344 in the new scheme. These schools are envisaged to be brought at par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and to have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development. National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) as an autonomous body under the Ministry has been setup to provide overall support and policy directions to the schools in order to bring uniformity in the administration of the schools. The State/UT EMRS

Societies at the State/UT level have been set up for day-to-day management of the schools. There are total 367 functional EMRSs across the country with around 85,232 students currently enrolled.

(e) NESTS has collaborated with various apex bodies for facilitating coaching and training programmes to enhance the capacity of teachers and EMRS students. National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) is an initiative to build capacities of teachers and school principals at the elementary stage jointly with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). In 1st batch of NISHTHA programme 120 EMRS teachers and principals from 3 states namely Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have been trained. MoU has been signed with Microsoft Corporation India Private Limited for implementing Education Transformation for Schools. The programme would impart training to tribal students from class VIII to XII in Artificial Intelligence Curriculum for which selected teachers from EMRS will be trained. Besides, NESTS has also collaborated with NITI Aayog for establishing Atal Tinkering Labs in Ekvalya schools. In 17 schools process of establishing these labs has been initiated, which would provide a workspace where young minds give shape to their ideas. NESTS in association with Ministry of Education's Innovation Council, All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and CBSE has launched Innovation Ambassador Programs; wherein the teachers from EMRSs are being trained to identify, motivate and support students who have innovative idea. Collaboration has been established with DAKSHANA Foundation for initiating one-year scholarship program for JEE and NEET aspirants of EMRS schools. These initiatives are aimed at equipping the tribal students to get quality education in reputed institutes in India and abroad after they complete class XII.

Further, Ministry of Tribal Affairs gives scholarships to tribal students for pursuing higher education in India and abroad. Under National Fellowship Scheme, every year scholarship is given to 750 students for doing MPhil and PhD in reputed Universities in India. Under National Scholarship scheme, scholarship is given to 1000 meritorious students every year for doing Bachelor and Master degree in 246 top class Institutes like IIT, NIIT, AIIMS etc. Under National Overseas scholarship Scheme, 20 Students every year are selected for doing Master and PhD degree abroad. Besides, Post Matric Scholarship is given to about 15 lakh students every year for pursuing higher education in schools and colleges throughout the country.

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