

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1104**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 31/07/2024

**EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS AT SANDESKHALI**

1104 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps the Ministry has taken to assess the feasibility of establishing an Eklavya Model Residential School in Tribal dominated Sandeskhali I or Sandeskhali II Block; and

(b) what measures are being considered to expedite the establishment of an Eklavya Model Residential School in Sandeskhali I or Sandeskhali II Block, considering the educational needs of the local tribal population?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

**(a) and (b):** In Union Budget of 2018-19, Government decided to set up one Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011) to provide quality education to the tribal children. Accordingly, Ministry has set the target to set up **728 EMRSs** [including 288 sanctioned under Article 275(1) and 440 newly identified blocks under new central sector scheme of EMRS] across the country by the year 2026. Ministry is currently focusing on establishment of EMRS in these identified blocks.

Sandeskhali I and Sandeskhali II , blocks under North 24-Parganas District of West Bengal do not fulfil the eligibility criteria for establishment of EMRS, hence, were not identified as per the existing twin criteria. The ST population details of these two blocks are as under (as per census 2011):

Name of Block	Total Population	ST Population	% ST Population
Sandeskhali I	1,64,465	42,674	25.95%
Sandeskhali II	1,60,976	37,695	23.42%

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