

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1895
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 11/12/2024

NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT COMPETITION

1895 SHRI BRIJ LAL:
SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:
DR. DINESH SHARMA:
SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the scheme for Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) highlighting the roots of democracy; and
- (b) the importance of acquainting tribal students about the working of Parliament and Parliamentary Institutions?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SH. DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a): Education is not only a means of developing knowledge, skills and abilities to achieve an individual's potential, education provides the tools necessary for citizens to understand their roles, responsibilities and duty towards their country, which is the essence of democracy. The Educated person can better understand how to participate in democratic institutions, avail benefits of various welfare schemes and take informed decision.

India being one of the largest democracy in the world and Indian Constitution has given special status to tribal and tribal areas. As tribal villages are remotely located in forests, hilly and difficult terrains and have challenges due to road and digital connectivity, the concept of Eklavya Residential Model Schools was started to provide quality education to tribal children in their own environment in vicinity to their villages. Till 2018, 288 EMRSs were sanctioned under Article 275(1) of the constitution. In 2018-19, the scope of the scheme was enhanced and Government decided to establish 440 EMRSs, one EMRS in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011). With 288 EMRS schools initially funded under Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Ministry has set the target to set up total of 728 EMRSs benefiting around 3.5 lakh ST students across the country. As on date, 715 schools have been sanctioned, out of which 476 EMRSs are functional benefiting 1,33,929 students. National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), has been established as an autonomous body under Ministry of Tribal Affairs to manage and implement the central sector scheme of EMRS. In 5 years Govt has provided budget of more than RS 28,000 cr and has also approved recruitment of 38,000 teaching and non teaching staff in phased manner.

(b): The Ministry has recognized the importance of acquainting students from the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) with the functioning of Parliament and parliamentary institutions. As part of this initiative, the Scheme of Youth Parliament has been sanctioned for EMRSs in the year 2024. This

scheme aims to provide students with a platform to simulate parliamentary procedures, encouraging them to actively participate in democratic processes and understand governance at the national level.

Further, students from EMRSSs have also participated in the Online Youth Parliament Scheme, which enabled them to engage with parliamentary proceedings in a virtual format. This ensured that they remained connected and informed about the workings of Parliament, despite geographical constraints.

In addition to this, a Scheme of Y20 was also introduced in EMRSSs. This initiative is designed as a prototype of the G20 framework, allowing students to engage in global discussions and gain insights into international diplomacy and cooperation.

Further, students from EMRSSs were invited to visit both the old and new Parliament Houses. These visits have given them opportunity to experience first-hand operations and significance of the Indian Parliament.
