

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2211**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 19/03/2025

**INITIATIVES REGARDING EKLAVYA SCHOOLS**

2211 DR. K. LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) scheme expanded since its launch and its impact on tribal education in terms of student enrolment and infrastructure development;
- (b) the key improvements in funding and facilities per student under the EMRS scheme, as compared to previous years; and
- (c) the manner in which Government is addressing the need for quality education in tribal areas through teacher recruitment and the progress been made in hiring teaching and non- teaching staff?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a):** The Central Sector Scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) was started in the year 2018-19 to provide quality education at par with Navodaya Vidyalaya to the tribal children in their own environment. Under the new scheme, 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). Prior to 2019, 288 EMRS schools were initially funded under Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. Accordingly, Ministry has set the target to set up total of 728 EMRSs benefiting around 3.5 lakh ST students across the country.

The setup of EMRS required provision of 15 acres of land free from all encumbrances to be provided by the state Government for creating a conducive environment for imparting quality education and provisioning of infrastructure towards sports & extra-curricular activities. Facilities in the school includes state-of-the-art classrooms, fully equipped science labs, computer labs, maths lab, library, administrative facilities for Principal and Staff, toilet and drinking water facility, sports and games facilities (indoor and outdoor). Other facilities include Hostels for boys and girls, kitchen & dining hall and residential quarters for teaching and non-teaching staff are also provided.

Each School has a capacity to accommodate 480 students including equal number of boys and girls studying in class VI to XII. The capital cost for setting up the school complex, including hostels and staff quarters was Rs. 20.00 crore in plain areas and Rs. 24.00 crore in North East, hilly areas and LWE affected areas. As per budget announcement in Union Budget 2021, the construction cost of EMRSs in plain areas was enhanced from the existing Rs. 20.00 crore to Rs. 38.00 crore and from Rs. 24.00 crore to Rs. 48.00 crore in hilly, NE and LWE affected areas. At present, 721 schools have been sanctioned, out of which 476 EMRSs have been reported to be functional across the country benefiting about 1.37 lakh students.

The EMRS scheme has made significant progress in enhancing access to quality education for tribal students, as reflected in the increasing number of approved and functional schools. In 2018-19, a total of 288 old schools were approved, with 220 operational at the time. As of February 28, 2025, this number has grown substantially, with 721 schools approved, including new EMRSs, and 477 schools made functional. Student enrollment has also seen a remarkable increase, rising from 61,286 in 2018-19 to 1,37,676 in 2025, highlighting the scheme's positive impact on tribal education.

**(b):** In 2019, recurring expenses were set at a rate of Rs. 1,09,000/-per student annually. Prior to this, it was Rs. 85,000/-per student per year, which was changed from Rs. 61000/-per student annually. This expenditure comprises of Salary to Staff, Direct Expenditures on students, Operational Expenditures, Administrative Expenditures, Capital Expenditures etc.

Since EMRSs are residential schools, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides students with free housing, a mess facility, uniforms, and other necessities. Additionally to ensure quality education and holistic development for tribal students following facilities are being provided in these schools:

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- 1. Educational Infrastructure:
  - Well-equipped classrooms with modern teaching aids.
  - Science and computer laboratories.
  - Libraries with diverse learning resources.
- 2. Accommodation and Amenities:
  - Residential facilities for students and staff.
  - Separate hostels for boys and girls with essential amenities like bedding, furniture, and hygiene facilities.
- 3. Sports and Extracurricular Facilities:
  - Playgrounds and sports equipment.
  - Facilities for extracurricular activities like music, art, and sports
- 4. Health and Nutrition:
  - Regular health check-ups and medical facilities.
- 5. IT and Digital Learning:
  - In many EMRSs, smart classrooms for digital education have been set up by the Ministry of Electronics and IT
  - Computer labs with internet access.

6. Vocational Training: Skill development and vocational training programs to enhance employability.

**(c):** To improve the quality of education, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, GoI has sanctioned a total of 52 posts per EMRS across the country. Many of the posts in EMRSs have been filled through EMRS Staff Selection Exam – 2023, a centralised recruitment examination, thereby making sure that the best talents as per the minimum defined criteria under the Recruitment Rules of EMRSs are selected to teach in EMRSs across the country. Postings have been given to 9075 candidates. Further, state societies have been authorized to engage teachers on guests basis in case there is need.

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