

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1362
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 11/12/2023

QUALITY EDUCATION OF TRIBAL STUDENTS

1362. SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:
DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE
PATIL:
SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:
DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN:
DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI
SOLANKI:
SHRI ANNASAHEB SHANKAR JOLLE:
SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB
PATIL:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:
SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA
KRISHNA RAJU:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to address the educational disparities faced by tribal students to ensure their equitable access to quality education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the latest initiatives launched by the Government to enhance the provision of basic amenities including education in tribal regions across the country; and
- (d) whether these schemes are being monitored and evaluated their success and identify areas for improvement?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
SHRI ARJUN MUNDA

(a) to (d): Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing Central Sector Scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) for providing quality education to tribal students in their own environment. For the first time since independence, in 2019, Government of India gave special attention to tribal education and decided to set up an EMRS in each block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011) in remote, forest areas, hilly and difficult areas. Accordingly, Ministry has set the target to set up 740 EMRSs to enroll around 3.5 lakh ST students across the country. National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization, has been established to manage and implement the scheme of EMRS. Under the scheme following facilities are provided.

- Free quality education to tribal students ensuring their all-around development.
- Fully residential school for class from 6th to 12th Standard with a strength of 480 students (240 Girls and 240 Boys).
- The infrastructure available in each School is classrooms, administrative block, Labs, Hostel, Sports Facility, Staff Residences etc.

- The Department of Expenditure has approved 52 posts for each EMRS with a total vacancy of 38480 teaching and non-teaching staff. Recruitment is to be carried out in a phased manner from 2022-23 to 2026-27.
- Study materials, and uniforms (including customized climatic clothing for hilly areas) are provided free of cost.
- Extra-curricular activities like dance, music, painting, trekking, excursions/exposure visits, study tours.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is also implementing following Scholarship Schemes to promote and encourage basic and higher education amongst ST population: -

- i) Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students (Class IX and X)
- ii) Post Matric Scholarship for ST students (Class XI and above)
- iii) National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education for ST students.
- iv) National Overseas Scholarship for ST students.

Under these schemes funds are directly transferred to students' Bank account through DBT.

Besides providing educational benefits to tribal children, Government has also formulated the scheme of 'Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)' for integrated development of villages in time-bound manner during the years 2021-22 to 2025-26. Under the Scheme, 36,428 villages having at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs across States/ UTs with notified STs have been identified for undertaking development programmes/ activities through convergence approach amongst Ministries to bridge gaps prominently in 8 sectors of development viz. Road connectivity (Internal and Inter village /block), Telecom connectivity (Mobile /internet), School, Anganwadi Centres, Health Sub- Centre, Drinking water facility, Drainage and solid waste management and bring about saturation.

Further, Government has recently launched Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) that aims to saturate PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

All the schemes mentioned above have in-built mechanism to monitor the progress of implementation of the schemes. Besides, review meetings with stakeholders are held periodically to address any issue arising out of implementation process and adequate remedial measures is taken to remove the bottlenecks, if any.

In addition to this, Ministry of Education, Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing an integrated centrally sponsored scheme for School education- Samagra Shiksha for all, including tribal children. The scheme provides support for the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act. The Scheme is now aligned with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.
