

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 2895
ANSWERED ON – 26/03/2025**

Access to quality education in Odisha

2895 Shri Manas Ranjan Mangaraj:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts made by the Ministry to improve access to quality education in rural and remote areas of Odisha;
- (b) the number of new schools constructed in Odisha under various Central Government Schemes in the last three years;
- (c) the initiatives to increase female literacy rates and enrolment in schools in the State; and
- (d) the challenges faced in improving educational access in the tribal areas of Odisha?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)**

(a) The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing an integrated centrally sponsored scheme for School education- Samagra Shiksha. The scheme treats school education holistically, without segmentation from pre-primary to class XII. The scheme provides support for the implementation of the RTE Act.

The Scheme is 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.

Under Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs including Odisha for providing various facilities to the children for implementing the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 as also for implementation of various provisions of Samagra Shiksha Scheme which include free uniform to eligible children at elementary level, free textbooks at elementary level, development of primers/textbooks for tribal language, teaching learning materials.

Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States and UTs for Universalization of School Education including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, development/strengthening of school infrastructure in northern border areas under Vibrant Village Programme, reimbursement under RTE Act, various qualitative components, strengthening of teacher education and strengthening of District Institute of Education and Training (DIETs)/ Block Resource Centres (BRCs)/ Cluster Resource Centre (CRCs), provision of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and digital interventions.

(b) Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State and UT Government. Government of India had

sanctioned construction of 16 New Secondary schools under Samagra Shiksha in the last 3 years. Steps are being taken up by State Government of Odisha to execute the civil works. Eight new Kendriya Vidyalayas have been constructed in the last three years in the State of Odisha.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) from the year 2018-19 to provide quality education at par with Navodaya Vidyalaya to the tribal children in their own environment. During the last three years, as informed by Govt. of Odisha, two Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) have been completed and made functional. Additionally, nine EMRSs under Phase-I have been completed and made functional during 2024.

(c) The State Government of Odisha has taken following steps to increase female literacy rate and enrolment:

- Free Education is provided to girls up to the higher secondary level.
- There are 342 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in the state with free accommodation and fooding etc. and the inmates are provided educational facility along with specific skill training in the KGBV and attached or nearby school.
- Free School Uniform is provided to all students including girls to ensure higher enrolment of girls and to motivate them to continue school Education.
- BARNALI (Gender Equity Programme) is being implemented in the state from class VI to class X in all Govt. Schools to foster gender equality behavior among students.
- Awareness Programme on adolescent health issues is being implemented in schools
- Self Defense Training is conducted in all Govt Upper Primary/ Secondary/Higher Secondary Schools to equip girl students to face any untoward situation in life and to make them self -confident.
- Free Sanitary Napkin is being provided to girls under KHUSHI Scheme.

(d) As informed by Govt. of Odisha, to improve educational access in the tribal areas of Odisha Mother Tongue Multi Lingual Education (MLE) Programme has been undertaken as a State initiative under Samagra Shiksha, Odisha. The major focus of MLE programme are:

- To acquaint tribal children in their mother tongue Multi Lingual Education (MLE) Programme has been implemented in 1483 schools of 17 districts in 21 languages.
- Multilingual Education (MLE) is a programme to address the disadvantaged tribal children using mother tongue in early years of their primary classes and gradually shift from their mother tongue (L1) to State Language (L2) and then to National or International language (L3).
- To impart education in mother tongue to the tribal students 3200 numbers of MLE Shiksha Sahayaks (SSs) and 216 Education Volunteers (EVs) have been engaged from the relevant tribal communities.
- Textbooks and supplementary reading materials in 21 tribal languages have been developed for primary grades integrating tribal culture and tradition.
- Stories in tribal languages collected through Storytelling Festival and integrated in supplementary reading materials.
- Teachers trained in MLE approach to teach in the class room.
- Tribal Resource Centers in MLE districts have been established to preserve and exhibit the cultural heritage of tribal communities.
