INFRASTRUCTURE AND TEACHER SHORTAGES IN TRIBAL SCHOOLS

3658 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:
Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) that remain non-functional despite being approved, along with reasons for the delay;

(b) the details of the current pupil-teacher ratio in EMRS and other tribal schools, and the steps taken to fill vacant teaching positions, particularly in remote tribal areas;

(c) whether Government plans to introduce region-specific recruitment policies to ensure teachers are proficient in local tribal languages; and

(d) the details of the status of basic infrastructure in tribal schools, including access to electricity, drinking water, functional toilets, and digital learning resources?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SH. DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a): Ministry of Tribal Affairs approved 721 Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) out of which 477 are functional and 245 are non-functional. The main reason for delay in making EMRSs functional is non-completion of EMRSs buildings. The reason for delay in construction of EMRSs is as under:-

- In many locations suitable piece of land , free from all encumbrances is not provided by respective State Government.
- Work has stopped or progress has slowed due to encroachment, local disturbances among other issues.
- Considerable delay in diversion of forest land (identified for schools) after completing due formalities.
- litigation against the land identified for schools.
- Non-availability of approach road, water in identified land.
- Unavailability of rented buildings to functionalise EMRSs from rented buildings.
- Land at some places having rocky, hard, and difficult topography with steep contour which results in identification of new land.
- Land, particularly in North East having conditional gift deed for construction.

(b): Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, GoI has sanctioned a total of 52 posts per EMRS across the country. The posting of staff is done as per the highest functional class and number of section and hence all the 52 posts are not posted at class VI level. Many of the posts in EMRSs have been filled through EMRS Staff Selection Exam (ESSE-2023). Postings have been given to 9075 candidates through ESSE – 2023, conducted by National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous body under Ministry of Tribal Affairs managing and implementing scheme of EMRS. Further, engagement on guest basis have been done in many EMRSs as a stopgap arrangement, so that availability of teaching staff is ensured.

Maximum strength of students in an EMRS is 480 and sanctioned teacher's post is 31 i.e with an average ratio of 15.5: 1 pupil to teacher is maintained.

(c): To address the language and cultural barrier, arrangement is made to have sessions on local languages through State educational Societies.Candidates selected through EMRS Staff Selection Exam (ESSE-2023) are also required to pass the regional language competency requirement of the State during the probation period.

(d): To ensure quality education and holistic development for tribal students following infrastructure facilities are being provided in these schools:-

1. **Educational Infrastructure:**

o Well-equipped classrooms with modern teaching aids.
o Science and computer laboratories.
o Libraries with diverse learning resources.

2. **Accommodation and Amenities:**

o Residential facilities for students and staff.
o Separate hostels for boys and girls with essential amenities like bedding, furniture, and hygiene facilities.
o RO facilities for drinking water
o Permanent Electric Connection
o Separate Toilets for Boys and Girls students and teachers

3. **Sports and Extracurricular Facilities:**

o Playgrounds and sports equipment.
o Facilities for extracurricular activities like music, art, and sports

4. **Health and Nutrition:**

o Regular health check-ups and medical facilities.

5. **IT and Digital Learning:**

o Smart classrooms for digital education.
o Computer labs with internet access.

6. **Vocational Training:**

o Skill development and vocational training programs to enhance employability.

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