

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2069
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY TRIBAL CHILDREN IN NANDURBAR, MAHARASHTRA

2069 Dr Bhagwat Karad:

Will the Minister of Tribal Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra, especially in tribal-dominated Akkalkuwa taluka, school-going children risk their lives by crossing a river using tree branches due to lack of safe access;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to address this issue;
- (c) whether the Ministry has assessed its impact on school attendance and dropouts;
- (d) measures taken with State coordination for safe access;
- (e) whether bridge construction or transport support is proposed under Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) or other schemes; and
- (f) if so, the timeline and allocated budget?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGA DAS UIKEY)

(a) The State Government has reported that the information about school-going children cross a river using tree branches is partially true; the children are using Non-Plan Roads which doesn't come under Public Works Department, for shorter distances to go to school. People live in small padas in the area, where access to road at certain stretches is not available currently. But there is road network of State Highway, Major District Road, Other District Road and Village Road available at other stretches.

(b) to (d) The survey is on-going to find out the villages which cut off during rainy season due to floods in local nallas and river. By identifying these location District Administration is proposing Light Road Bridge (SAKAV) on that location and children have to cross river or local nallas. Till now 51 SAKAV has been proposed in the district where safe access for the school is not available. The Light Road Bridge (SAKAV) construction will be proposed through District Planning Committee.

(e) & (f) Under EMRS Scheme, the Ministry does not have any provision for bridge construction or transport support. However, State Government has stated that by identifying these location, District Administration is proposing Light Road Bridge (SAKAV) on that location. So far in budget year 2025-26, the State Government has submitted construction proposal for 51 Light Road Bridges (SAKAV) to District Planning Committee for Administrative approval.
