

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 465**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 03/12/2025

**QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN EMRS**

465 SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current operational status and total enrollment across the 728 targeted Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS);
- (b) how the Ministry is addressing the challenge of recruitment and retention of qualified teachers in remote EMRS;
- (c) whether a National Standards Accreditation Framework (NSAF) has been launched to assess the quality of EMRS education; and
- (d) the progress on integrating smart classrooms and experiential learning facilities in all newly constructed EMRS?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a):** As on 28.11.2025, a total of 499 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) are operational across the country with an enrollment of 1,53,350 students.
- (b):** National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) carried out its first drive for direct recruitment of 10391 posts through EMRS Staff Selection Exam (ESSE)-2023. Second phase of recruitment has commenced with notification in September, 2025. The teaching and non-teaching staff are entitled for central pay scales, 10% special pay, and accommodation. Training of teaching and non-teaching staff through State EMRS Societies have been taken up to acclimatize them with residential nature of EMRS and enhance their sensitivity towards tribal students.
- (c):** The School Quality Assessment and Assurance Framework (SQAAF) has been launched for the self-assessment of EMRSs. Till date, assessment of 154 EMRSs has been completed.
- (d):** To strengthen digital learning, NESTS has introduced smart classrooms, digital boards, computer labs with internet connectivity, and a dedicated DTH TV channel exclusively for EMRS students. This channel provides curriculum-based learning and competitive exam content for Classes 9th to 12th, ensuring continuous access to quality educational resources. At present there are 262 Smart classrooms in EMRSs.

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