

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3024
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 18/03/2026

EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR TRIBALS IN MAHARASHTRA

3024 SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) details regarding education and skill development initiatives for tribal communities in Maharashtra over the last five years;
- (b) how many students have received scholarships, vocational training and support for higher education;
- (c) what measures are being implemented to improve school infrastructure, digital learning access and enrollment rates among tribal children; and
- (d) how does the Ministry coordinate with Maharashtra State authorities to ensure inclusive education, bridge literacy gaps, provide employment-oriented skill training and enhance opportunities for youth from tribal areas, thereby promoting social mobility, empowerment and sustainable livelihoods for Maharashtra's tribal population?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a): The Ministry is implementing various schemes such as EMRS, Pre Matric Scholarship and Post Matric Scholarship scheme for tribal communities in the country including the State of Maharashtra:

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS): Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) aims to provide quality education at par with Navodaya Vidyalaya to the tribal children in their own environment. Under the new scheme, Government decided to establish one EMRS in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011).

Pre-Matric Scholarships to ST students: The scheme is applicable to students who are studying in Classes IX –X. Parental income from all sources should not be more than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum. Scholarship of Rs.225/-per month for day scholars and Rs.525/-per month for hostellers is given for a period of 10 months in a year.

Post Matric Scholarship to ST students: The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary levels to enable them to complete their education. Parental income from all sources should not be more than Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum.

PMJVM: The Ministry is implementing the scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)’ through Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) which envisions to strengthen tribal entrepreneurship initiatives and to facilitate livelihood opportunities by promoting more efficient, equitable, self-managed, optimum use of natural resources, agri/minor Forest Produce (MFPs) / non-farm produce. Under the scheme, financial support is provided to the State Governments for setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) which are the centres of value addition activities of MFPs/Non-MFPs.

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, provides credit linkage by extending concessional loans to the eligible Scheduled Tribe persons for undertaking income generation activities/ self-employment thereby instilling the spirit of entrepreneurship. The prominent schemes of NSTFDC are Term Loan Scheme, Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY), Micro Credit Scheme for Self Help Groups (MCF) and Adivasi Shiksha Rrinn Yojana (ASRY).

Term Loan Scheme: NSTFDC provides Term Loan for viable projects costing upto ₹50.00 lakh per unit. Under the scheme, financial assistance is extended upto 90% of the cost of the project and the balance is met by way of subsidy/ promoter contribution/ margin money.

Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY): This is an exclusive scheme for economic development of Scheduled Tribes Women. Under the scheme, NSTFDC provides loan upto 90% for projects costing upto ₹2 lakh.

Micro Credit Scheme for Self Help Groups (MCF): This is an exclusive scheme for Self Help Groups for meeting small loan requirement of ST member. Under the scheme, the Corporation provides loans upto ₹50,000/- per member and maximum ₹5 Lakh per Self Help Group (SHG).

Adivasi Shiksha Rrinn Yojana (ASRY): This is an education loan scheme to enable the ST students to meet expenditure for pursuing technical and professional education including Ph.D. in India. Under this scheme, the Corporation provides financial assistance upto ₹10 lakh per eligible family. The students are eligible for interest subsidy from Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, during the moratorium period i.e. course period plus one year after completion of course or six months after getting the job, whichever is earlier.

Amount of loan disbursed by NSTFDC and beneficiaries: (Rs in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25*	
		Amount	No. of beneficiaries	Amount	No. of beneficiaries	Amount	No. of beneficiaries	Amount	No. of beneficiaries	Amount	No. of beneficiaries
1	Maharashtra	37.27	822	209.06	7408	658.19	1204	2523.52	1528	567.76	1005

*Provisional

(b): As informed by the State Government of Maharashtra the following scholarships and financial assistance schemes are provided:

1. Government of India Post-Matric Scholarship (GoI PMS)
2. Tuition Fees and Examination Fees (Freeship)
3. Reimbursement of Tuition Fees for Professional Courses
4. Maintenance Allowance for Scheduled Tribe students pursuing Professional Courses
5. Scholarship for Higher Education Abroad (Overseas Scholarship)

Subject to the **income limit of the parents** (*Bharat Sarkar Scholarship – income less than ₹2.50 lakh; Freeship and Professional Courses – income more than ₹2.50 lakh*), the following scholarships are provided to their children. The number of beneficiaries is as follows:

Scheme	Net Received	Approved By Institute	Pending At Institute	Approved By Department	Pending At Department	Bill Generated student
Post Matric Scholarship Scheme (Government Of India)	1,63,112	1,25,441	28,689	1,03,082	22,359	73,161
Tuition Fee & Exam Fee for Tribal Students (Freeship)	6,287	4,322	1,424	3,939	383	3,433
Vocational Education Fee Reimbursement	2,531	2,055	282	1,940	115	1,670
Vocational Education Maintenance Allowance	400	272	102	195	77	127
Foreign Scholarship	10	-	-	10	-	Paid as per Student Demand
Total	1,72,345	1,32,099	30,503	1,09,163	22,936	78,391

Year-wise funds utilized and number of students who received assistance under Post Matric Scholarship scheme in the State of Maharashtra:

(₹ in Crore)

Name of the State/UT	F.Y. 2020-21		F.Y. 2021-22		F.Y. 2022-23		F.Y. 2023-24		F.Y. 2024-25		F.Y. 2025-26	
	Fund Released	Beneficiaries	Fund Released	Beneficiaries	Fund Released	Beneficiaries	Fund Released	Beneficiaries	Fund Released	Beneficiaries	Fund Released (UC not due)	Beneficiaries (estimated)
Maharashtra	181.50	157503	192.15	130732	90.27	135915	570.36	139165	117.81	144785	379.10	146554

There are 500 Government Ashram Schools, 557 Aided Ashram Schools, and 37 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS). The student enrolment in Government Ashram Schools is 2,04,210 and 2,61,836 in Aided Ashram Schools and 11,286 in Eklavya Model Residential Schools till date.

Year Wise list of functional EMRSs and Enrolment:

Sl. No	State / UT	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
		Functional EMRS	Enrolment	Functional EMRS	Enrolment	Functional EMRS	Enrolment	Functional EMRS	Enrolment	Functional EMRS	Enrolment
1	Maharashtra	25	6272	31	7062	37	8048	37	9010	37	10092

YEAR WISE FUNDS RELEASED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF EMRS SINCE INCEPTION OF NESTS TILL 28.02.2026

(Rs. In lakhs)

S.No	Name of the State/UT	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (Till 28.02.2026)
1	Maharashtra	2,787.16	4,393.74	12,919.16	8,525.91	30,489.87	20,122.96

(c): As informed by the State Government of Maharashtra, under the first phase of the project ‘Selection of Service Provider for Establishing Digital Environment in Government Ashram Schools in the State of Maharashtra’, digital education facilities are being provided to 121 Ashram Schools, of which preliminary teaching activities have already commenced in 118 schools.

The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), regularly reviews outcome indicators under the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) Scheme. Monitoring focuses on student enrolment, attendance, academic performance, transition to higher classes, and availability of basic infrastructure such as hostels, classrooms, sanitation, drinking water, electricity and digital facilities. These outcomes are reviewed through periodic inspections, MIS and reports from State EMRS Societies, and corrective measures are undertaken as required to ensure improved educational and developmental outcomes for EMRS students.

Under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) mission for socio-economic development of PVTG communities, 25 hostels have been sanctioned in the State of Maharashtra for improving access to education.

(d): Under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan of the Central and State Governments, free education is provided to all students in the State as per the Right to Education (RTE) Act, and surveys of out-of-school children are conducted regularly. In this regard, coordination with out-of-school children is maintained through the teachers working in the Ashram Schools of the Tribal Development Department, and enrollment drives are conducted annually.

Under the Government of India’s Skill India Mission (SIM), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) delivers skill, re-skill and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme, National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to all the sections of the society across the country including tribal peoples of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The SIM aims at enabling the youth of India to get future-ready, equipped with industry relevant skills.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY): A flagship short-term training initiative that provides skill development opportunities through classroom training (STT) as well as upskilling and reskilling through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to youth across the country.

Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme: A community-based skill development program focused on imparting vocational skills to non-literates, neo-literates, school dropouts, and individuals with rudimentary education (up to 12th standard), primarily in the age group of 15–45 years. Special focus is placed on women, SC, ST, OBC, minorities, and persons with disabilities in rural and urban low income areas.

Pradhan Mantri–National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS): This scheme aims to mainstream apprenticeship training by providing financial incentives for stipends and encouraging industry participation. Apprenticeship training comprises Basic Training followed by On-the-Job or Practical Training at workplaces.

Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS): A long-term vocational training program delivered through a vast network of ITIs across the country. CTS caters to a wide range of sectors, equipping youth with skills for wage employment, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance.

Funds disbursed under PMKVY in Maharashtra in last 3 yrs (till 31-Dec-2025)

(Rs. in crore)

State	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	TOTAL
MAHARASHTRA	43.13	44.44	4.61	92.18

Funds disbursed under PM Vishwakarma in Maharashtra in last 3 yrs (till 31-Dec-2025)

(Rs. in crore)

State	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	Grand Total
Maharashtra	6.98	135.49	46.65	189.12

As informed by the State Government of Maharashtra, under the State-level Sponsored Nucleus Budget Scheme for Sustainable Livelihood in the Tribal Development Department, beneficiaries are provided financial assistance based on their requirements for starting businesses. Individual beneficiaries receive ₹50,000, while group beneficiaries receive ₹7,50,000. Similarly, under the Rani Durgavati Women Empowerment Scheme, 100% subsidy is provided to tribal women and self-help groups.

Further, the “Employment-Oriented Skill Development Training Program under the Tribal Development Department” is being implemented through the Shabari Vitta Va Vikas Mahamandal Marya, Nashik with the objective of developing the skills of candidates from the tribal community aged between 18 and 45 years and providing them with various employment opportunities. The objective of the scheme is to provide employment and self-employment opportunities at the local level to candidates from the tribal community through various employment-oriented skill development training programs for candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes in Maharashtra aged between 18 and 45 years.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs coordinates with State Governments, including the Government of Maharashtra, through multiple mechanisms to promote inclusive education, skill development and livelihood opportunities for Scheduled Tribes. The Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) scheme is implemented through the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) under the Ministry, which works in coordination with State Governments through designated State implementing agencies for establishment and management of EMRSs.

Periodic review meetings are conducted under the framework of DAPST to review the allocation and expenditure under various schemes by the obligated Ministries/Departments.

Committees have been constituted at the State, District and Block levels for effective implementation, coordination and monitoring of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan. These include a State-Level Apex Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary, District-Level Committees chaired by District Collectors and Block-Level Implementation Teams to facilitate implementation at the grassroots level.
