

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.929
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018

Migrant Workers

929. SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that literacy levels in rural India suffer from migration families;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that UNESCO report says 80% of seasonal migrant children in few cities lacked access to education and 40% were likely to end up in work; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action plan of the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(Dr. SATYA PAL SINGH)**

(a) to (d) UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2019 has stated that 80 per cent of migrant children across seven Indian cities do not have access to education near work sites. However, the UNESCO Report does not mention the methodology used in the study and the source of this data is stated to be a study by a non-governmental organisation. The UNESCO did not share this data with Government and therefore, this Ministry cannot authenticate the UNESCO report. However, this Ministry is aware of the issues of providing education to migrant children.

There are a total of 11.42 lakh elementary schools in the country including 7.23 lakh primary and 4.19 lakh upper primary. As per Annual Work Plan & Budget 2018-19 data, 97.15% habitations are served at Primary Schools within a radius of 1 km, and 96.49% habitations are served by Upper Primary Schools within a radius of 3 kms. Transport/ Escort Facility is also provided for migrant children. When migrant workers live on the worksites which is generally at a distance from the main village, the access to school for their children becomes an issue. The children of such migrant workers are provided the Transport / Escort Facility.

Provisioning of schooling facilities for all children on institutional basis is the fundamental requirement of achieving universal enrolment. In order to ensure free and compulsory education in the age group of 6 to 14 year, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, has laid down norms and standards for opening of schools in neighbourhood. The RTE Act provides children's access to elementary schools within the defined area or limits of neighbourhood. Section 6 of the Act provides that 'The appropriate government and local authorities' shall establish, with in the area or limits of a neighbourhood, a school, where it is not already established, within a period of three years from the commencement of the Act. Further, the Act places a compulsion on the State to ensure that no child from the weaker sections or disadvantaged groups is discriminated against in any manner or prevented from pursuing and completing elementary education.

The SSA, since its inception, has provided 2.04 lakh primary and 1.59 lakh upper primary schools for ensuring universal provisioning of schooling facilities across the country.

In addition to regular schools, 1,020 residential facilities with sanctioned capacity of 1,08,275 has been sanctioned to States. It includes 333 residential schools and 687 hostels attached with existing schools for children living in remote and sparsely populated habitations of rural and deprived children of urban areas. These residential facilities are in addition to 5,970 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs, Girls residential school at upper level) with a total capacity of 7.25 lakh girls have also been sanctioned to the states for improving access to marginalised girls.

Further, to address the issue of seasonal migration for varying periods, States are using various strategies which are supported by Government of India through the provisions under the erstwhile programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA, 2001-02 to 2017-18) and current programme of Samagra Shiksha. All States/ UTs are required to conduct household surveys/ update household surveys annually to identify out of school children. These surveys also collect information on children affected by migration of their families. All such children are provided adequate support to be able to join school and complete their elementary education. The broad strategies to ensure elementary education to all category of children are as under:

(i) Seasonal hostels / residential camps are provided to retain children in their villages (in sending villages) during the period of migration of their families. The intervention primarily aims at retaining 'In- school- children' during the period of migration so that they can continue their education while their parents migrate by providing residential facilities in the villages itself. The residential facility continues till parents of all children return back.

(ii) Special Training Centres at worksites are provided for children to bring them school and to prepare them for age appropriate classes. Section-4 of the RTE Act, provides for admission of all drop out and never enrolled children (i.e. out of school children) in a class appropriate to his or her age and provisioning of Special Training, in order to be at par with others. This section, thus, guarantees right to age appropriate admission and right to receive special training to all those children who are above six years of age and have not been admitted in any school or though admitted, could not complete their elementary education. Special Training is, thus, organized at destination points for migrant children so that they can be at par with other children.

Central Government under Samagra Shiksha provides support for out of school, dropout and migrant children @ Rs. 6000/ child/annum for non-residential Interventions and Rs. 20,000/ child/annum for residential interventions.

(iii) Mid- Day Meal: - The National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools, popularly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, is an on-going Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII of Government, Government-Aided, Special Training Centres supported under Samagra Shiksha. During 2017-18, 9.51 crore children studying in 11.34 lakh institutions have been benefitted under the Scheme.

(iv) Provision of Free Uniform: Free Uniform is provided to all girls and boys belonging to SC, ST and BPL categories studying at elementary level. During 2018-19 an amount of Rs. 474435.36 lakh has been approved for 8.24 cr. students of elementary level.

(v) Provision of Free Text Books: Free Text Books are provided to children studying at elementary level. During 2018-19 an amount of Rs. 308042.25 lakh has been approved for 10.14 cr. students of elementary level.
