

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 5074
ANSWERED ON – 03/04/2023**

Sanitation Staff in Schools

5074. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that the employment of appropriate number of sanitation staff will likely aid outcomes of its school-based programmes;
- (b) if so, whether any assessment of the current number of sanitation staff across all States and UTs has been undertaken;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (d) if not, whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that an increasing trend in the abysmally low number of sanitation staff in schools is jeopardizing the health outcomes of children enrolled therein; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken to address the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) to (e) Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the administrative control of respective State Government & UT Administration. The recruitment, service conditions and deployment of staff including sanitation staff of the State/UT Government schools is under the administrative control of respective State and UT Government. The recruitment of staff in schools is a continuous process and the vacancies keep arising due to retirement, resignation and additional requirements on account of enhanced students' strength/new schools. However, the Ministry of Education regularly requests the State and UT Governments for filling-up the vacant posts and their rational deployment, through review meetings and advisories from time to time.

Ministry of Education in association with the State Governments, UT Administrations, Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and Private Corporates had launched the Swachh Vidyalaya initiative in 2014 to provide separate toilets for boys and girls in all government schools within one year. Under this initiative, 4,17,796 toilets had been constructed/reconstructed in 2,61,400 Government elementary and secondary schools.

There is also a provision in Samagra Shiksha for sanction of budget for construction of new toilets and for taking up repairs to toilets / providing running water etc. Every year as per the proposals submitted by the State / UT during the Project Approval Board meeting of Samagra Shiksha, sanction is accorded for construction / repairs for toilets / water facility etc.

The centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha also provides for an annual recurring composite school grant varying upto Rs. 1,00,000/- per annum depending upon the number of students, for all government schools, out of which at least 10% is to be spent on activities related to Swachhata Action Plan (SAP) for hygiene and sanitation. Central release to States and UTs under SAP Component in the year 2022-23 is Rs. 206.99 crore, as on 31.12.2022.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has instituted Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) from 2016-2017 at district, State and national level as a next step to Swachh Vidyalaya Initiative for institutionalizing a Swachhata ranking system for excellence in water, sanitation and hygiene in schools across the country. During 2021-22 in Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 8,23,211 schools have participated and the top ranking schools have been felicitated at the District, State and National Level. A total of 57,177 Schools have got 5 star ranking and 2,99,021 schools have got 4 star ranking during SVP 2021-22.
