

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- †357
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 05/02/2024

QUALITY EDUCATION TO TRIBAL STUDENTS

†357. SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure equal access to quality education to tribal students and to remove the academic inequalities faced by them; and

(b) the strategies being adopted and initiatives being taken to enhance the quality of education for tribal students, keeping in mind their specific need and cultural background?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR):

(a) & (b): Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) for providing quality education to tribal students in their own environment. For the first time since independence, in 2019, Government of India gave special attention to tribal education and decided to set up EMRS in blocks having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011) in remote, forest areas, hilly and difficult areas with possible outlay of around Rs 29,000 cr. Accordingly, National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization, has been established to manage and implement the scheme of EMRS. As on date, Ministry has sanctioned a total of 694 EMRSs, out of which 402 are reported to be functional benefiting 1,21,640 tribal students across the country. The following facilities are provided under the scheme of EMRS:

- Free quality education to tribal students ensuring their all-around development.
- Fully residential school for class from 6th to 12th Standard with a strength of 480 students (240 Girls and 240 Boys).
- The infrastructure available in each School is classrooms, administrative block, Labs, Hostel, Sports Facility, Staff Residences etc.
- The Department of Expenditure has approved 52 posts for each EMRS with a total vacancy of 38480 teaching and non-teaching staff. Recruitment is to be carried out in a phased manner from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

- Study materials, and uniforms (including customized climatic clothing for hilly areas) are provided free of cost.
- Extra-curricular activities like dance, music, painting, trekking, excursions/exposure visits, study tours.

Further, Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing the following Scholarship Schemes to promote and encourage basic and higher education amongst ST population: -

- (i) Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students (Class IX and X)
- (ii) Post Matric Scholarship for ST students (Class XI and above)
- (iii) National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education for ST students.
- (iv) National Overseas Scholarship for ST students.

Under these schemes funds are directly transferred to students' Bank account through DBT.

In addition to this, Ministry of Education, Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing an integrated centrally sponsored scheme for School education-Samagra Shiksha for all, including tribal children. The scheme provides support for the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act. The Scheme aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.
