

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 157
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021

New Schools in Rural and Semi-rural Areas

157. DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up new schools in rural/semi-rural areas under various schemes during the next three years;
- (b) if so, the number of schools proposed to be set up, State and year-wise;
- (c) the details of the targets, if any, fixed by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the action plan prepared by the Government to achieve the targets fixed in this regard?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (d): As per the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 it is the duty of the respective State and Union Territory Government which is the appropriate Government under the RTE Act to provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child of the age 6 to 14 years in a neighbourhood school. In pursuance of Section 6 of the RTE Act, the respective State and Union Territory (UT) Government have notified areas or limits of their neighbourhood norms in their State RTE Rules, factoring in their State specific condition, for opening of schools.

The Central Government, through integrated centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha provides support to the States and UTs for implementing the various provisions of the RTE Act, including opening/ strengthening of schools as per gaps identified from school mapping. Under erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), till 2017-18 and Samagra Shiksha effective from 2018-19, sanction has been given for 3.64 lakh new elementary schools out of which States and UTs have reported the opening of 3.60

lakh schools. Under erstwhile Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), till 2017-18 and Samagra Shiksha effective from 2018-19, 13093 new secondary schools have been sanctioned, out of which States and UTs have reported opening of 12652 new schools, till 31.10.2021.

Proposals for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas are considered only when received in the prescribed proforma from the District Administration through the State Government concerned. The proposals received from various sponsoring authorities for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas also have to compete among other proposals under the “Challenge Method”.

The Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme provides for opening of one Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in each district of the country for providing good quality education to children predominantly from the rural areas. Opening of new JNVs is a continuous process which depends on the availability of suitable land by the concerned State Government free of cost for construction of school buildings and the required temporary accommodation (free of rent) to start the Vidyalaya. However, actual sanction and opening of the JNV depends on the availability of funds and approval by the Competent Authority.
