

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2976
ANSWERED ON- 21/03/2022

EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL IN KERALA

2976. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is intending to establish more Eklavya Model Residential Schools(EMRS) in the country in order to fill the gap in the education of tribal children in remote areas;
- (b) if so, the details of such schools proposed to be established in Kerala State or already established and funds approved in the current year;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the digital divide, existing in the country especially among tribal children who were unable to avail online classes owing to lack of critical technological infrastructure for online classes during pandemic; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to increase technology capability of EMRS schools and will such schools have mobile facilities in future to address connectivity issues?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SMT. RENUKA SINGH SARUTA)

(a): Government has set the criteria of 50% or more ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons in a block (as per 2011 census) for establishment of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS). Accordingly, Ministry has decided to establish 740 EMRSs in the country in order to fill the gap in the education of tribal children in remote areas.

(b): There are 4 schools already sanctioned in the State of Kerala and as per the norms no additional proposal is being considered at present. Details of EMRSs sanctioned in **Kerala** are as under:

S. No.	District	Block	Village	Year of sanction
1.	Wayanad	Kalpetta (Vythri)	Pookode	1997-98
2.	Idukki	Idukki	Painavu	1998-99
3.	Palakkad	Attapady (Manarkad)	Agali	2017-18
4.	Kasargod	Parappa	Kinanoor	2018-19 (old)

The recurring grant for EMRS released by National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) to the State of Kerala during 2021-22 (as on 15.03.2022) is Rs. 229.56 Lakh.

(c) and (d): To ensure continuity with learning in EMRSs, several online technological tools had been adopted by schools such as YouTube, DIKSHA, Whatsapp, Google Classroom, Mobile Apps etc. To increase technology capability of EMRS schools in future, step for establishment of smart class infrastructure in EMRSs with stable internet connectivity has been taken by NESTS in collaboration with the Education and Research Network (ERNET), India which is an autonomous scientific society of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.
