

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2172**  
ANSWERED ON 09/12/2024

**KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA**

2172. Shri Mani A:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) currently operational in the country and the number of children enrolled thereon;
- (b) whether the Government has any plans to establish new KGBV in underserved areas, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any studies to assess the impact of KGBVs on girls' education, particularly in rural and marginalized communities, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the infrastructure and other facilities such as hostels, libraries, and digital classrooms in existing KGBVs; and
- (e) the retention rates of students in KGBVs during the last five years and the measures taken by the Government to address any dropouts?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a): A total of 5,133 KGBVs are currently operational in the country with an enrolment of 7.11 lakh girl students.

(b): All the educationally backward-blocks (EBBs) of the country are covered and have at-least one residential school for girls from Classes VI-XII in every EBB. Proposals received from the States/UTs for sanctioning of new KGBVs are scrutinized and considered by the Project Approval Board (PAB) as per norms under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (SE&L) in the Annual PAB meetings of respective State/UTs.

(c) & (d): An evaluation was recently conducted by Department of School Education and Literacy through NCERT in the year 2022-23, to assess the status of KGBVs and work towards enhancement and strengthening.

The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India under Samagra Shiksha provides financial support to States/UTs for providing infrastructural facilities in KGBVs for their efficient functioning. Further, funds have also been approved to the States/UTs in the FY 2024-25, as per the proposals submitted by the States/UTs for boundary wall, toilets, dormitories, guard room, ICT labs and Smart Classrooms, etc in the functional KGBVs. The scheme also provides fund for annual maintenance and repair of existing school buildings, toilets and other facilities to upkeep the infrastructure in good condition. Recently, the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India announced to saturate all functional KGBVs with ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Labs and Smart Classrooms, as per Samagra Shiksha norms, to empower girl students, make them digitally savvy, and enhance their learning outcomes. Accordingly, an amount of Rs. 28,841.96 lakhs have been approved for the provision of 3,564 ICT labs and 3,655 smart classrooms in KGBVs.

(e): The overall retention rate of girls has improved during the last five years across all levels of school education. Details are as under:

Schooling	year				
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
<b>Elementary (1-8)</b>	71.76	71.89	75.49	82.24	82.06
<b>Secondary (1-10)</b>	56.84	58.03	59.59	64.36	64.52

(Source: UDISE+, All India, all management schools)

Under Samagra Shiksha scheme, to increase student retention rates and reduce dropouts including in KGBVs, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities which include opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, free uniforms, free text books, transport allowance and undertaking enrolment & retention drives. Further, special training for age-appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system. Financial assistance upto ₹ 2000 per annum is being provided for Out of School Children of age group of 16-19 years, belonging to socio economically disadvantaged groups, for completing their education through NIOS/SIOS, for accessing course materials and certification. Further, States/UTs conduct special enrolment drives, awareness campaign on child marriage, community involvement, extra-curricular activities etc.

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