

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-579
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

UPLIFTMENT OF TRIBALS

579. Dr. Kirsan Namdeo:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to prepare any special action plan for the education and welfare of tribal people so as to bring them and the tribal areas of the country into mainstream;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (c): The Central Sector Scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) was started in the year 2018-19 to provide quality education at par with Navodaya Vidyalaya to the tribal children in their own environment. Under the new scheme, Government decided to establish 440 EMRSs, one EMRS in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011). 288 EMRS schools were initially funded under Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, which are being upgraded as per the new model. Accordingly, Ministry has set the target to set up total of 728 EMRSs benefiting around 3.5 lakh ST students across the country. As on date, 715 schools have been sanctioned, out of which 476 EMRSs have been reported to be functional across the country benefiting about 1,33,929 students covering 264 districts in 28 States/UTs.

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

- i) Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students (For Class IX and X):
- ii) Post Matric Scholarship for ST students (For Class XI and above):
- iii) National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of ST Students (earlier known as Top Class Scholarship Scheme): Scholarship is provided for pursuing Graduate/Post Graduate courses in the 265 top-class Government and Non-Government Institutes in professional fields such as Management, Medicine, Engineering, Information Technology, Law etc.
- iv. National Fellowship Scheme for Higher Education of ST Students: Scholarship to meritorious ST students for pursuing M.Phil or Ph.D in India
- v) National Overseas Scholarship for ST students: Scholarships are given to the meritorious Schedule Tribe (ST) students for pursuing higher education abroad.

In addition to the above scheme Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) a scheme with total outlay of Rs.79,156 crores (Central Share: Rs.56,333 crore and State Share: Rs. 22,823 crore) was also launched on 2nd October 2024 by Government. The Abhiyan will cover

around 63,843 villages benefiting more than 5 crore tribal people in 549 districts and 2,911 blocks spread across all tribal majority villages and aspirational blocks in 30 States/UTs. DAJGUA envisions saturation of critical gaps in social infrastructure including education sector. Under the Scheme Dept of School Education, Ministry of Education Govt of India will be constructing 1000 hostels for tribal children to facilitate access to education. Additionally under DAJGUA MoTA will support states with central assistance for upgradation of infrastructure of Ashram schools being run by State Governments for Tribal children.

Further , Samagra Shiksha, an overarching programme for the school education is being implemented by Dept of School Education, Ministry of Education Government of India with a total financial outlay of Rs.2,94,283.04crore which includes a Central share of Rs.1,85,398.32 crore.(2021-2026) which has a special thrust on Bridging Social and Gender Gaps in School Education. The scheme also focuses on the identified Special Focus Districts (SFDs) on the basis of adverse performance on various indicators of enrolment, retention, and gender parity, as well as concentration of SC, ST and minority communities. A total of 109 ST SFDs, having population of more than 25% and above ST population have been identified.

Further in Navaodaya Vidyalaya Society, an autonomous body under Ministry of Education, there are 10 Special Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas for Scheduled Tribe (ST) concentrated districts of the country There is provision of Reservation for SC & STs as per actual population in the district concerned subject to a minimum of national average. As on 31.03.2024.Total **58,536 ST students** have been reported to be on the roll of NVS.
