

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 646
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR TRIBAL YOUTH AND WOMEN

646. SHRI E T MOHAMMED BASHEER:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken new measures to enhance access to education and vocational training, particularly for tribal youth and women; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) & (b) : 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. The number of seats for boys and girls in these schools are equal.

National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous society under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which is mandated with establishing and managing Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRSs), has signed an MoU with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, in March 2024, for setting up of 400 Skill labs in 200 EMRSs (2 Skill Lab per school). Also, NESTS in association with CBSE & World Bank has established 14 more skill labs in EMRSs to facilitate Skill training of tribal students studying in these EMRSs. NESTS has also collaborated

with NITI Aayog and established Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) labs in 16 EMRSs. Students studying in these schools are enabled to have exposure in skill development.

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 benefitting 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, 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. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under DA JGUA with the DAPST funds will establish 30 Tribal Skill centers for Tribal youth as per Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme

Further, Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing the scheme of Samagra Shiksha, effective from 2018-19, for universalization of quality education throughout the country in coordination with the States and UTs. In order to ensure greater participation of girls in school education, under Samagra Shiksha, various interventions have been targeted, which include opening of schools in the neighbourhood to make access easier for girls, free uniform and text-books to girls up to Class VIII, additional teachers and residential quarters for teachers in remote/hilly areas, appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, stipend to children with Special Needs (CwSN) girls from class I to class XII, separate toilets for girls, teachers sensitization programmes to promote girls participation, gender-sensitive teaching-learning materials including text books.

In addition, to reduce gender gaps at all levels of school education and ensure access and quality education to girls, under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) which are residential schools for girls from class VI to XII from age 10-18 years belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL), sanctioned in Educationally Backward Blocks of the country.
