

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO- *124
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 13/02/2025

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW EMRS IN KARNATAKA

*124. SHRI GOVIND MAKTHAPPA KARJOL:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to establish new Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in Challakere of Chitradurga district in Karnataka;
- (b) the number of EMRS that have been functioning in Karnataka and the total student enrollments in the said State, district-wise;
- (c) the list of blocks in Karnataka with more than fifty per cent Scheduled Tribe (ST) population as per the 2011 Census;
- (d) the details of the funds allocated for the construction and operation of EMRS in Karnataka; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the educational outcomes and employment opportunities for tribal students graduating from these EMRS?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SH. JUAL ORAM)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*124 FOR 13/02/2025 RAISED BY SHRI GOVIND MAKTHAPPA KARJOL REGARDING" ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW EMRS IN KARNATAKA".

(a) In Union Budget of 2018-19, Government of India announced that to provide quality education to the tribal children in their own environment, Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) will be established in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011). The scheme was approved by the Cabinet on 17.12.2018.

As per the 2011 Census, no block in Chitradurga district meets the twin criteria for EMRS establishment. However, one EMRS in Hiriyur block was approved by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under Article 275(1) in 2010-11 and has been operational since 2016-17.

(b) There are 12 nos. of EMRSs operational in Karnataka State. The district wise status of EMRS is as under:-

S. No.	Name of District	No. of EMRSs functional	Total students enrolled
1	Ballari	1	366
2	Belagavi	1	447
3	Chamarajanagar	1	390
4	Chikkamagaluru	1	347
5	Chitradurga	1	382
6	Kalaburagi	1	331
7	Kodagu	1	340
8	Kolar	1	410
9	Mysuru	1	383
10	Raichur	1	404
11	Tumakuru	1	384
12	Yadgir	1	340

(c) As per census 2011, none of the Community Development (CD) blocks have more than fifty per cent Scheduled Tribe (ST) population.

(d) Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) was introduced in the year 1997-98 to provide quality upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) students (Class 6th to 12th) in remote areas to enable them to access the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population. Prior to 2020-21, the scheme of EMRS was a component under Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India and therefore no separate budget allocation was made for the scheme of EMRS. All EMRSs in the State of Karnataka have been sanctioned under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution.

National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization under Ministry, manages and implements the scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS). Ministry releases funds to NESTS and NESTS further releases funds to States/ UTs/ PSUs/ Construction Agencies/ State Societies as per their requirements for construction of EMRSs and recurring cost for running of the schools.

The details of fund released to Karnataka State Society for operation of EMRS is as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
2020-21	2,495.83
2021-22	3,672.86
2022-23	1,529.92
2023-24	1,450.00
2024-25 (Till 31.01.2025)	3,050.00
Total	12,198.61

(e) NESTS has implemented various initiatives to improve the educational outcomes and equip tribal students with essential skills for future employment opportunities. These programs focus on emerging technologies, vocational education, competitive exam preparation, and career guidance, as detailed below:

1. **CBSE Affiliation for EMRSs:** Between 2018 and 2024, a total of 361 EMRSs secured affiliation with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). This affiliation ensures uniform curriculum implementation, standardized educational practices, and enhanced academic support across all schools. By aligning with CBSE standards, EMRSs provide

students with improved learning outcomes, better access to national-level academic resources, and greater opportunities for higher education.

2. **Amazon Future Engineering Program:** In collaboration with Learning links Foundation, this program introduces students to emerging technologies such as block- based coding, artificial intelligence, coding, and block programming, fostering future-ready coding skills. The curriculum is tailored to inspire interest in technology and innovation, providing hands-on learning experiences. Through workshops, interactive sessions, and project-based learning, students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for future tech careers.
3. **Vocational Education:** Collaborating with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), NESTS integrates vocational education into the EMRS curriculum. These courses cover diverse fields such as agriculture, healthcare, hospitality, and information technology, aiming to equip students with practical skills and industry-specific knowledge. By bridging academic learning with practical application, students gain employability skills that open doors to various career pathways, especially in sectors with high job potential.
4. **Skill Labs under the SANKALP Project:** In collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), NESTS has initiated the establishment of 400 skill labs in 200 EMRS campuses. These labs are equipped with advanced tools and technology, offering training in areas like robotics, electronics, carpentry, and digital fabrication. The hands-on learning environment encourages creativity, innovation, and an entrepreneurial mindset among students.
5. **Digital Tutoring for IIT/NEET:** Recognizing the challenges faced by tribal students in accessing quality coaching for competitive exams, NESTS partnered with PACE to provide digital tutoring. This initiative focuses on preparing students for national-level exams such as IIT-JEE and NEET, which are gateways to premier engineering and medical institutions in India. With expert tutors, customized learning modules, and regular assessments, students receive the academic support necessary to excel in these rigorous examinations.
6. **TALASH:** In collaboration with UNICEF and inspired by the NCERT "Tamanna" initiative, NESTS has implemented *TALASH*, a digitized platform accessible via a web portal. Through *TALASH*, students take an aptitude test that generates comprehensive career cards, outlining career paths and suggesting institutions best suited for their aspirations. The pilot project has been successfully tested in four schools and is ready for rollout. In addition to psychometric testing and career counselling, the portal features two other key sections: **Life Skills** and **Self-Esteem**, alongside E-Learning materials for EMRS teachers, enhancing their ability to guide students effectively. The functionalities of these sections are outlined as follows:
 - a. **Career Counselling:** The digitalized psychometric assessment, inspired by "Tamanna," evaluates students' aptitudes in seven key areas: Language Aptitude (LA), Abstract Reasoning (AR), Verbal Reasoning (VR), Mechanical Reasoning (MR), Numerical Aptitude (NA), Spatial Aptitude (SA), and Perceptual Aptitude

(PA). Based on these results, a report card is generated, providing career cards that guide students toward suitable career trajectories.

- b. **Life Skills:** This section equips students with vital abilities, attitudes, and socio-emotional competencies, enabling them to make informed decisions, learn effectively, and lead healthy, productive lives. Life skills also empower students to become change agents in their communities, promoting mental well-being and supporting essential competencies such as literacy, numeracy, and digital literacy.
- c. **Self-Esteem:** This module focuses on building students' self-confidence, self-worth, and positive self-image. It offers tools for managing emotions, developing resilience, and cultivating a growth mindset. EMRS teachers will be provided with self-learning materials to further develop students' emotional intelligence and overall well-being.
