

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- †4587
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 27/03/2025

EMRS IN SONITPUR DISTRICT OF ASSAM

†4587. SHRI RANJIT DUTTA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a new Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in Sonitpur district of Assam in view of the significant tribal population therein and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is taking any steps to ensure quality education for tribal students in Sonitpur district of Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI. DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a): In Union Budget of 2018-19, Government of India announced that to provide quality education to the tribal children in their own environment, EMRSs will be established in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011).

There is no such EMRS approved in Sonitpur district of Assam, as no block is eligible for establishment of EMRS in Sonitpur district as per the abovementioned twin criteria.

(b) & (c): 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.

Pre and Post matric Scholarships scheme are open ended and every ST student with income upto 2.5 lakh can take benefit of these schemes.

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) envisions saturation of critical gaps in social infrastructure including education sector. To improve infrastructure of residential schools and hostels in tribal areas, under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) there is provision for upgradation and renovation of these schools. An amount of about Rs 7500 cr has been provisioned by Ministry of Tribal Affairs with 100% grants to States. Under DAJGUA Dept of School Education and Literacy, Govt of India has provisioned for construction of 1000 hostels for tribal children to facilitate access to education. Ministry of Education has sanctioned 304 Hostels including 87 hostels in Assam.

Additionally, under PM Janjatiya Adivasi Nyaya MAha Abhiyan (JANMAN), Department of School Education & Literacy is supporting construction of 500 hostels for facilitating access to education of students belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, out of which 194 have already been sanctioned.

Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), is also implementing Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, aimed at bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of 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. The major interventions of Samagra Shiksha include RTE entitlements under which two sets of uniforms for all girls, and children belonging to SC/ST/BPL families' in Government schools up to class VIII are provided and provision is also made for textbooks to all children including SC/ST in Government/Local Body and Government aided schools.

Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) which are residential schools for girls (class VI to XII) belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL).

Further, there is a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in Sonitpur under Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), an autonomous body under Ministry of Education to provide equitable access to good quality modern education to tribal children.
