

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 501
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 06/02/2025

EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS IN MAHARASHTRA

501. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka:
Shri S Venkatesan:
Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram:
Dr. Bachhav Shobha Dinesh:
Shri Anto Antony:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) currently functional and non- functional in the country, State-wise, particularly for Dhule and Nashik in Maharashtra;
- (b) the reasons for EMRS lying non-functional and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make non-functional EMRS operational with quality education for students;
- (c) the percentage of admissions given to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in EMRS, State-wise;
- (d) the details of dropout rate in EMRS across the country and the measures taken/being taken to address the high dropout rates in EMRS from Class VII onwards, gender-wise;
- (e) the allocated and utilized budget for EMRS so far;

- (f) whether the Government has any statistics regarding number of teacher and other staff posts lying vacant and if so, the details thereof along with the number of posts filled during the last five years, year and school-wise;
- (g) the details of dropout rates among PVTGs during the last five years and the key factors contributing to this trend; and
- (h) the measures adopted to reduce dropout rates among PVTGs and improve their access to education?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a): As on date, a total number of 718 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) have been sanctioned and 476 schools have been made functional and 242 EMRSs are non-functional. In Dhule district, 2 EMRSs have been sanctioned and are functional. In Nashik district, 8 EMRSs have been sanctioned, and all are also functional. The State/UT-wise details of functional and non-functional EMRSs are at ANNEXURE I

(b): National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous body under Ministry of Tribal Affairs is managing and implementing scheme of EMRS has been continuously making efforts to functionalize EMRSs at the earliest. As a result, total 404 EMRSs were functional as on March, 2024 and as on date 476 EMRSs have been made functional. Further, The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved 718 EMRS locations, with construction completed in 346 schools. Construction of 247 EMRSs are in progress , while 125 ERMSs are at pre construction stage. The construction at many locations has been delayed due to the reasons like delay in land provision by State Governments, Land and forest clearance issues and local protests and other disruptions. These challenges are being sorted out in consultation with the respective State Governments, so that the construction of

EMRSs may be completed and may be made functional at the earliest. The States have also been encouraged to start the schools from alternate buildings.

The Government has undertaken several steps to make operational the non-functional Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) , which include the following:

1. Infrastructure Development: Accelerated construction of EMRS buildings and related facilities through close monitoring and support to implementing agencies.
2. Recruitment of Staff: Recruitment drives are conducted to fill vacancies for teaching and non-teaching staff, ensuring adequate personnel to run the schools effectively.
3. Collaboration with State Governments: Coordination with State Tribal Welfare Departments for resolving issues related to land allocation, infrastructure, and recruitment.
4. Capacity Building: Regular training programs and workshops for teachers and administrative staff to enhance their capabilities.
5. Funding Support: Adequate financial allocations and timely disbursement of funds under the EMRS scheme to address resource-related delays.
6. Monitoring and Review: Establishing a robust system of periodic reviews and inspections to address challenges and ensure smooth functioning.
7. Digital Learning Facilities: Provision of ICT tools and digital classrooms to ensure learning continuity, even when full infrastructure is unavailable.

(c): 5% seats are reserved for PVTGs in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) in accordance with the admission guidelines issued by NESTS. The Guidelines for admission in EMRSs for the Academic Year 2025-26 have been disseminated to all States EMRS Societies, to ensure adherence to the prescribed guidelines, including adherence to reservation for children belonging to PVTG communities.

(d): The gender-wise dropout rates in EMRSs (A.Y. 2024-25) across the country, based on the information provided by respective States, is as under:

Girls	116 Nos.
Boys	161 Nos.
Total	277 Nos.

NESTS has maintained records of student dropouts to ensure that dropout rates remain minimal. Further, to address the issue of student dropouts and improve retention, NESTS has been implementing various essential steps, including:

- I. Mobilizing the tribal population to enroll in EMRSs (Eklavya Model Residential Schools) by raising awareness about the schools through participation in camps and outreach programs.
- II. Facilitating tribes by constructing educational facilities in the most remote areas.
- III. Introducing vocational courses to enable students to acquire skills that will support their sustainability in the job market.
- IV. Providing necessary facilities for career counselling to make students aware of prevailing opportunities. It enables students to gain insights into different career paths, understand industry requirements, and acquire the necessary skills for success in their chosen fields.
- V. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, through NESTS, is also focusing on skill enhancement of students to support them post-formal education. This includes making them aware of the scholarship schemes offered by the Ministry to facilitate their pursuit of higher studies.
- VI. Additionally, focusing on building new infrastructure and recruiting high-quality human resources in a timely manner to enhance educational outcomes and reduce drop-out rates. As a result, the dropout rate among tribal students in EMRSs remains minimal.

(e): 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 Year wise fund allocation and released under EMRS Scheme (as on date) is as under:

(Rs. In Lakh)

Financial Year	Fund allocation	Funds released
2019-20	1622.00	1621.00
2020-21	120000.00	119995.00
2021-22	105774.00	105774.00
2022-23	200000.00	199998.20
2023-24	247181.00	244761.00
2024-25	474892.00	411276.00

(f): : National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) has been set up by Government in 2019 as an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to establish, endow, maintain, control and manage the EMRS schools and DoE approved the recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff @ 52 per EMRS for 740 schools in a phased manner. First recruitment drive was carried out in 2023 and a total of 9045 posting orders have been issued.

The number of posts filled during the first phase of recruitment is as per attached document (Annexure-II). A total of 5879 posts including vacancies reserved for filling promotion posts are lying vacant as on date.

(g): The details of the year-wise PVTGs dropout as reported by NESTS for the last 4 years is as under :

S. No.	Year	No. of PVTG Students dropped out
1.	2021-22	10
2.	2022-23	14
3.	2023-24	18
4.	2024-25	13

The major cause of dropout among PVTG students' has been due to lack of awareness among the community and pressure from their families to contribute to the income of the family.

(h): From November 2023, Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha AbhiyaN (PM JANMAN) was launched for socio-economic development of 75 PVTG communities residing in 18 states and one UT. The scheme aims to provide basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, electrification of unelectrified households and sustainable livelihood opportunities in 3 years. These objectives are planned to be met through 11 interventions implemented by 9-line Ministries. To improve access to education 194 hostels for PVTG amounting to Rs. 476.16 Cr have been approved under PMJANMAN by Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Govt of India. The other steps measures adopted to reduce dropout rates among PVTGs and improve their access to education are as follows.

i) Reservation for PVTG Students: As per the admission guidelines for EMRS students, a 5% reservation has been specifically earmarked for students belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

ii) Special Training Camps: In cases where PVTG students face challenges in clearing the EMRS entrance examination, schools are instructed to organize special training camps. These camps provide an open forum for training and guidance to support PVTG students in their preparation for the entrance exam.

iii) Community Mobilization and Awareness: To ensure effective utilization of the PVTG seats, community mobilization efforts are undertaken, including engaging local leaders and organizing community-based outreach programs to aware PVTG families/parents about the benefits of education available for their tribal children in EMRSs.

iv) Special Admission Campaigns: Schools have been directed to plan and execute special admission campaigns with the goal of achieving 100% enrollment of PVTG students in EMRSs. These campaigns aim to ensure that no student is left behind in accessing quality education.

v) Continued Educational Support: Training campaigns have been conducted at the school level to support PVTG students, particularly in preparation for the entrance exam, and to provide continued guidance throughout their educational journey.

vi) Dilution of Admission Benchmarks: Dilution of the existing admission benchmarks specifically for PVTG students. This measure provides these children with a fair opportunity to access quality education and break the cycle of poverty and marginalization.

ANNEXURE I

Annexure I as referred in part (a) of the reply to Lok Sabha US Question no. 501 for 06.02.2025 raised by Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, Shri S Venkatesan, Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram, Dr. Bachhav Shobha Dinesh and Shri Anto Antony regarding “Ekalavya Model Residential Schools in Maharashtra”

The status of EMRSs functional and non-functional in the country

Sl. No	State / UT	EMRS Sanctioned	Functional EMRS	Non-Functional EMRS
1	Andhra Pradesh	28	28	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	10	5	5
3	Assam	17	1	16
4	Bihar	3	2	1
5	Chhattisgarh	75	74	1
6	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1	1	0
7	Gujarat	47	38	9
8	Himachal Pradesh	4	4	0
9	Jammu & Kashmir	6	6	0
10	Jharkhand	90	51	39
11	Karnataka	12	12	0
12	Kerala	4	4	0
13	Ladakh	3	0	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	71	63	8
15	Maharashtra	39	37	2
16	Manipur	21	3	18
17	Meghalaya	37	0	37
18	Mizoram	17	11	6
19	Nagaland	22	3	19
20	Odisha	108	47	61
21	Rajasthan	31	30	1
22	Sikkim	4	4	0
23	Tamil Nadu	8	8	0
24	Telangana	23	23	0
25	Tripura	21	6	15

26	Uttar Pradesh	4	3	1
27	Uttarakhand	4	4	0
28	West Bengal	8	8	0
Total		718	476	242

