

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2022-2023)**

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Review of the functioning of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)' of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

FORTY-FIRST REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2022/ Agrahayana, 1944 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 12.12.2022

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 12.12.2022



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2022/ Agrahayana, 1944 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2022-23)**

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Deepak (Dev) Adhikari
3. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
4. Shri Bholanath (B.P. Saroj)
5. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
6. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
7. Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar
8. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
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16. Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad
17. Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule
18. Shri K. Shanmuga Sundaram
19. Smt. Rekha Arun Verma
20. Shri Devendrappa Y.
21. Shri Tokheho Yephthomi

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
23. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
24. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
25. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
26. Shri N.Chandrasegharan
27. Shri Naryana Koragappa
28. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
29. Shri Ramji
30. Shri Anthiyur P. Selvarasu
31. Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita B. Panda - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ved Prakash Nauriyal - Joint Secretary
3. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Director
4. Shri Krishendra Kumar - Deputy Secretary
5. Smt. Banani Sarker Joshi - Under Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2022-23) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Forty-First Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Review of the functioning of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)' of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

2. The Thirty-Fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 1st April, 2022. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 24th August, 2022. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 9.12.2022.

3. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix.

4. For facility of reference observations/ recommendations/ comments of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;

09 December, 2022
18 Agrahayana, 1944 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

The Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirty-Fourth Report on 'Review of the Functioning of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)'.

2. The Thirty-Fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 01.04.2022. It contained 11 observations/recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under: -

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have **(Total:03, Chapter: II)**
been accepted by the Government:-

Rec. Para No.2.8, 6.12 & 9.9

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the **(Total:03, Chapter: III)**
Committee do not desire to pursue in view of
the Government's reply:-

Rec. Para No.3.7, 4.10 & 7.7

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of **(Total:04, Chapter: IV)**
which replies of the Government have not
been accepted by the Committee and which
require reiteration: -

Rec. Para No. 2.24, 8.19, 10.6 & 11.5

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of **(Total:01, Chapter: V)**
which replies of the Government are interim in
nature:-

Rec. Para No.5.9

3. The Committee desire that action taken notes on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken notes in respect of the recommendation contained in Chapter-V of this Report may be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case not later than three months of the presentation of this Report.

4. The Committee will now deal with the replies received from the Government which need reiteration or merit comments.

Recommendation (Para No.2.24)

5. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:

“The Committee note that the original target, which aimed that 452 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) including 12 Eklavya Model Day Boarding Schools (EMDBS) would be set up in the remaining 462 sub-districts by the year 2022 is nowhere near completion and the target year stands revised as 2025 now. The Committee are surprised to note that out of 452 schools proposed to be sanctioned as per the phasing plan between 2018-2019 to 2021-2022, only 350 schools could be sanctioned and the remaining 102 schools are remaining to be sanctioned as the location for these schools is yet to be finalised. It is disappointing that the construction work of only 100 schools could begin till date whereas the construction work of 332 schools is to begin by March 2022, which has just passed. The Committee lament the fact that there is a substantial gap between the number of schools proposed to be sanctioned and the number of schools sanctioned and also with regard to timelines fixed for construction work.

The Committee also find the Ministry deficient in complying with the standard period of 24 months fixed for completing the construction work as the present position states that detailed Project Report and Master Layout Plan for 174 schools and construction work for 100 schools could begin out of 350 schools sanctioned till date. Further worrying is the fact that very few schools have their own buildings as only 20 schools have been made functional from own buildings. 103 schools are functioning from alternate buildings since 2018-19 till 2021-22. The Committee are quite apprehensive with regard to the achievement of target even by March 2025 as construction of 252 schools is yet to begin. The Committee have been made to believe by the Ministry that after establishment of National Educational Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) on revamping of the

Scheme, things are going to improve substantially but the facts still speak otherwise, even after two years of establishment of NESTS. The Committee would, therefore, opine that the Ministry must not take more into background after setting up of NESTS as things are still not progressing satisfactorily, therefore, close monitoring of the pace of work is required to be done by the Ministry to achieve the targets. The Committee, therefore, like the Ministry to set up a stringent in-built mechanism to ensure compliance of norms/timelines fixed with regard to sanctioning/ construction/functioning of schools so that the work of making EMRS/EMDBS functional from their own buildings is not delayed and there is no deviation from targets at any stage.

Reply of the Government

6. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“It is humbly submitted that the Ministry has not fixed the target of setting up all 452 schools by 2022. In the Cabinet Note 2022, funds for setting up 452 new schools were provided and construction time time-line was fixed in a phased manner. Accordingly, 396 out of 452 EMRSs have been sanctioned as on date. Some states have pleaded inability to provide land in the designated blocks due to area being forest, hilly terrain or suitable land not being available. In view of this, the Ministry has asked States to identify alternate land in neighboring blocks /districts which have majority tribal population. For all such remaining locations, NESTS and Ministry are continuously following up with the State Governments to provide suitable land free from all encumbrances. As on date, under the new scheme, Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction (A/A& E/S) has been issued for 275 locations, construction work has commenced on 180 locations out of total 396 locations where suitable land has been provided by States. On many other locations, where land has been found to be suitable, estimates are being prepared for technical and administrative sanctions. Steps have also been taken to monitor the quality of construction through premier institutions like IITs/NITs. NESTS has constituted a dedicated construction wing consisting of experienced engineers and architects to strengthen the monitoring mechanism and to minimize the delay in construction. NESTS civil team is consistently monitoring the construction activities assigned to PSUs/CPWD/State Govt. at various locations across the States. It is therefore expected that significant progress will be made during the coming months.”

7. Keeping in view of the slow progress of construction of EMRS, the Committee had recommended the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to set up a stringent in-built mechanism to ensure compliance of norms/timelines fixed with regard to sanctioning/construction/functioning of schools so that the work of making EMRS/EMDBS functional from their own buildings is not delayed and there is no deviation from targets at any stage. The Ministry in their action taken replies submitted that the construction work has commenced only at 180 locations out of 275 locations wherein Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction (A/A& E/S) has been issued. The Committee note that Ministry have been able to sanction only 396 EMRS out of 452 EMRS proposed to be set up. The Committee believe that by allowing the States to identify alternate land in neighboring blocks /districts which have majority tribal population as they could not provide land in the designated blocks due to area being forest, hilly terrain or suitable land not being available would expedite the process of sanctioning/ construction of Schools. The Committee wish to remind that the Ministry should have factored in likely impediments at the initial planning stage as availability of land free from all encumbrances particularly in hilly terrain has always been one of the obstacles for construction of EMRS. The Committee desire that the Ministry should take suitable steps to start the construction work at the remaining 95 locations as the work has commenced only at 180 locations out of 275 locations and also direct the NESTS to monitor the progress of construction work so that the Schools are set up in the stipulated period of two years. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken thereon.

Recommendation (Para No.8.19)

8. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee are surprised to note that the provision for Smart Classes & Atal Tinkering Labs in EMRSs and the procurement of mobile tablets and educational

kits for students of EMRSs has been delayed so much that the very objective to provide online education to EMRS schools during COVID Pandemic could not materialise. The Committee feel that this delay has made students to suffer irreversibly as they require these facilities well in time to continue their studies in distant mode. The Committee are unable to understand reasons for continued delay in having these facilities in schools. The fact that tenders were called twice under such specifications for which no Indian company could bid shows that the NESTS/Ministry failed to find a workable solution to prevent altogether stopping of learning for tribal school students during COVID pandemic. The Committee feel that Ministry must realise that students cannot be deprived of the right to education due to the non-serious approach of the persons responsible to execute the work. The Committee, therefore, opine that responsibility needs to be fixed for the casual approach in this matter. The Committee find that the Management Information System proposed to be developed has also been lingering for long without any sound justification. The Ministry therefore must ensure to complete the targets set for establishing online learning system, Smart classes and Atal tinkering labs and also to procure the mobile tablets and educational kits within the laid down timeframe. As the tribal students belong to remote areas and do not possess resources to voice their requirements vigorously, it is the bounden duty of the Ministry to recognize and fulfil their educational requirements well in time. The Committee would, therefore, like to strongly recommend the Ministry to install smart classes, Atal tinkering labs in all the EMRSs in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments within a fixed time schedule. The Committee also desire that as the management Information system, which is currently proposed to be developed, could be an effective tool for monitoring of the schools, particularly those set up in far flung areas, should be developed in a time bound manner without further delay”.

Reply of the Government

9. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“With respect to Atal Tinkering Labs, it is shared that till date, there are 18 EMRSs where process of ATL establishment has commenced and these are spread across 8 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Karnataka, Sikkim, and Manipur. For establishment of Agile-ATLs in EMRSs, deliberations had happened with NITI Aayog, however due to scarcity of funds at the organization level, other funding options are being explored. NESTS, MoTA has collaborated with ERNET, MEITY regarding smart

class establishment in 175 EMRSs (48 EMRSs -1st year and 127 EMRSs in 2nd year. As per latest update, Infrastructure is operational in 43 EMRSs and for 5 EMRSs work order is in process of issuance.

“With the establishment of NESTs, it was decided to setup a Managerial Information System (MIS) to maintain the information at one place for rigorous monitoring of the progress. Accordingly, the work on developing the same was assigned in January 2021. The MIS is currently under development and several modules have already been made live for data entry by schools. The technical development of the basic modules of MIS is likely to be over by July 2022. Most of the basic modules has already been completed and made live for data entry and other basic modules like finance; result etc. will be made live soon.

10. Considering continued delay in establishing of online learning system, Smart classes and Atal tinkering labs in EMRS and also in procurement of mobile tablets and educational kits within the laid down timeframe, the Committee had directed the Ministry to complete them in a time bound manner. The Committee find from the Action Taken Notes that not much progress has been made even today as only 18 Atal Tinkering Labs have been established in EMRSs spread across 8 States. The Committee note that the Ministry have collaborated with ERNET, MEITY for establishment of smart classes in only 175 EMRSs. While expressing their concern for educational empowerment of the tribal students, the Committee feel that any further delay in providing these facilities in all the EMRS would deprive students from latest technology in education which have become very essential in the current scenario. The Committee would, therefore, like to reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire that necessary directions may be issued at the appropriate level so that the online learning system, Smart classes and Atal tinkering labs are established as envisaged and mobile tablets and educational kits are procured so that the seamless education is provided to tribal students even in disruptive situations. The Committee are also of the considered opinion that the full fledged Management Information System (MIS) should be established without any

further delay to equip the management for effective monitoring of EMRS. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in this regard.

Recommendation (Para No.10.6)

11. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee are astonished to note that the Ministry have not been able to identify the locations for establishing two Centre of Excellence (CoE) for sports with specialized state-of-the-art for one identified individual sport and one group sport for which preliminary sanction has been issued out of the fifteen such Centres proposed to be set up in tribal majority districts in each State/UT and Rs. 127 lakhs sanctioned too. The Committee are perturbed to find that the discussion with Sports authority of India is still underway for collaboration under ‘Khelo India Programme’ and detailed standard procedure have not been devised to establish such Centres. The Committee are unable to understand the objective of releasing an advance amount of Rs. 127 lakhs for two CoEs sanctioned and to include financial provision in the Cabinet Note for continuation of the EMRSs during 2021-22 to 2025-26 when Ministry have not been able to locate places for establishing two CoEs. The Committee wonder as how much time would be required to establish all 15 CoEs. The Committee are also concerned about the financial implication of the delay as the cost of such Centres is likely to increase substantially if there is too much delay in taking decisions. The Committee would, therefore, like the Ministry to take necessary action immediately to complete the modalities in consultation with Sports Authority of India, States/UTs and other stakeholders so that the location not only for two CoE is finalised but location for all 15 CoEs is finalized and timeline should be fixed for completion work of all CoEs.”

Reply of the Government

12. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“The Proposal for establishment of CoEs has been received from 6 States. The Ministry has undertaken several rounds of consultation with Sports Authority of India to understand what Infrastructure can be provided in the available budgetary allotment of Rs 5 cr. Discussions have also taken place on provision of coaches for different games. All other States also have been asked to submit proposals. It is proposed that each CoE will have facility for 1 major sport, 2 minor sports, Indoor sports facility and a playground with outdoor facilities.”

13. The Committee are disappointed to find that the location for establishing two Centres of Excellence for sports out of the 15 such Centres proposed to be set up in tribal majority districts in each State/UT is yet to be finalized as the proposal for establishment of CoEs has been received only from 6 States and all other States have now been asked to submit their proposals. The Committee are not happy with the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry in handling the CoE Project. The Committee feel that had the Ministry conducted proper study to examine the viability of the project and taken States Governments into confidence before initiating the proposal, such hurdles would not have cropped in, at least, finalizing the location for establishing them. Since these CoEs will be co-located with an existing or proposed EMRS, the Committee believe that the students of EMRS who have talent in sports would be benefitted from the sports and coaching facilities available in CoEs. The Committee also find that each CoE will now have a facility for 1 major sport, 2 minor sports, Indoor sports facility and a playground with outdoor facilities as against the earlier proposal of having state-of-the-art facility for one identified individual sport and one group sport and discussion is underway with Sports Authority of India to understand what Infrastructure can be provided in the available budgetary allotment of ₹ 5 crore. Since the Project is at a very preliminary stage the

Committee strongly believe that the budgetary allotment of ₹5 crore provided may fall short, if there is any further delay in finalizing the locations of the Project. Hence, the Committee foresee serious shortcomings in the budget allocations too. The Committee, therefore, impress upon the Ministry to assess the shortcomings in the Project as it is not moving forward at a desired pace and plug them at the preliminary level so that these Centres come up smoothly. They would also like the Ministry to fix the deadlines for completion of each stage of the Project to ensure that at least 2 targeted Sports Centres are completed in a time bound manner as there is an urgent need to make available best of sports facilities to boost the performance of athletes and sportsperson of tribal belts of the country since they have been giving outstanding performance at National and International level.

Recommendation (Para No.11.5)

14. The Committee, in their original Report, had recommended as follows:-

“The Committee are surprised to note that 3 States namely Bihar, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have still not signed MoU and are reluctant to shift to CBSE Board and are insisting on continuation of State Board Curriculum in the schools set up in their States whereas the norms stipulate that all the EMRSs set up are to be affiliated with CBSE in order to grant better sum per child studying in these schools. The Committee would like the Ministry to vigorously pursue with the States and give them a time period to sign MoU with NESTS so that the norms established including affiliation of schools with CBSE Board are applicable to them for smooth running of Schools and the students studying in these schools get standardized education and the uniform standard of education is established across all the EMRSs in the country. In order to bring them on board, the Committee recommend that the Ministry pursue the matter at higher level with the States and sort out the issue fast”.

Reply of the Government

15. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in their Action Taken Reply, have submitted as under:-

“3 States namely Bihar, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have not signed the MOU as the States are not willing to get EMRSs in their state affiliated to CBSE which is one of the criteria for signing of MoU. They are of the opinion that the State Education pattern (State Board) suits more to the State rather than the CBSE pattern. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has addressed to Chief Secretary of the concerned States and discussed this issue in meetings with the States and the Ministry has been regularly pursuing for the same. Additionally, in the letters dated 08.09.2021 and 10.12.2020, the Hon’ble Minister of Tribal Affairs personally wrote to the Chief Ministers of the concerned States of Bihar and Tamil Nadu respectively, to pursue the matter. The Ministry in coordination with NESTS has been following up on the same”.

16. The Committee find that despite of their efforts, the Ministry has been unable to convince the States of Bihar, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal to shift to the CBSE curriculum from State Board. The Committee understand that one of the norms stipulated for EMRS is affiliation under CBSE. The Committee feel that by disagreeing to affiliate their EMRS under CBSE , these States would forfeit the benefits under the EMRS scheme which would otherwise have given a significant boost to the educational infrastructure of tribal areas and benefit number of tribal students who constitute one of the most socially vulnerable groups. While reiterating their earlier recommendation ,the Committee call upon the Ministry to vigorously pursue the matter with these States and encourage them to shift to CBSE so that there is uniformity across all EMRSs in the country and the objectives of the scheme is well served.

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

(Recommendation Para No. 2.8)

The Committee are constrained to note that out of 288 schools sanctioned in 1997-98, that is prior to revamping of the EMRS Scheme in 2018-19, only 244 schools could be made functional. They further find that the construction work of only 202 schools has been completed till date and the construction work of 20 schools is yet to begin, whereas construction work of 66 schools is targeted to be completed by October, 2024. The pace with which the work has been progressing seems to be quite slow as construction work of only 202 schools has been completed despite the Scheme being in existence for more than two decades. Construction work of 20 schools could not begin till date, despite the same being entrusted to Central/State Public Sector undertakings after the revamping of Scheme in 2018-19. The Committee are of the firm opinion that the routine issues relating to tendering process, land transfer, finalization of construction agency, etc. cannot be kept lingering for months and delaying the work inordinately when a target completion date is set. The Committee feel that the Ministry should take dynamic measures to ensure that, at least, all the 288 old sanctioned schools are made functional from their own buildings in a time bound manner in order to achieve the envisaged objectives of the Scheme. The Committee would therefore, like the Ministry to take concrete steps so that the construction work of 66 schools is completed as stipulated and begin the construction work of the remaining 20 schools at the earliest so that all the old schools are made functional from their own building.

As the teaching activities have not been undertaken since the pandemic of COVID-19 started, there is all the more urgency that at least now the tribal children must have school facilities to resume their education, particularly since online mode of education is not feasible for remote tribal areas. Hence, the Committee may be apprised in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has always respected the guidance received from time to time from the Hon'ble Committee. The EMRS scheme is flagship scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs where in residential schools are being set up in India since 1997. When the EMRSs were initiated in the beginning, the modality was to provide grants to States under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, and it was the complete responsibility of the States to provide land and complete the construction. Under the old pattern of grant-in-aid, 288 schools were sanctioned, out of which construction in 214 schools is complete as on date. In 56 schools' construction is in progress and in 18 schools' construction

could not be started due to land issues. The States were responsible for identification of land and construction of schools.

Realizing the importance of EMRS, the scheme was revamped in 2019 as a Central Sector Scheme wherein it was decided that every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 ST persons, will be eligible to have an Eklavya Model Residential School. Eklavya schools will be developed to be on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas. The Department of Expenditure has given concurrence, and Cabinet has approved setting up of 452 schools by 2025-26 in a phased manner.

With regard to the concerns shown by the Hon'ble Committee in respect of some of the schools under the old scheme not being made functional or construction not complete, it is humbly submitted that the identification of land and providing suitable land for construction free from all encumbrances, with forest clearance etc. are the responsibility of the State Government under the old scheme and also the revamped scheme. As the construction of school takes about 2 years, the States have been advised to make the schools functional from alternate building preferably a government building and make provision of teachers on deputation till the construction is complete. However due to remoteness of the blocks, where these schools are being constructed, sometimes it is difficult to find alternate government building in the same block to make the schools function. Despite several constraints, the sustained efforts of Ministry and States have shown substantial progress in making 378 schools functional, including schools sanctioned under the old scheme. Ministry in coordination with NESTS is reviewing the matter with States/ UTs and construction agencies in a regular manner through VCs and State visits. NESTS is continuously reviewing the matter with respective State Governments for expediting the progress of construction work.

Further, it is submitted that in 175 schools, through collaboration between Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Electronics and IT, for providing online education, smart classes are being set up.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM F.No.11011/01/2021-EMRS dated 24/8/2022]

(Recommendation Para No. 6.12)

The Committee find that after the revamping of EMRS Scheme, the responsibility of construction of 452 new schools sanctioned since 2018-19, has been entrusted to PSUs and CPWD, except for 42 schools where the State Governments have been entrusted the responsibility. The Committee also find that the budgetary provision for capital cost of ₹ 2146.50 crore has been made for 2024-25 and ₹ 210.00 crore for 2025-26. The Committee are unable to comprehend the reasons for keeping such a low budgetary provision for these two years when only expenditure sanction for 174 schools have been granted till date and expenditure sanction for 278 schools is yet to be awarded. As the construction of schools in remote/hills/difficult tribal areas taken much

more time than those in regular areas, there is a high possibility than 278 schools would not be ready in another three years and ₹ 210 crore would be quite insufficient in 2025-26. The Committee are apprehensive about the financial crunch EMRSs may face at that time. The Committee would, therefore, like the Ministry to review the financial allocation made for construction of schools so that there is no financial crisis as allocation is likely to lapse in case of non-utilization. Further, the Committee are sad to note that the construction work is not progressing at the required pace as construction work could begin only at 43 locations out of the administrative and expenditure sanction issued for 104 EMRSs to PSUs for construction. The Committee would, therefore, like the Ministry to regularly review the status of work undertaken and strive to remove all bottlenecks so that the work is completed in a targeted period. The Committee would also like the Ministry to monitor the work entrusted to States and seek compliance to avoid delay on their part.

Reply of the Government

As submitted earlier, the construction of school takes about 2 years for pre-construction and construction activities, after suitable land free from all encumbrances have been provided. As on 30.06.2022, construction is in progress in 236 schools which includes EMRSs sanctioned in Grant-in-Aid model earlier. The Ministry of Finance agreed to allocate funds as per requirement of this Ministry for construction of all 452 new schools in a phased manner. NESTS has constituted a dedicated construction wing from the experienced engineers and architects to strengthen the monitoring mechanism. NESTS civil team is consistently monitoring the construction activities assigned to PSUs/ CPWD/ State Govt. at various locations across the States. The funds are being released to States/Construction Agencies as per requirement submitted by them in phased manner. Since schools sanctioned in these 2 years will be reaching completion and new schools will need funds for starting construction, maximum funds requirement will be in 2023-24 and 2024-25, accordingly budget has been estimated and provisions have been made. During the year 2025-26 as per the proposed timeline, only a few schools will be under construction and in completion stage. Therefore, budget provision has been made accordingly. Ministry of Finance has assured to provide adequate funding support depending on the progress made. During any particular year, if budgetary grants are completely utilized and if more grants are needed, Ministry of Finance will provide additional grants.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM F.No.11011/01/2021-EMRS dated 24/8/2022]

(Recommendation Para No. 9.9)

The Committee appreciate the performance of EMRS students in examinations as well as extra-curricular activities and are of the view that the responsibility of the Department has been increased now in order to make the requisite infrastructure available timely to students. The Committee are, however, perplexed to note that as it is aimed to bring EMRSs at par with JNVs, the admission guidelines are yet to be framed by NESTS and the dedicated online portal is also under development. The Committee are aware that the management of Schools is the responsibility of State/UT Governments. However, to ensure the uniformity of infrastructure across the schools is now the responsibility of NESTS. The Committee, therefore, desire that necessary action may be taken by NESTS to frame admission guidelines in a time bound manner so that they are uniformly applied by State/UT Governments across EMRSs. The State/UT Governments following their own guidelines, would mean defeating the objective of uniform procedure for admissions in the schools. The Committee also desire that the online portal should be expeditiously developed so that the details of the facilities available to students, infrastructure in schools, details of the teachers with their qualification are made available by the respective schools on portal for the benefit of the prospective students/teachers.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Tribal Affairs and NESTS are thankful for Hon'ble Committee's kind appreciation. EMRS School admission guidelines have been duly drafted and laid for the Academic Committee's approval. To maintain uniformity in the school admission procedures across all States/UTs, following the lines of NVS pattern, the draft guidelines have been formulated. The guidelines have been approved in the Academic Committee meeting held on 27.06.2022 with some minor changes. The changes will be duly incorporated followed by its implementation from next session i.e. 2023-2024. The final guidelines shall be shared with the States/UT EMRS Societies for uniform school admission procedures across the States/UTs.

As far as development of online portal i.e. MIS is concerned, all basic modules are operational. The Hon'ble Committee would appreciate that development of portal and updation of data is an ongoing process. Based on the experience, feedback from stakeholders and learnings, the MIS is being regularly updated. Status of online portal development is as under: -

- All basic modules have been finalized. Modules pertaining to **Human Resource, Student details**, School and Academic information etc have already been developed and are functional.
- **Construction**, alumni and promotion module has been made live. Finance module and result module is under finalization.

- Training of result module and construction module has been done respectively on 27th Apr & 29th Apr, 2022.
- Design of PGI index, Admission detail, and Infrastructure module has been finalized for further development.
- Additional modules will be designed after completion of above basic modules.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM F.No.11011/01/2021-EMRS dated 24/8/2022]

CHAPTER- III

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

(Recommendation Para No. 3.7)

The Committee observe that a minimum of 15 acres of land is required for establishing Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in a sub-district having 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons and a minimum of 5 acres of land is required for establishing Eklavya Model Day Boarding School (EMDBS) in a sub-district having 90% ST population. The Committee are perturbed to note that despite a provision of relaxation on the minimum requirement of land in North east, hilly areas and LWE affected areas in the guidelines, several discrepancies such as land not found technically suitable, land falling under forest area, etc. appear and since the process of resolving the issues takes time, there is a delay in acquisition of land required for setting up EMRS in selected districts. The Committee believe that the criteria of minimum area of 15 acres of land in a sub-district having 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons for construction of EMRS is impractical as a single piece of 15 acres of land may not be easily available in hilly areas. Further, the criteria of 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons for sanctioning of EMRS and 90% ST population for sanctioning of EMDBS makes identification of land more cumbersome. The Committee hence feel that the guidelines with regard to area/population needs to be revisited as together these stipulations make acquisition of land for setting up of EMRS/EMDBS quite complex. The Committee hence are of the opinion that these should be immediately reviewed and viable solutions worked out so that the delay in acquisition of land can be prevented. The Committee also recommend that such review should be undertaken without compromising upon the infrastructural requirements of EMRS/EMDBS. The Committee desire that such tribal areas with widely scattered tribal population must not be deprived of the benefits of EMRSs/EMDBS which are a means towards their educational empowerment. The Committee note that out of three approved EMDBS, construction work of two schools is in progress and work of one school is yet to begin. The Committee desire that the construction work of all the three EMDBS should be completed in time and the Ministry should take necessary steps to encourage/sensitize the States/UTs to submit speedily, proposals for construction of EMDBS so that maximum Tribal students are able to get quality education.

Reply of the Government

Taking the suggestion of the committee and the problems pointed out by states in finding 15 acres of land, the architectural design of EMRS campus has been modified to be accommodated in 8-9 acres of the land. In such places, the school building design would be Ground plus 2, in place of Ground plus 1. On case to case basis, based on difficulties pointed out by the States and Construction Agencies, the land requirement and construction plan are being modified. As observed by the Hon'ble Committee, land-constraints considered carefully while examining the proposals. At the same time, since for all-round development of tribal boys and girls, it is desirable to provide playgrounds and other facilities of a residential campus, effort is being made to obtain land with reasonable area, so that all components of the project like hostel, staff quarters, laboratories and playgrounds can be provided.

The construction of 3 EMDBS was approved for the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tripura. However, recently all the 3 state governments have proposed for conversion of EMDBS into EMRS. Since the criteria of establishment of EMDBS differ from EMRS, the Ministry has sought clarification from the state governments on the fulfillment of criteria at these locations. NESTS in coordination with Ministry of Tribal Affairs is following up with the States to expedite the process.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM F.No.11011/01/2021-EMRS dated 24/8/2022]

(Recommendation Para No. 4.10)

The Committee find that National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) established in 2019 to plan, construct, establish, endow and administer the EMRS is expected to do all things necessary to provide good quality modern education to tribal students, common core-curriculum of NCERT, CBSE affiliation of schools, training/capacity building Programmes for teaching and non-teaching staff, review the existing MoUs signed by the State/UT EMRS Societies or the State Governments, etc. The Committee, further, note that the EMRS Societies required to be set up at the State/UT level to maintain, control and manage the schools within 30 days from issue of the Guidelines have been established in 27 out of 28 States/UTs till date. However, the Committee are perturbed to note that only 6 posts in NESTS have been filled up till date, thus leaving 26 posts vacant out of the 28 posts approved by Ministry of Finance. The Committee are unable to comprehend as to how NESTS would be able to justify its role and responsibility with such a set up. As only two top posts have been filled, it can be safely assumed that NESTS would be hardly functional as of now. The Committee are, therefore, of the opinion that no further delay should happen in recruitment of sanctioned strength of NESTS. NESTS should also ensure that the EMRS Societies are established in all States/UTs urgently and MOU with State/UT EMRS Societies or the

State Governments is reviewed/signed without any further delay for the smooth functioning of Schools. Keeping the role and responsibility of NESTS that is likely to multiply in future, as they have to run and coordinate for the intended 740 schools with 3.5 lakh tribal students, the Committee further strongly feel that the present sanctioned strength of NESTS perhaps either needs to be reviewed and enhanced or its technical capabilities are of a superior level so that they are able to smoothly run the schools. In view of the increasingly responsibility of Project Monitoring Units with the increase in pre-construction and post-construction activities of schools in future, the Committee would also like that the number of Experts in Project Monitoring Units is kept adequate to enable them to effectively supervise and monitor pre-construction and post-construction activities of EMRSs.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry fully appreciates the concern shown by the Hon'ble Committee. It is submitted that the process of filling up the vacant position at NESTS has been expedited. As on date, out of 28 posts sanctioned for NESTS, 16 posts have already been filled and recruitment of 09 posts is in its final stage. Letters for document verification/interviews for the 9 posts have been issued. Recruitment of other 3 posts is in process through deputation. Post wise Status has been detailed out as under:

Status of appointment in NESTS			
(As on 22.06.2022)			
Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post(s)	Status
1	Commissioner (JS Level)	1	Filled
2	Additional commissioner (Director Level)	1	Filled
3	Private Secretary to Commissioner	1	Under process through deputation
4	Joint Commissioners (DS Level)	2	Filled
5	Stenographer Grade I (to Additonal Commissioner)	1	Offer of appointment will be issued after Medical Examination.
6	Deputy Commissioner (US Level)	2	Filled
7	Stenographer Grade II (to Joint Commissioner)	2	Offer of appointment will be issued after Medical Examination.
8	Assistant Commissioner (SO Level)	4	Filled
9	Office Superintendent – Finance (ASO Level)	2	Offer of appointment issued.
10	Office Superintendent – Admin (ASO Level)	2	Under Process through deputation
11	Office assistant (UDC level)	4	Offer of appointment will be issued after Medical Examination.
12	MTS	6	Filled

Further, NESTS has established a wing of Civil Consultants consisting of engineers who have earlier worked on post of Superintendent Engineer, Executive Engineer and Assistant Engineer in various Government organizations to deal with day-to-day matter of construction related works. Engineering consultants have also been hired for local inspection on a regular basis. These consultants monitor the progress of construction and share periodic reports along with photographs for easy monitoring at NESTS level.

NESTS has also established a PMU of Consultants where skilled consultants specialized in specific field like Academic, Coordination, IT, HR, MIS, Database Management etc. have been hired for the support in the implementation of EMRS. As instructed by the Hon'ble Committee, all efforts will be made to strengthen the human resource with NESTS.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM F.No.11011/01/2021-EMRS dated 24/8/2022]

(Recommendation Para No. 7.7)

The Committee find that several training Programmes were organized for teachers and Principals of EMRSs during the last two years. However, the participation of schools, Principals and teachers was found to be limited in these Programmes. The Committee are of the opinion that the teachers/Principals training Programme should be periodically organized and participation be made compulsory to upgrade their teaching/ leaderships skills which would enable them in coping with the fast-changing scenario of imparting education. The Committee would like NESTS to develop exchange Programmes of Principals/teachers at national/ international level so that they can participate in advanced training Programmes. The Committee appreciate the initiatives such as collaboration with National apex bodies such NCERT, NITI Aayog, NIEPA etc. to conduct professional capacity building Programmes and desire that participation of EMRS teachers should be mandatory therein. Also, the Committee feel that the collaboration between NESTS and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to initiate vocational education courses would benefit students and teachers in developing skills, hence, necessary action may be taken for an early start of vocational education courses across the EMRSs. The Committee are of the view that concrete steps should be taken to increase the number of Programmes and hence recommend that an annual calendar for professional capacity development Programmes for Principals/teachers may be drawn incorporating various Programmes and shared with all EMRSs and EMDBSs so that maximum participation could be ensured.

Reply of the Government

The suggestions given by the Hon'ble Committee are welcome. Due to covid pandemic situation, NESTS could not organise Annual Cultural and Sports meet in last 2 years, where Principals, teachers and students get chance to exchange their views and share their best practices. NESTS in coordination with Ministry has been regularly organizing training programmes for its EMRS teachers and principals in collaboration with several premier institutions such as NCERT, NIEPA, Tata Trusts, School Innovation Cell (Ministry of Education) etc. for the last two years, which reveals encouraging leap taken forward to create constructive space for teaching fraternity to upgrade their knowledge and skills

The training data illustrates that around 1200 EMRS teachers and principals have undergone the training programmes under different projects from Leadership Training to Holistic Advancement; from Design Thinking to Experiential Learning as espoused in NEP 2020.

As recommended by the Committee, NESTS has developed annual academic/training out-lining programmes/projects to be taken up each year. The training programmes organized centrally are recommended to be compulsorily attended by EMRS teaching fraternity, meeting the mandate of 50 hours of professional development training of teachers as given in NEP 2020.

Nomination of outstanding Principals and Teachers from all the EMRSs across the States/UTs had been solicited by NESTS, MoTA. Based on which, a pool of key resource persons has been formed at National level who may further emerge as prospective master trainers for capacity building programmes organized in collaboration by NESTS in future. The training of trainer model framework shall be developed in future course to benefit the EMRS ecosystem and further roll-out at scale once adequate regular teaching staff joins the EMRS school system.

NESTS shall be developing comprehensive teacher training framework that shall be composite of concrete guidelines delineating training of trainers (ToT) model, teaching staff exchange programmes etc.

For introduction of vocational education/skill education courses in EMRSs, schools may be encouraged to commence such courses as part of CBSE syllabus in the future course. For bringing trainers related to skill courses on-board for schools, assistance from MoSD&E will be pursued in future.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM F.No.11011/01/2021-EMRS dated 24/8/2022]

CHAPTER-IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION.

(Recommendation Para No. 2.24)

The Committee note that the original target, which aimed that 452 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) including 12 Eklavya Model Day Boarding School (EMDBS) would be set up in the remaining 462 sub-districts by the year 2022 is nowhere near completion and the target year stands revised as 2025 now. The Committee are surprised to note that out of 452 schools proposed to be sanctioned as per the phasing plan between 2018-2019 to 2021-2022, only 350 schools could be sanctioned and the remaining 102 schools are remaining to be sanctioned as the location for these schools is yet to be finalised. It is disappointing that the construction work of only 100 schools could begin till date whereas the construction work of 332 schools is to begin by March 2022, which has just passed. The Committee lament the fact that there is a substantial gap between the number of schools proposed to be sanctioned and the number of schools sanctioned and also with regard to timelines fixed for construction work.

The Committee also find the Ministry deficient in complying with the standard period of 24 months fixed for completing the construction work as the present position states that detailed Project Report and Master Layout Plan for 174 schools and construction work for 100 schools could begin out of 350 schools sanctioned till date.

Further worrying is the fact that very few schools have their own buildings as only 20 schools have been made functional from own buildings. 103 schools are functioning from alternate buildings since 2018-19 till 2021-22. The Committee are quite apprehensive with regard to the achievement of target even by March 2025 as construction of 252 schools is yet to begin.

The Committee have been made to believe by the Ministry that after establishment of National Educational Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) on revamping of the Scheme, things are going to improve substantially but the facts still speak otherwise, 16 even after two years of establishment of NESTS. The Committee would, therefore, opine that the Ministry must not take more into background after setting up of NESTS as things are still not progressing satisfactorily, therefore, close monitoring of the pace of work is required to be done by the Ministry to achieve the targets.

The Committee, therefore, like the Ministry to set up a stringent in-built mechanism to ensure compliance of norms/timelines fixed with regard to sanctioning/

construction/functioning of schools so that the work of making EMRS/EMDBS functional from their own buildings is not delayed and there is no deviation from targets at any stage.

Reply of the Government

It is humbly submitted that the Ministry has not fixed the target of setting up all 452 schools by 2022. In the Cabinet Note 2022, funds for setting up 452 new schools were provided and construction time-line was fixed in a phased manner. Accordingly, 396 out of 452 EMRSs have been sanctioned as on date. Some states have pleaded inability to provide land in the designated blocks due to area being forest, hilly terrain or suitable land not being available. In view of this, the Ministry has asked States to identify alternate land in neighboring blocks /districts which have majority tribal population. For all such remaining locations, NESTS and Ministry are continuously following up with the State Governments to provide suitable land free from all encumbrances. As on date, under the new scheme, Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction (A/A& E/S) has been issued for 275 locations, construction work has commenced on 180 locations out of total 396 locations where suitable land has been provided by States. On many other locations, where land has been found to be suitable, estimates are being prepared for technical and administrative sanctions. Steps have also been taken to monitor the quality of construction through premier institutions like IITs/NITs.

NESTS has constituted a dedicated construction wing consisting of experienced engineers and architects to strengthen the monitoring mechanism and to minimize the delay in construction. NESTS civil team is consistently monitoring the construction activities assigned to PSUs/CPWD/State Govt. at various locations across the States. It is therefore expected that significant progress will be made during the coming months.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM F.No.11011/01/2021-EMRS dated 24/8/2022]

(Recommendation Para No. 8.19)

The Committee are surprised to note that the provision for Smart Classes & Atal Tinkering Labs in EMRSs and the procurement of mobile tablets and educational kits for students of EMRSs has been delayed so much that the very objective to provide online education to EMRS schools during COVID Pandemic could not materialise. The Committee feel that this delay has made students to suffer irreversibly as they require these facilities well in time to continue their studies in distant mode. The Committee are unable to understand reasons for continued delay in having these facilities in schools. The fact that tenders were called twice under such specifications for which no Indian company could bid shows that the NESTS/Ministry failed to find a workable solution to prevent altogether stopping of learning for tribal school students during COVID pandemic. The Committee feel that Ministry must realise that students cannot be

deprived of the right to education due to the non-serious approach of the persons responsible to execute the work. The Committee, therefore, opine that responsibility needs to be fixed for the casual approach in this matter. The Committee find that the Management Information System proposed to be developed has also been lingering for long without any sound justification. The Ministry, therefore must ensure to complete the targets set for establishing online learning system, Smart classes and Atal tinkering labs and also to procure the mobile tablets and educational kits within the laid down timeframe. As the tribal students belong to remote areas and do not possess resources to voice their requirements vigorously, it is the bounden duty of the Ministry to recognize and fulfill their educational requirements well in time. The Committee would, therefore, like to strongly recommend the Ministry to install smart classes, Atal tinkering labs in all the EMRSs in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments within a fixed time schedule. The Committee also desire that as the management Information system, which is currently proposed to be developed, could be an effective tool for monitoring of the schools, particularly those set up in far flung areas, should be developed in a time bound manner without further delay.

Reply of the Government

With respect to Atal Tinkering Labs, it is shared that till date, there are 18 EMRSs where process of ATL establishment has commenced and these are spread across 8 states namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Karnataka, Sikkim, and Manipur. For establishment of Agile-ATLs in EMRSs, deliberations had happened with NITI Aayog, however due to scarcity of funds at the organization level, other funding options are being explored.

NESTS, MoTA has collaborated with ERNET, MEITY regarding smart class establishment in 175 EMRSs (48 EMRSs -1st year and 127 EMRSs in 2nd year. As per latest update, Infrastructure is operational in 43 EMRSs and for 5 EMRSs work order is in process of issuance.

“With the establishment of NESTs, it was decided to setup a Managerial Information System (MIS) to maintain the information at one place for rigorous monitoring of the progress. Accordingly, the work on developing the same was assigned in January 2021. The MIS is currently under development and several modules have already been made live for data entry by schools. The technical development of the basic modules of MIS is likely to be over by July 2022. Most of the basic modules has already been completed and made live for data entry and other basic modules like finance; result etc. will be made live soon.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs’ OM F.No.11011/01/2021-EMRS dated 24/8/2022]

(Recommendation Para No. 10.6)

The Committee are astonished to note that the Ministry have not been able to identify location for establishing two Centre of Excellence (CoE) for sports with specialized state-of-the-art for one identified individual sport and one group sport for which preliminary sanction has been issued out of the fifteen such Centres proposed to be set up in tribal majority districts in each State/UT and Rs. 127 lakhs sanctioned too. The Committee are perturbed to find that the discussion with Sports authority of India is still underway for collaboration under 'Khelo India Programme' and detailed standard procedure have not been devised to establish such Centres. The Committee are unable to understand the objective of releasing an advance amount of Rs. 127 lakhs for two CoEs sanctioned and to include financial provision in the Cabinet Note for continuation of the EMRSs during 2021-22 to 2025-26 when Ministry have not been able to locate places for establishing two CoEs. The Committee wonder as how much time would be required to establish all 15 CoEs. The Committee are also concerned about the financial implication of the delay as the cost of such Centres is likely to increase substantially if there is too much delay in taking decisions. The Committee would, therefore, like the Ministry to take necessary action immediately to complete the modalities in consultation with Sports Authority of India, States/UTs and other stakeholders so that the location not only for two CoE is finalised but location for all 15 CoEs is finalized and timeline should be fixed for completion work of all CoEs.

Reply of the Government

The Proposal for establishment of CoEs has been received from 6 States. The Ministry has undertaken several rounds of consultation with Sports Authority of India to understand what Infrastructure can be provided in the available budgetary allotment of Rs 5 cr. Discussions have also taken place on provision of coaches for different games. All other States also have been asked to submit proposals. It is proposed that each CoE will have facility for 1 major sport, 2 minor sports, Indoor sports facility and a playground with outdoor facilities.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM F.No.11011/01/2021-EMRS dated 24/8/2022]

(Recommendation Para No. 11.5)

The Committee are surprised to note that 3 States namely Bihar, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have still not signed MoU and are reluctant to shift to CBSE Board and are insisting on continuation of State Board Curriculum in the schools set up in their States whereas the norms stipulate that all the EMRSs set up are to be affiliated with CBSE in order to grant better sum per child studying in these schools. The Committee would like the Ministry to vigorously pursue with the States and give them a time period to sign MoU with NESTS so that the norms established including affiliation of schools with CBSE Board are applicable to them for smooth running of Schools and the students

studying in these schools get standardized education and the uniform standard of education is established across all the EMRSs in the country. In order to bring them on board, the Committee recommend that the Ministry pursue the matter at higher level with the States and sort out the issue fast.

Reply of the Government

3 States namely Bihar, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have not signed the MOU as the States are not willing to get EMRSs in their state affiliated to CBSE which is one of the criteria for signing of MoU. They are of the opinion that the State Education pattern (State Board) suits more to the State rather than the CBSE pattern. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has addressed to Chief Secretary of the concerned States and discussed this issue in meetings with the States and the Ministry has been regularly pursuing for the same. Additionally, in the letters dated 08.09.2021 and 10.12.2020, the Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs personally wrote to the Chief Ministers of the concerned States of Bihar and Tamil Nadu respectively, to pursue the matter. The Ministry in coordination with NESTS has been following up on the same.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM F.No.11011/01/2021-EMRS dated 24/8/2022]

CHAPTER-V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE.

(Recommendation Para No. 5.9)

The Committee are constrained to note that the teachers appointed for EMRSs by the States are not in accordance with a uniform criterion for the appointment of teachers for schools despite the existence of the Scheme since 1997-98 as the Ministry did not have control over these schools except for giving grant to the States to establish EMRSs. The Committee have now been informed that a recruitment advertisement has been released for a total of 3400 vacancies across 16 States/UTs as per the criteria formulated on the pattern of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas and that the National testing Agency is to conduct national level EMRS-Teaching Staff Selection Examination. However, recruitment process is on hold due to non-notification of Recruitment Rules by majority States/UTs. The Committee feel that had this decision been taken by the Ministry back when EMRS came into existence, the schools could have achieved a uniform standard of education across the Country. The Committee find that the matter is still at a standstill as they have not been able to advertise vacancies of teachers for all the States/UTs as Recruitment Rules framed by NESTS have not been notified by the States/EMRS societies established across States/UTs. Unless all the States are brought on board, the recruitment of teachers would continue to suffer. The Committee would, therefore recommend that all formalities must now be completed and the examinations for the vacancies advertised should be held at the earliest without waiting for States/UTs who have not notified Recruitment Rules and teachers recruited following State specific reservation Roster so that they are adequately trained before posting. NESTS may also follow up with the States/UTs who have not notified model Recruitment Rules framed by them and ensure that these States notify said rules in a specific time period so that the recruitment of teachers for these States is also conducted in a time bound manner. States/UTs still delaying notification of model Recruitment Rules framed by NESTS should be aggressively pursued at appropriate level so that they are notified soon and quality of education imparted in schools is not compromised. The Committee would also like the Ministry to take all necessary action for the recruitment of non-teaching staff too for efficient management of EMRS. They desire to be apprised of the progress at the action taken stage.

Reply of the Government

As pointed out by the Hon'ble Committee, this Ministry appreciates the concern that for smooth running of schools and for quality education, permanent teaching and non-teaching staff is required. However as stated earlier, under the old Grant-in-aid based scheme, the States were responsible for recruitment of teachers and many states had recruited permanent teachers. However, some States have appointed contractual/outsourced teachers on temporary basis. After the Cabinet approval, Ministry is in consultation with Department of Expenditure for working on the modalities of recruiting teachers. The Ministry has proposed that all teachers and non-teaching staff will be employees of NESTS and will be recruited centrally on line with Navodya Vidyalaya. After the approval of Department of Expenditure, NESTS would start process to recruit quality human resources in EMRSs. Meanwhile States have been asked to hire Guest/ Retired Teachers for EMRSs. Guidelines for hiring of Guest/ Retired teachers have been shared with States. NESTS is also preparing a pool of retired teachers from NVS/KVS/State education department for all 8 Regional offices of NVS, which has further been shared with all States/UTs EMRS Societies. The endeavour is to deploy experienced teachers in all states for the time being. States have also been asked to take teachers on deputation basis from other Govt. schools, wherever required till the issue of appointment of teachers is resolved. Efforts are also being made to provide quality training to the EMRS teachers.

[Ministry of Tribal Affairs' OM F.No.11011/01/2021-EMRS dated 24/8/2022]

NEW DELHI;

09 December, 2022
18 Agrahayana, 1944 (Saka)

RAMA DEVI
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2022-23) HELD ON FRIDAY, 9th DECEMBER, 2022

The Committee met from 1030 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 113, Parliament House Annexe, Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SMT. RAMA DEVI - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Smt. Sangeeta Azad
3. Shri Bholanath 'B.P. Saroj
4. Smt. Pramila Bisoyi
5. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan
6. Smt. Ranjeeta Koli
7. Smt. Geeta Kora
8. Smt. Supriya Sule
9. Smt. Rekha Verma
10. Shri Y. Devendrappa

RAJYA SABHA

11. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
12. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
13. Shri Narayan Koragappa
14. Smt. Mamata Mohanta
15. Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Anita B. Panda | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri V.P Nauriyal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Director |
| 4. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting has been convened to consider and adopt the following draft Reports:

(i) XX XX XX XX

(ii) XX XX XX XX

(iii) XX XX XX XX

(iv) 41th Report on the Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Review of the functioning of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)' of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

3. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Reports. The Report was adopted by the Committee without any modifications.

4. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Report and to present the same to both the Houses on 12.12.2022.

The Committee then adjourned.

XX Does not pertain to this Report.

APPENDIX-II

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT ON 'REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING OF EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (EMRS)'.

	Total	Percentage
I. Total number of Recommendations	11	
II. Observations/ Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government- Rec. Para No.2.8, 6.12 & 9.9	03	27.27%
III. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:- Rec. Para No.3.7,4.10 & 7.7	03	27.27%
IV. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:- Rec. Para No. 2.24, 8.19,10.6 & 11.5	04	36.37%
V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature:- Rec. Para No. 5.9	01	9.09%
		100%