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Title: Need to convert Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas into permanent Institution.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme was launched in July, 2004, for setting up residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to SC, ST, OBC and minority communities. The scheme is being implemented in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) of the country where the female rural literacy is below the national average and gender gap in literacy is above the national average. This scheme was merged with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the XIth Plan with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008.

As per the announcement in Budget 2018-19, school education is to be viewed holistically starting from pre-primary to 12<sup>th</sup> standard. Accordingly, a proposal regarding extension of KGBVs up to Senior Secondary level in convergence with Girls Hostel component in a phased manner, has been prepared by this Department.

All that we have done to bring down the dropout rate of Girl child is commendable. It would be even better if we can make KGBVs as permanent Institutions rather a scheme. Making them as permanent Institutions can give a message to the whole country that “Girl Child is not a burden but an Asset.” I, therefore, appeal to the Government of India

through this House to take necessary steps to convert KGBVs into Permanent Institutions and recruit regular faculty.