

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

Model schools in Educationally Backward blocks (EBBs)

New Delhi, July 27th, 2015

The Centrally Sponsored Model School Scheme envisages inter alia setting up of 3,500 schools in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) through State/UT Governments. The EBBs have been selected based on twin criteria of Female Rural Literacy rate being below the national average and Gender Gap in literacy being above the national average. However, the Scheme has been delinked from the support of the Government of India with effect from 2015-16 and as such the scheme stands transferred to the States/UTs.

Since the launch of the scheme in 2009-10 till 31st March, 2015, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has approved 2490 model schools, out of which 1101 model schools have been made functional.

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) scheme implemented by this Ministry which was launched in year 2009 provides for additional classrooms, science laboratory, library, computer room, art/craft/culture room, toilets, drinking water facilities etc in new secondary schools and existing secondary schools, to reduce dropout rate at secondary stage. Interventions like survey and identification of out of school children, awareness programme, bridge courses, special teaching for learning enhancement, residential camp for drop out students have also been supported under RMSA.

Similarly, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme seeks to provide access, equity, retention and quality in the area of elementary education. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme, which is a part of SSA has the objective to create residential school facilities at the upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minorities in difficult areas.

This information was given by Union Minister of Human Resource Development Smt. Smriti Irani in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha Question today.

GG/DS/IK/RSQ

