

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO - 229
ANSWERED ON - 22/03/2023**

Closing of Government schools in Karnataka

229 Shri G. C. Chandrashekhar:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the department is aware of the fact that 13,800 Government schools in Karnataka have been recently closed; and
- (b) if so, what measures are taken by the department to improve standard of education and increase admissions?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

- (a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 229 FOR 22.3.2023 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI G. C. CHANDRASEKHAR REGARDING "CLOSING OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN KARNATAKA"

(a) & (b) Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and the opening and merger/closing of schools are within the purview of respective State Government and UT Administration. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides children's access to elementary schools within the defined area or limits of neighbourhood. In pursuance to Section 6 of the RTE Act, all States have notified area or limits of their neighbourhood norms. Further, Section 8 of the RTE Act, 2009 also mandates that the appropriate government shall provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child and will ensure availability of neighbourhood schools.

The Government of Karnataka has informed that schools with zero enrolment are temporarily closed for the respective academic year. Provision is also made to re-open the schools on admission of children. During the year 2022-23, 231 schools are temporarily closed due to zero enrolment.

The enrolment of students in Government and Govt. aided schools in Karnataka has increased during the last three years:

Enrolment of students in Karnataka from Primary to Higher Secondary			
Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Govt. Schools	4895352	5016358	5423574
Govt. Aided Schools	1538895	1502907	1488062
Total	6434247	6519265	6911636

Source: UDISE+

The Government of India launched Samagra Shiksha-an Integrated Scheme for school education, w.e.f. 2018-19, as an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking following activities to reduce number of Out of School Children (OoSC),:

- Opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level,
- Construction of school buildings & additional classrooms,
- Setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas,
- Setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas,
- Free uniforms, free text books,
- Transport allowance
- Special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children,
- Special training centres at worksites,
- Transport/ escort facility for out of school children,
- Financial assistance for identification and assessment of children with special needs,
- Aids and appliances, braille kits and books, stipend to girl students with disability etc.

Besides, under 'Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman' (PM POSHAN) one hot cooked meal in Government and Government aided schools is provided to students at the elementary level of education. Also, under National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme scholarship is awarded to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue the study at secondary stage.

Samagra Shiksha focuses on improvement in quality of education by providing support for different interventions to all States and UTs, like composite school grant to every school for providing a conducive learning environment, grants for library, sports and physical activities, support for Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, ICT and digital initiatives, School Leadership development programme, remedial teaching for academically weaker students, support for Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, etc. Besides, following initiatives have been taken by the Department to improve the quality of education:

- i. National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3.
- ii. NISHTHA integrated training programme for Teachers, Head Teachers/Principals and other stakeholders in Educational Management.
- iii. Learning Outcomes for the Secondary level have been notified and National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 has been conducted on 12th November 2021 to evaluate children's progress and learning competencies
- iv. A 70 indicator-based matrix Performance Grading Index (PGI) has been developed to grade the States/UTs.
- v. The Structured Assessment for Analyzing Learning levels (SAFAL) framework has been developed by CBSE for Competency-based assessment in CBSE schools for grades 3, 5 and 8.
- vi. VIDYA PRAVESH Guidelines for Three-month Play-based School Preparation Module for Grade-I Children.
- vii. Indian Sign Language has been introduced as a subject at secondary level by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

Further, a comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA has been initiated which includes, the following components:

- DIKSHA, the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs: and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform)
- One earmarked 12 PM eVIDYA DTH TV channels (Classes:- 1 to 12)
- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani
- Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/YouTube