

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 345

ANSWERED ON- 23.07.2025

CLOSING OR MERGER OF SCHOOLS

345 # Shri Ramji Lal Suman:

Shri Javed Ali Khan:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) details of schools funded under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which have been closed/merged during last five years, State-wise;
- (b) details of schools funded under SSA proposed to be closed/merged during 2025-26, State-wise, along with district-wise details in Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) whether RTE Act, 2009, mandates that a primary school (classes I-V) be established within a 1-kilometer radius of a child's neighborhood and an upper primary school (classes VI-VIII) should be within a 3-kilometer radius; and
- (d) if so, details thereof and potential impact of mergers and how Government would ensure implementation of RTE Act, 2009, in case schools in large numbers are closed/merged?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) has developed the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) system to record data on indicators of school education provided by all the States and Union Territories. As per UDISE+, the State/UT-wise number of Government schools of last 5 years are at Annexure.

Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and the opening, merger/closing of schools are within the purview of respective State Government and UT Administration-which are the appropriate Government under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

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, 2009, the Central RTE Rules provide that a primary school shall be established within a walking distance of one kilometre of the neighbourhood and an upper primary school shall be established within a walking distance of three kilometer of the neighbourhood. The States/UTs have notified area or limits of their neighbourhood norms, factoring in their State specific condition, for opening of secondary and sr. secondary schools. In the case of the States and Union Territories, which have not notified the neighbourhood norms for Secondary and Sr. Secondary Schools, financial support is provided under Samagra Shiksha to ensure the establishment of secondary school within 5 Km and senior secondary school within 7-10 Km of a habitation while ensuring their viability and cost effectiveness. For the habitations that remain uncovered (mostly small or sparsely populated in difficult areas) where opening of school is not feasible, transport facility is provided up to an average cost @ ₹ 6000/ per child per annum up to Class X.

The National Education Policy 2020 underscores that although consolidation of schools is an option that is often discussed, it must be carried out very judiciously, and only when it is ensured that there is no impact on access (Para 7.4). Similarly, to ensure universal access to elementary schools, the RTE Act mandates the establishment of schools by the appropriate government within defined area or neighbourhood limits (Section 6). Therefore to achieve better learning outcomes and appropriate Pupil-Teacher Ratios (PTR) across upper primary and secondary levels, some states have adopted appropriate strategies to establish the larger schools as per aspirations of the public

The aim of the school complex/cluster is to ensure greater resource efficiency and more effective functioning, coordination, leadership, governance, and management of schools in the cluster.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 345 ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025 ASKED BY HONB'LE MP SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN AND SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN REGARDING 'CLOSING OR MERGER OF SCHOOLS'**

The State/UT-wise number of Government schools of the last 5 years is as below:

India/State/UT	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
India	1032570	1032049	1022386	1016010	1017660
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	342	342	342	342	340
Andhra Pradesh	45115	45145	45137	45167	45000
Arunachal Pradesh	3056	3061	2985	2922	2847
Assam	47157	46749	45490	44925	45008
Bihar	72610	75555	75558	75550	78120
Chandigarh	121	121	123	119	119
Chhattisgarh	48547	48619	48743	48728	48803
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	300	407	388	387	360
Daman & Diu	109				
Delhi	2767	2751	2762	2673	2693
Goa	827	821	814	806	789
Gujarat	35040	34967	34699	34651	34597
Haryana	14484	14563	14562	14443	14374
Himachal Pradesh	15398	15391	15380	15447	15217
Jammu & Kashmir	23165	23167	23173	18785	18785
Jharkhand	35931	35888	35840	35764	35795
Karnataka	49834	49791	49679	49520	49306
Kerala	5014	5020	5010	4811	4809
Ladakh	913	915	838	841	841
Lakshadweep	45	45	38	37	37
Madhya Pradesh	99411	99152	92695	92741	92439
Maharashtra	65886	65734	65639	65431	65157

Manipur	2876	2878	2889	2922	2934
Meghalaya	7799	7795	7783	7778	7779
Mizoram	2552	2558	2563	2567	2587
Nagaland	2011	1975	1960	1954	1952
Odisha	53260	50256	49072	48767	48671
Puducherry	422	422	422	422	420
Punjab	19377	19330	19259	19245	19242
Rajasthan	67660	68813	68948	69538	70233
Sikkim	851	851	864	864	864
Tamil Nadu	37579	37589	37636	37658	37672
Telangana	30001	30015	30023	29997	30022
Tripura	4275	4265	4262	4245	4238
Uttar Pradesh	137638	137068	137024	137003	137102
Uttarakhand	16741	16651	16484	16381	16201
West Bengal	83456	83379	83302	82579	82307

Source: UDISE, UDISE+
