

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2922
ANSWERED ON 18.03.2026

Schools with zero student enrolment

2922 **Shri Pramod Tiwari:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Government schools with zero student enrolment since 2023 and the number of teachers employed in them, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the reasons for zero student enrolment;
- (c) the expenditure incurred on such schools during the said period under different heads;
- (d) the number of such schools closed or merged during the last five years, due to low or zero enrolment, State-wise; and
- (e) the action taken by Government to address this issue?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): As per UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus), State/UT wise number of Government schools with zero student enrolment along with the number of teachers in these schools for the years 2023-24 and 2024-25 is available at https://www.education.gov.in/en/parl_ques.

Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and most of the schools are managed by respective State Government and UT Administration. Further, Central Government assist States and UTs through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha. Financial assistance is provided to all States and UTs for various components for implementation of the interventions under Samagra Shiksha as per norms. Total actual Central Release (in lakhs) under Samagra Shiksha for the years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as on 02.03.2026) are 3238278.58, 3445820.90 and 2315850.25 respectively.

As per UDISE+, State/UT wise number of Government schools from the year 2020-21 to 2024-25 is available at https://www.education.gov.in/en/parl_ques. The opening, closing and rationalisation 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.

As per the data available on UDISE+, advancements have been made in improving universal access across all levels of school education. This is evidenced by Gross Access Ratio (GAR) for 2018-19 and 2024-25:

Year	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary
2018-19	97.15	96.49	88.24	65.05
2024-25	97.83	96.57	95.35	94.97

GAR: Gross access ratio (GAR) is total villages/habitations having school within specified norm in a year out of total villages/habitations in that year.

Gross Access Ratio has improved over the years and dropout rates across pedagogical school category has fallen.
