

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1162
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2026

Closure of Government schools

1162 **Shri Javed Ali Khan:**

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

- (a) whether as per the recent NITI Aayog report and UDISE data approximately 94,000 Government schools across the country have been closed during last ten years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise along with the reasons therefor, including low enrolment, infrastructure issues, teacher shortages and merger policies;
- (c) the impact of these closures on access to education to SC, ST, OBC, EWS students, especially in rural, remote and backward areas; and
- (d) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The total number of government schools, as reported by the State/UTs, on the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) from year 2014-15 to 2025-26, are at annexure-I.

Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and the opening, closing and rationalisation of schools are within the purview of respective State/UT Governments. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for 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.

As per UDISE+ 2025-26 Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of overall, Scheduled Caste (SC), and scheduled Tribe (ST) by level of education is given below:

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

Social Category	Primary (I-V)	Upper Primary (VI-VIII)	Secondary (IX-X)	Higher Secondary (XI-XII)
Overall	89.4	89.6	81.5	61.7
SC	88.7	94.7	86.2	62.9
ST	98.0	98.7	85.4	55.9

(d): The Central Government assist States and UTs through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha and hot cooked meal provided from Balvatika to class 8 under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Yojna. Financial assistance/grant is also provided to the States and UTs for various activities to reduce dropout and increase enrolment in Government schools, which include opening/strengthening of new schools up to Senior Secondary level, strengthening school infrastructure, setting up and up gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) upto class 12, setting up of residential schools/hostels named Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, hostels under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), transport allowance, undertaking enrolment drives, seasonal hostels/residential camps, provision of skill education and ICT facilities in schools, providing free text books and free uniform, transport/escort facility, etc.

PM SHRI Scheme has also been launched with an aim to develop more than 14,500 selected schools as exemplar schools that offer leadership to other schools in the neighbourhood, showcasing all the initiatives of NEP 2020.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1162 ANSWERED ON 29/07/2026 ASKED BY HONB'LE MP
SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN REGARDING 'CLOSURE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS'**

State/UT-wise number of Government schools from the year 2014-15 to 2019-20

State/UT/India	Government schools					
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
India	1107101	1104796	1101371	1094543	1083747	1032570
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	344	344	344	339	339	342
Andhra Pradesh	46666	44907	44700	44896	45013	45115
Arunachal Pradesh	3408	3492	3459	3447	3179	3056
Assam	52927	53020	53042	50965	47223	47157
Bihar	74291	74689	74908	73528	72630	72610
Chandigarh	113	115	116	121	121	121
Chhattisgarh	50061	47181	47216	48848	48671	48547
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	299	299	301	300	300	300
Daman & Diu	114	119	119	115	112	109
Delhi	2844	2828	2791	2787	2784	2767
Goa	906	894	873	846	833	827
Gujarat	34817	34891	35122	35152	35202	35040
Haryana	14630	14640	14483	14450	14516	14484
Himachal Pradesh	15355	15386	15489	15465	15433	15398
Jammu & Kashmir	23874	23834	23855	23904	24080	23165
Jharkhand	41322	41159	40014	39703	35954	35931
Karnataka	50486	50424	49883	50066	50184	49834
Kerala	5104	4792	5073	4783	5011	5014
Ladakh	-	-	-	-	-	913
Lakshadweep	45	45	45	45	45	45
Madhya Pradesh	121849	121976	122880	122653	122056	99411
Maharashtra	67717	67629	67154	66750	66033	65886
Manipur	2372	3332	3323	3037	3073	2876
Meghalaya	7763	7775	7793	7805	7802	7799
Mizoram	2592	2591	2595	2582	2564	2552
Nagaland	2279	2101	2097	2080	2007	2011
Odisha	58697	58740	58052	56313	55483	53260
Puducherry	436	430	424	424	423	422
Punjab	20772	20529	20568	19515	19404	19377
Rajasthan	70210	70961	68039	66943	67607	67660
Sikkim	868	870	874	853	854	851
Tamil Nadu	37911	38209	38307	37634	37728	37579
Telangana	29268	29127	29427	29845	29822	30001
Tripura	4326	4322	4320	4314	4309	4275
Uttar Pradesh	162228	162645	162927	163114	163142	137638
Uttarakhand	17753	17752	17753	17629	16934	16741
West Bengal	82454	82748	83005	83292	82876	83456

Source: UDISE+

State/UT-wise number of Government schools from the year 2020-21 to 2025-26 (cont.)

State/UT/India	Government schools					
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
India	1032049	1022386	1016010	1017660	1013322	1005245
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	342	342	342	340	335	335
Andhra Pradesh	45145	45137	45167	45000	44886	44222
Arunachal Pradesh	3061	2985	2922	2847	2558	2468
Assam	46749	45490	44925	45008	44741	44550
Bihar	75555	75558	75550	78120	76320	76435
Chandigarh	121	123	119	119	118	116
Chhattisgarh	48619	48743	48728	48803	48827	48853
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	407	388	387	360	361	353
Delhi	2751	2762	2673	2693	2681	2688
Goa	821	814	806	789	780	771
Gujarat	34967	34699	34651	34597	34638	34734
Haryana	14563	14562	14443	14374	14338	14338
Himachal Pradesh	15391	15380	15447	15217	14725	14460
Jammu & Kashmir	23167	23173	18785	18785	18785	18787
Jharkhand	35888	35840	35764	35795	35788	35819
Karnataka	49791	49679	49520	49306	48844	48527
Kerala	5020	5010	4811	4809	4808	4809
Ladakh	915	838	841	841	812	733
Lakshadweep	45	38	37	37	36	34
Madhya Pradesh	99152	92695	92741	92439	92250	91199
Maharashtra	65734	65639	65431	65157	64884	64571
Manipur	2878	2889	2922	2934	2952	2934
Meghalaya	7795	7783	7778	7779	7789	5620
Mizoram	2558	2563	2567	2587	2617	2613
Nagaland	1975	1960	1954	1952	1936	1902
Odisha	50256	49072	48767	48671	48625	48603
Puducherry	422	422	422	420	419	419
Punjab	19330	19259	19245	19242	19243	19241
Rajasthan	68813	68948	69538	70233	70155	69983
Sikkim	851	864	864	864	857	829
Tamil Nadu	37589	37636	37658	37672	37626	37539
Telangana	30015	30023	29997	30022	30057	28088
Tripura	4265	4262	4245	4238	4187	4144
Uttar Pradesh	137068	137024	137003	137102	137172	137103
Uttarakhand	16651	16484	16381	16201	16018	15834
West Bengal	83379	83302	82579	82307	82154	81591

Source: UDISE+