

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1938
ANSWERED ON-05/08/2026

Government colleges in the country

1938 Shri Sandosh Kumar P:

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

- (a) State-wise/UT-wise number of Government colleges, including Government degree colleges, presently functioning in the country;
- (b) the number of Government colleges established and the number closed, merged or discontinued during each of the last five years, State-wise/UT-wise, along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any assessment of the impact of such closures or mergers on students' access to higher education, particularly in rural, tribal and underserved areas, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to strengthen Government colleges and improve equitable access to affordable higher education across the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a): As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2023-24 number of registered Government colleges, including Government degree colleges in AISHE presently functioning in the country is 7,944. State-wise/UT-wise list of Government colleges as per AISHE given in the Annexure-I.

(b) to (d): Education is in Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the Higher Education Institutions are in the domain of the respective States. The Centre and States together endeavour to improve the Higher Education infrastructure, especially in the under-served areas and the disadvantaged communities.

As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) total number of registered Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), has increased from 51,534 in 2014-15 to 64,756 in 2023-24.

Since 2014, 16 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), 8 Central Universities (CUs), 8 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), 7 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 2 Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs), 1 National Institute of Technology (NIT) and 12 new AIIMS have been established.

As per AISHE, total enrolment in higher education has increased to nearly 4.5 crores in 2023-24 from 3.4 crores in 2014-15 (an increase of 31.5%). Enrolment of SC students has increased to 69.7

lakhs in 2023-24 from 46.67 lakhs (overall increase 51.4%). In case of ST students, the enrolment has increased to 28.8 lakhs in 2023-24 from 16.41 lakhs in 2014-15 (increase of 75.7%).

The Central Government has also taken various measures to promote higher education among the students across the nation, such as fee reductions, establishment of more institutes, scholarships, priority access to national level scholarships to aid students with poor financial backgrounds to pursue their education. The details of these schemes including the number of slots, assistance offered and eligibility criteria are available in the following websites:

S. No	Ministry/Department	Website Links
1	Department of Higher Education	https://www.dohe-education.gov.in/department/our-bureaus/details/scholarships-education-loan-MDO2AjMtQWa?persona=For+Students
2	Department of School Education & Literacy	https://www.dsel-education.gov.in/offerrings/schemes-and-services/details/national-means-cum-merit-scholarship-scheme-IzNyYTMtQWa
3	University Grants Commission	https://www.ugc.gov.in/Home/student_Corner
4	All India Council for Technical Education	https://www.aicte.gov.in/bureaus/rifd/Scholarship-Schemes
5	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	https://socialjustice.gov.in/schemes
6	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	https://tribal.nic.in/ScholarshiP.aspx
7	Ministry of Minority Affairs	https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/show_content.php?lang=1&level=2&ls_id=661&lid=823
8	Department of Science and Technology	https://dst.gov.in/inspire-scheme-innovation-science-pursuit-inspired-research

The Department of Higher Education is implementing Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding specific State government universities and colleges, so as to improve their quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards. In alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the government has launched the third phase of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in June 2023 in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), with an outlay of Rs. 12,926.10 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26 to cater to needs of educationally unserved/underserved areas. The scheme has been further extended till 31st March, 2028.

Under PM-USHA, priority is given to Focus Districts. The focus districts are identified by the concerned States/ UTs based on various criteria including low Gross Enrolment Ratio, Gender Parity, population proportion and enrolment proportion for females, transgenders, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, Aspirational/ Border Area/ Left Wing Extremism prone district, etc.

Under the Scheme, support is provided to States/UTs for strengthening infrastructure, including construction of hostels, academic and administrative buildings, laboratories and other facilities required for improving access and quality in higher education. Furthermore, under PM-USHA, States/

UTs and Universities/ Colleges can undertake various activities aimed at enhancing access, equity and excellence in education, including promoting Online Distance Learning (ODL) and online programs such as SWAYAM/ MOOCs; construction of smart classrooms/ computer labs/ research laboratories/ digital libraries with subscriptions to reputed journals; and training to develop 21st-century skills, etc.

Further, in pursuance of the Budget announcement 2025-26, Government has approved expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity including creation of Research Park of five new IITs which have been established in the State/UT of Andhra Pradesh (IIT Tirupati), Kerala (IIT Palakkad), Chhattisgarh (IIT Bhilai), Jammu & Kashmir (IIT Jammu) and Karnataka (IIT Dharwad) with a total outlay of Rs. 11,828.79 crore, which would facilitate education for additional 6,500 students.

Union Budget 2026-27 has announced setting up of 5 University Townships in the vicinity of major industrial and logistic corridors and 1 girls' hostel in every district through Viability Gap Funding /capital support to encourage enrolment of girls in STEM institutes/ courses.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1938 ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026 REGARDING “GOVERNMENT COLLEGES IN THE COUNTRY” ASKED BY HON’BLE MP SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P.

State/ UTs wise Number of Government Colleges as per AISHE 2023-24

States/UTs	2023-24
A & N Islands	3
Andhra Pradesh	294
Arunachal Pradesh	23
Assam	458
Bihar	438
Chandigarh	15
Chhattisgarh	453
Delhi	96
Goa	20
Gujarat	307
Haryana	221
Himachal Pradesh	166
Jammu and Kashmir	184
Jharkhand	150
Karnataka	611
Kerala	292
Ladakh	6
Lakshadweep	5
Madhya Pradesh	688
Maharashtra	317
Manipur	52
Meghalaya	13
Mizoram	31
Nagaland	20
Odisha	339
Puducherry	26
Punjab	152
Rajasthan	842
Sikkim	17
Tamil Nadu	366
Telangana	265
D & N Haveli and Daman & Diu	10
Tripura	47
Uttar Pradesh	465
Uttarakhand	138
West Bengal	414
Total (All India)	7,944

Source: AISHE Report, 2023-24.