

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.-2750
ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026

Closure of Government schools and its impact

2750 # **Shri Ramji Lal Suman:**

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

- (a) whether the incidents of Government schools closing down or merging with other schools in various States of the country is continuously being reported;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the education of poor and rural students is being affected by the closure of schools;
- (d) whether the children of the villages where schools have been closed have to travel long distances;
- (e) whether any assessment has been conducted regarding the impact of the closed schools; and
- (f) the reason for adopting policy of closing schools instead of strengthening them?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): The total number of government schools, as reported by the State/UTs, on the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) for year 2024-25 and 2025-26, are at annexure.

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 upper primary, secondary and higher secondary level of school education. This is evidenced by Gross Access Ratio (GAR) for 2018-19 and 2025-26:

Year	Upper Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary
2018-19	96.49	88.24	65.05
2025-26	98.14	95.05	94.79

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.

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 (F) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2750 ANSWERED ON 12/08/2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN REGARDING 'CLOSURE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND ITS IMPACT'

State/UT-wise number of government schools for the year 2024-25 and 2025-26

State/UT/India	Government schools	
	2024-25	2025-26
India	1013322	1005245
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	335	335
Andhra Pradesh	44886	44222
Arunachal Pradesh	2558	2468
Assam	44741	44550
Bihar	76320	76435
Chandigarh	118	116
Chhattisgarh	48827	48853
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	361	353
Delhi	2681	2688
Goa	780	771
Gujarat	34638	34734
Haryana	14338	14338
Himachal Pradesh	14725	14460
Jammu & Kashmir	18785	18787
Jharkhand	35788	35819
Karnataka	48844	48527
Kerala	4808	4809
Ladakh	812	733
Lakshadweep	36	34
Madhya Pradesh	92250	91199
Maharashtra	64884	64571
Manipur	2952	2934
Meghalaya	7789	5620
Mizoram	2617	2613
Nagaland	1936	1902
Odisha	48625	48603
Puducherry	419	419
Punjab	19243	19241
Rajasthan	70155	69983
Sikkim	857	829
Tamil Nadu	37626	37539
Telangana	30057	28088
Tripura	4187	4144
Uttar Pradesh	137172	137103
Uttarakhand	16018	15834
West Bengal	82154	81591

Source: UDISE+