

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2043
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2022

Closure/ Merger of Government Schools

2043. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:

SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government schools closed/ merged between 2019-2021 in various States in the country, including number of children impacted, State/ UT-wise ;

(b) whether the learning abilities of the children has also been affected due to closure of schools and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch any programme at school level to compensate the educational loss suffered by the children and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has undertaken or planning to undertake any evaluation of the impact of past school closures/mergers and the extent to which children were able to access adequate and timely last mile transportation after closure of the schools;

(e) the number of children dropped out due to school merger and closures; and

(f) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government for mapping of the children in the catchment area of the schools closed/merged ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (f): Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and the opening and merger/closing 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.
