

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 783**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2022**

**Closure/ Merger of Schools**

**783. Dr. Mohammad Jawed:**

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

- (a) the number of elementary schools which have been closed/merged during 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 in various States in the country, State/UT- wise including the number of children impacted and details of children who have received additional transportation allowance from Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS);
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken or planning to undertake any evaluation of the impact of past school mergers given recent protests against closure in several States; and
- (d) the extent to which the children were able to access adequate and timely last mile transportation after closure of the school?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)**

(a) to (d): 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.