

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2096**

ANSWERED ON- 05.08.2024

**SCHOOL CLOSED/MERGED UNDER RATIONALIZATION POLICY 2020-21**

2096. Dr. Kirsan Namdeo:

Shri Murari Lal Meena:

Smt. Jyotsna Charandas Mahant:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of schools closed/merged since the introduction of school rationalization policy 2020-21, State-wise and year-wise especially in Chhattisgarh;
- (b) the total number of Government schools/Government aided schools/private schools functioning since the year 2019, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has made/proposes to make any assessment of the impact of the closure or merger of the schools, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the number of drop outs have increased after merger of the schools and if so, the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and the opening, merger/closing of schools are within the purview of respective State Government and UT Administration-which are the appropriate Government under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

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.

Further, National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 endorses the idea of the school complex/cluster or any other innovative mechanism adopted by the States and UTs to group or rationalize schools, wherever possible and without any adverse impact on access. The aim of the school complex/cluster is greater resource efficiency and more effective functioning, coordination, leadership, governance, and management of schools in the cluster.

The total number of Government schools/Government aided schools/private schools functioning since the year 2019-20, State-wise and year-wise, is at Annexure I.

(d): The drop out rate from 2019-20, State-wise and year-wise, is at Annexure II. The Department of School Education and Literacy is implementing an integrated centrally sponsored scheme for School education- Samagra Shiksha. The scheme treats school education holistically, without segmentation from pre-primary to class XII and is in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4). The scheme provides support for the implementation of the RTE Act, 2009.

The Scheme has now been aligned with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and aims to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which should take care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, and different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for undertaking various activities to reduce number of drop out students including opening/strengthening of new schools upto senior secondary level, construction of school buildings & additional classrooms, development/strengthening of school infrastructure in northern border areas under Vibrant Village Programme through the convergence of existing scheme of DOSEL, setting up, up-gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, construction of hostels for PVTGs under PM-JANMAN, setting up of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, free uniforms to eligible children and free text books at elementary level, transport

allowance and undertaking enrolment & retention drives. Special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children and residential as well as non-residential training for older children, seasonal hostels / residential camps, special training centres at worksites, transport/ escort facility are also supported to bring out of school children to the formal schooling system. Under the student oriented component for the children with special needs, financial assistance is provided for identification and assessment of children with special needs, aids and appliances, braille kits and books, appropriate teaching learning material and stipend to girl students with disability etc.

Further, financial assistance upto Rs. 2000 per annum is provided for Out of School Children of age group of 16-19 years, belonging to socio economically disadvantaged groups, for completing their education through NIOS/SIOS, for accessing course materials and certification.

Under 'Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman' (PM POSHAN) one hot cooked meal in Government and Government aided schools is provided to students at the elementary level of education, including Balvatika.

Also, Section 10 of the RTE Act states that it is the duty of every parent or guardian to admit or cause to be admitted his or her child or ward, as the case may be, for elementary education in the neighbourhood school.

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**ANNEXURE II**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2096 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP DR. KIRSAN NAMDEO, SHRI MURARI LAL MEENA AND SMT. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT REGARDING SCHOOL CLOSED/MERGED UNDER RATIONALIZATION POLICY 2020-21**

State/UTs Name	Drop out Rate					
	2020-21			2021-22		
	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	2.3	0.4	7.0	0.4	1.0	5.0
ANDHRA PRADESH	0.0	0.5	16.7	0.0	1.6	16.3
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	8.1	7.1	10.1	9.3	6.7	11.7
ASSAM	3.3	4.9	30.3	6.0	8.8	20.3
BIHAR	0.0	2.8	17.6	0.0	4.6	20.5
CHANDIGARH	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHHATTISGARH	0.7	4.1	13.4	0.8	4.1	9.7
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	3.9	1.7	17.7	0.0	0.0	9.5
DAMAN & DIU						
DELHI	0.0	1.1	6.1	0.0	0.0	4.8
GOA	1.5	0.7	5.7	0.0	0.0	9.0
GUJARAT	1.0	4.5	23.3	0.0	4.9	17.9
HARYANA	2.1	1.8	10.8	0.0	0.2	5.9
HIMACHAL PRADESH	1.9	1.4	7.6	0.0	0.6	1.5
JAMMU & KASHMIR	4.4	3.4	3.7	4.0	3.0	6.0
JHARKHAND	3.5	5.4	13.0	1.8	3.9	9.3
KARNATAKA	1.1	2.0	16.6	0.0	1.1	14.6
KERALA	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0	5.5
Ladakh	4.1	2.1	3.4	6.5	1.1	4.9
LAKSHADWEEP	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	2.6	0.0
MADHYA PRADESH	1.3	6.4	23.8	3.1	8.8	10.1
MAHARASHTRA	1.0	1.5	11.2	0.0	1.5	10.7
MANIPUR	8.5	4.0	9.4	13.3	5.6	1.3
MEGHALAYA	7.4	8.9	27.6	9.8	10.6	21.7
MIZORAM	8.1	5.3	20.0	6.3	2.7	11.9
NAGALAND	5.9	4.2	23.6	5.0	4.0	17.5
ODISHA	0.0	0.0	16.0	0.0	7.3	27.3
PUDUCHERRY	0.0	0.0	6.9	3.7	2.4	6.3
PUNJAB	0.0	0.0	9.0	1.3	8.0	17.2
RAJASTHAN	1.0	2.7	8.9	3.6	4.3	7.6
SIKKIM	1.2	0.0	21.6	1.8	0.0	11.9
TAMIL NADU	0.6	0.6	6.4	0.0	0.0	4.5
TELANGANA	0.0	0.0	13.9	0.0	3.1	13.7
TRIPURA	4.2	5.5	26.7	1.1	4.5	8.3

UTTAR PRADESH	2.2	4.6	12.5	2.7	2.9	9.7
UTTARAKHAND	1.7	2.1	8.3	0.8	2.7	5.0
WEST BENGAL	0.0	0.0	13.3	8.6	0.0	18.0
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>12.6</b>
Source: UDISE+						
* 2020-21 & 2021-22 D&NH and D&D merged as one UT						

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