

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-4018**  
ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

**Basic Facilities in Schools**

†4018. Shri Balya Mama Suresh Gopinath Mhatre:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Government schools wherein basic facilities like toilets, drinking water and electricity are unavailable, State/UT/district-wise;
- (b) the names of the States/UTs lagging behind in complying with the provisions of the Right to Education Act (RTE Act);
- (c) whether the Government is reviewing the 'school merger' policy under which many small schools are being closed; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education has developed the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) system to record data on indicators of school education provided by all the States and Union Territories. As per UDISE+ 2023-24, State/UT-wise percentage of Government schools with Girl's toilets, Boy's toilet, Drinking Water and Electricity connection facility are available at [https://www.education.gov.in/en/parl\\_ques](https://www.education.gov.in/en/parl_ques).

(b) to (d): As per the data available on UDISE+, advancements have been made in improving universal access across all levels of school education. This is evidenced by Gross Access Ratio (GAR) for 2018-19 and 2024-25:

Year	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary
2018-19	97.15	96.49	88.24	65.05
2024-25	97.83	96.57	95.35	94.97

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.

Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State Government/UT Administration. The opening, closing and rationalisation 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.

\*\*\*\*\*