

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 209
ANSWERED ON 01/12/2025

Unrecognized Schools

209. Shri Sukhdeo Bhagat:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the recent study 'Unrecognized Schools in India: A Barrier to Achieving Education for All' (2025) came out with a report that an estimated 22,298 schools are operating without recognition across the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of specific steps taken by the Government to identify, regularise or close such unrecognized institutions and ensure that students in these schools are not denied entitlements under the RTE Act?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Education is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Schools, other than those owned/funded by the Central Government, are under the jurisdiction of the respective State Governments. Therefore, matters related to the management of schools that are not owned/funded by the Central Government are regulated in accordance with the Rules and Instructions of the respective State Government concerned. As such, identifying, regularising or closing unrecognized institutions is a subject matter of the concerned State/UT Government.

However, under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, every child aged six to fourteen has the right to free and compulsory elementary education in a neighborhood school. Section 12(1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009 mandates reservation in private unaided schools for children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups to the extent of at least 25% seats at the entry level and provision of free and compulsory elementary education to such children till its completion.
