

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO - 27

ANSWERED ON 02/02/2026

Closure of Government Schools

*27. Dr. Mohammad Jawed:

Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a number of Government schools have been shut down/closed in the country during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such schools that have been shut down during the said period, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan;
- (c) the details of reasons for the closure of such Government schools; and
- (d) the number of students who have dropped out of school as a result of the closure of these Government schools during the said period, State/UT-wise and school-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

- (a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 27 ANSWERED ON 02/02/2026 ASKED BY HONB'LE MP'S DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED AND SHRI BHAJAN LAL JATAV REGARDING 'CLOSURE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS'

(a) to (d): Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and 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.

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.

Gross Access Ratio has improved over the years and dropout rates across pedagogical school category has fallen.

As per UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus), State/UT-wise number of Government schools including in Rajasthan, as reported by them and dropout rate by level of education from the year 2020-21 to 2024-25 are available at https://www.education.gov.in/en/parl_ques.
