

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION No. 332**  
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2026

**Universities in Rural Areas**

\*332. Shri Shafi Parambil:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of private and public sector universities located in rural areas of the country;
- (b) the number of universities located in rural areas of the country that have been closed during the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) the student enrolment rate in universities located in rural areas of the country during the last five years, year-wise;
- (d) whether it is a fact that rural universities are struggling to survive due to lack of student enrolments; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

**(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 332 ANSWERED ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026 REGARDING UNIVERSITIES IN RURAL AREAS ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL:**

(a): As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2022-23 (provisional), there are 545 Universities/University level Institutions in rural areas of the country of which 245 are Government and 300 are Private.

(b): As per AISHE, no Universities/University level Institutions have been closed during last 5 years in rural areas.

(c) to (e): As per AISHE, the student enrolment in Universities/University level Institutions located in rural areas of the country has increased from 20.1 lakh in 2018-19 to 27.9 lakh in 2022-23(provisional). There is an increase of 38.3% in enrolment in rural areas since 2018-19.

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