

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-384
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

Closing Down of Government Schools

†384. Shri Amra Ram:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Government schools at primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary levels which have been closed or merged during the last eleven years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of reasons for closing down the schools while the population is increasing;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding closing down of schools, if so, the details of its finding outcomes;
- (d) the number of schools running without buildings, schools running in dilapidated buildings and schools having no provisions for safe drinking water; and
- (e) the number of primary schools in the country running with a single teacher?

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, 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 UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus), State/UT-wise number of Government schools, as reported by them from the year 2014-15 to 2024-25 are available at https://www.education.gov.in/en/parl_ques.

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.

As per UDISE+, GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) and dropout rate by level of education for the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 are given below:

Indicator		2023-24	2024-25
Dropout Rate	Primary (1 to 5)	1.9	0.3
	Upper Primary (6-8)	5.2	3.5
	Secondary (9-10)	14.1	11.5
GER	Primary (1 to 5)	93	90.9
	Upper Primary (6 to 8)	89.7	90.3
	Secondary (9-10)	77.4	78.7
	Higher Secondary (11-12)	56.2	58.4

As shown above, as per UDISE+, GAR has improved, Dropout rate has fallen and GER is increasing at Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary level of education.

(d) & (e): As per UDISE+ 2024-25, number of government schools running without buildings, schools having in dilapidated building blocks, schools without drinking water facility and number of primary schools which are running with a single teacher are given below:

Indicator	Percentage of Government Schools
Schools running without buildings	0.3
Schools having in dilapidated building blocks	12.0
schools without drinking water facility	0.6
Primary schools with a single teacher	13.4
