

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2427
ANSWERED ON 03.08.2026

Decline of Government Schools in Maharashtra

2427. Dr. Bachhav Shobha Dinesh:
Adv Gowaal Kagada Padavi:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the decline in the number of Government schools and student enrolment in the country during the last ten years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of Government schools closed, merged or converted during the said period, State/UT-wise and language-medium-wise especially for Marathi-medium schools in Maharashtra;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of the impact of such schools on access to education in the mother tongue, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas of Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any evaluation has been conducted to examine as to whether policy measures relating to school rationalisation, infrastructure gaps, teacher vacancies and shifting enrolment patterns have contributed to this trend, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest the decline and strengthen regional language education including Marathi-medium schools in Maharashtra with measurable targets and timelines?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The total number of government schools in the country and State/UTs including Maharashtra from year 2016-17 to 2025-26 are at annexure-I. As per UDISE+, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at Upper Primary (VI-VIII), Secondary (IX-X) and Higher Secondary (XI-XII) for the year 2016-17 is 88.1, 76.4 and 43.8 respectively and for the year 2025-26 is 89.6, 81.5 and 61.7 respectively.

Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and the opening, closing and rationalisation of schools are within the purview of respective State/UT Governments. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for 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.

The Central Government assist States and UTs through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha and hot cooked meal provided from Balvatika to class 8 under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Yojna. Financial assistance/grant is also provided to the States and UTs for various activities to reduce dropout and increase enrolment in Government schools, which include opening/strengthening of new schools up to Senior Secondary level, strengthening school infrastructure, setting up and up gradation and running of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) upto class 12, setting up of residential schools/hostels named Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalayas, hostels under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), transport allowance, undertaking enrolment drives, seasonal hostels/residential camps, provision of skill education and ICT facilities in schools, providing free text books and free uniform, transport/escort facility, etc.

PM SHRI Scheme has also been launched with an aim to develop more than 14,500 selected schools as exemplar schools that offer leadership to other schools in the neighbourhood, showcasing all the initiatives of NEP 2020.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2427 ANSWERED ON 03/08/2026 ASKED BY HONB'LE MP'S DR. BACHHAV SHOBHA DINESH AND ADV GOWAAL KAGADA PADAVI REGARDING 'DECLINE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN MAHARASHTRA'

State/UT-wise number of Government schools from the year 2016-17 to 2020-21

State/UT/India	Government schools				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
India	1101371	1094543	1083747	1032570	1032049
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	344	339	339	342	342
Andhra Pradesh	44700	44896	45013	45115	45145
Arunachal Pradesh	3459	3447	3179	3056	3061
Assam	53042	50965	47223	47157	46749
Bihar	74908	73528	72630	72610	75555
Chandigarh	116	121	121	121	121
Chhattisgarh	47216	48848	48671	48547	48619
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	301	300	300	300	407
Daman & Diu	119	115	112	109	2751
Delhi	2791	2787	2784	2767	821
Goa	873	846	833	827	34967
Gujarat	35122	35152	35202	35040	14563
Haryana	14483	14450	14516	14484	15391
Himachal Pradesh	15489	15465	15433	15398	23167
Jammu & Kashmir	23855	23904	24080	23165	35888
Jharkhand	40014	39703	35954	35931	49791
Karnataka	49883	50066	50184	49834	5020
Kerala	5073	4783	5011	5014	915
Ladakh	-	-	-	913	45
Lakshadweep	45	45	45	45	99152
Madhya Pradesh	122880	122653	122056	99411	65734
Maharashtra	67154	66750	66033	65886	2878
Manipur	3323	3037	3073	2876	7795
Meghalaya	7793	7805	7802	7799	2558
Mizoram	2595	2582	2564	2552	1975
Nagaland	2097	2080	2007	2011	50256
Odisha	58052	56313	55483	53260	422
Puducherry	424	424	423	422	19330
Punjab	20568	19515	19404	19377	68813
Rajasthan	68039	66943	67607	67660	851
Sikkim	874	853	854	851	37589
Tamil Nadu	38307	37634	37728	37579	30015
Telangana	29427	29845	29822	30001	4265
Tripura	4320	4314	4309	4275	137068
Uttar Pradesh	162927	163114	163142	137638	16651
Uttarakhand	17753	17629	16934	16741	83379
West Bengal	83005	83292	82876	83456	2020-21

Source: UDISE+

State/UT-wise number of Government schools from the year 2021-22 to 2025-26 (cont.)

State/UT/India	Government schools				
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
India	1022386	1016010	1017660	1013322	1005245
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	342	342	340	335	335
Andhra Pradesh	45137	45167	45000	44886	44222
Arunachal Pradesh	2985	2922	2847	2558	2468
Assam	45490	44925	45008	44741	44550
Bihar	75558	75550	78120	76320	76435
Chandigarh	123	119	119	118	116
Chhattisgarh	48743	48728	48803	48827	48853
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	388	387	360	361	353
Delhi	2762	2673	2693	2681	2688
Goa	814	806	789	780	771
Gujarat	34699	34651	34597	34638	34734
Haryana	14562	14443	14374	14338	14338
Himachal Pradesh	15380	15447	15217	14725	14460
Jammu & Kashmir	23173	18785	18785	18785	18787
Jharkhand	35840	35764	35795	35788	35819
Karnataka	49679	49520	49306	48844	48527
Kerala	5010	4811	4809	4808	4809
Ladakh	838	841	841	812	733
Lakshadweep	38	37	37	36	34
Madhya Pradesh	92695	92741	92439	92250	91199
Maharashtra	65639	65431	65157	64884	64571
Manipur	2889	2922	2934	2952	2934
Meghalaya	7783	7778	7779	7789	5620
Mizoram	2563	2567	2587	2617	2613
Nagaland	1960	1954	1952	1936	1902
Odisha	49072	48767	48671	48625	48603
Puducherry	422	422	420	419	419
Punjab	19259	19245	19242	19243	19241
Rajasthan	68948	69538	70233	70155	69983
Sikkim	864	864	864	857	829
Tamil Nadu	37636	37658	37672	37626	37539
Telangana	30023	29997	30022	30057	28088
Tripura	4262	4245	4238	4187	4144
Uttar Pradesh	137024	137003	137102	137172	137103
Uttarakhand	16484	16381	16201	16018	15834
West Bengal	83302	82579	82307	82154	81591

Source: UDISE+