

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3669
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026

Closure of Schools Due to Lack of Students

3669. Shri T R Baalu:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that large number of elementary schools have been closed down due to lack of sufficient number of students in several States;
- (b) if so, details of the number of schools closed during the last two years, State wise; and
- (c) the remedial measures being taken by the Central Government to reverse this trend so as to put an end to student dropouts?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): 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 total number of elementary level government schools, as reported by the State/UTs, on the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) for the year 2024-25 and 2025-26 are at annexure.

As per the data available on UDISE+, advancements have been made in improving universal access across upper primary, secondary and higher secondary level of school education. This is evidenced by Gross Access Ratio (GAR) for 2018-19 and 2025-26:

Year	Upper Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary
2018-19	96.49	88.24	65.05
2025-26	98.14	95.05	94.79

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.

(c): 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) AND (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3669 ANSWERED ON 10/08/2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MP SHRI T R BAALU REGARDING 'CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS DUE TO LACK OF STUDENTS'

State/UT-wise number of elementary level government schools for the year 2024-25 and 2025-26

State/UT/India	Elementary level Government schools	
	2024-25	2025-26
India	889806	879940
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	234	234
Andhra Pradesh	37449	36003
Arunachal Pradesh	2191	2097
Assam	39807	39598
Bihar	66803	66915
Chandigarh	14	13
Chhattisgarh	43836	43853
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	299	291
Delhi	1546	1544
Goa	686	677
Gujarat	32432	32398
Haryana	10869	10862
Himachal Pradesh	11724	11465
Jammu & Kashmir	16196	16196
Jharkhand	32704	32703
Karnataka	41967	41352
Kerala	3498	3495
Ladakh	681	599
Lakshadweep	25	23
Madhya Pradesh	82726	81683
Maharashtra	62793	62436
Manipur	2478	2457
Meghalaya	7633	5459
Mizoram	2227	2224
Nagaland	1615	1588
Odisha	42555	42520
Puducherry	280	280
Punjab	15448	15443
Rajasthan	50288	49815
Sikkim	636	606
Tamil Nadu	31288	31191
Telangana	22983	21022
Tripura	3153	3095
Uttar Pradesh	134115	133948
Uttarakhand	13619	13434
West Bengal	73008	72421

Source: UDISE+