

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1169
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2021

Merger of elementary schools

1169 Dr. Narendra Jadhav:
Shri Sujeet Kumar:

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of elementary schools merged during 2019-2020, in various States;
- (b) the State-wise details including number of schools closed/merged, children impacted (disaggregated by gender) and details of children who have received additional transportation allowance from a Centrally Sponsored Scheme;
- (c) whether the Ministry has undertaken any evaluation of impact of past school merges given recent protests against closure in several States, and the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Ministry has undertaken any evaluation of the extent to which children were able to access adequate and timely last mile transportation after closure of the school, and the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

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