

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 325  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2021**

**Impact of closure of schools in view of COVID-19 pandemic**

**325 Smt. Mamata Mohanta:**

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of assessment made to find out the number of children impacted due to closure of schools in view of COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) whether it is a fact that some States are also closing Government schools in the name of rationalization;
- (c) if so, the details of Government schools that have been closed down in the country during the last two years and the current year, year-wise and State/UT-wise, particularly in Odisha; and
- (d) the manner in which Government ensures that online classes can reach every student of the country, State/UT-wise including Odisha?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION  
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. During COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Education has held several consultations with the States and UTs to assess the various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A sample survey was conducted in the month of July, 2020 for schools of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) by the Department. Subsequently, further surveys were conducted in early 2021 regarding availability of various forms of digital devices with children. NVS has reported 92.95% and KVS has reported more than 98% of students having full or partial access to some digital device. The National Achievement Survey (NAS) was held on November 12, 2021 across India to assess the learning outcomes of students and schools across grades 3, 5, 8, and 10.

(b) & (c) Education being in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the domain of respective State and UT Governments. The opening and closing of schools are within the purview of State Governments and UT Administrations. No such data is maintained centrally.

(d) After discussion with the States and UTs, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted leveraging technology to reach the students in States/UTs. Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA), Study Webs of active-learning for young aspiring minds (SWAYAM), PRAGYATA guidelines on digital education, e-textbooks and e-content on National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER), online virtual labs (OLABS) for practicals related e-content, activity-based and highly engaging modules for special resources for teachers focusing upon experiential learning and competency-based education, NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers for their Holistic Advancement) online for capacity building programme for Elementary school teachers and School Heads etc. are used by schools, to provide learning facilities.

Ministry of Education has taken many initiatives like One Class One Channel of SWAYAM PRABHA to impart education through TV, One DTH channel for hearing impaired students in sign language, Community Radio Stations and a podcast called Shiksha Vani of CBSE. Textbooks and worksheets were supplied to residence of learners and community/mohalla classes are being organized. Innovation Funds of Department of School Education & Literacy were used to set up mobile school, virtual studios, virtual class rooms in schools. Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) for States/UTs has been initiated in all States/UTs, pre-loaded tablets provided under Samagra Shiksha in various States and UTs are effectively used in remote/rural areas where online classes are difficult.

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