

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2279
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2022

Opening of new schools

2279 Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:

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

- (a) whether enough number of schools from primary to higher secondary levels have not been opened in the country in proportion to the increase in population;
- (b) if not, the details of new schools opened for formal education in the country in the last five years, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has fixed any criteria for opening of schools based upon approximate distance and the population; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (d): As reported by States/UTs in their respective Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2021-22, 97.49% and 97.01% of habitations in the country are covered by primary and upper primary schools respectively. Also, 95.48% and 90.55% of habitations in the country are covered by Secondary and Senior Secondary schools respectively based on the distance norms of 5km and 7-10 km for Secondary and Sr. Secondary school respectively. The habitations that remain uncovered are mostly small or sparsely populated in difficult areas where opening of school is not feasible for which there is a provision of giving transport and escort facility and opening of residential schools and hostels.

In pursuance to Section 6 of the Act, the Central RTE Rules has notified the area or limits of neighbourhood as one kilometre, within which a primary school and 3 kilometre within which an upper primary school, has to be established. The States have

notified area or limits of their neighbourhood norms in their state RTE Rules, factoring in their State specific condition, for opening of schools.

Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and opening of schools is within the purview of respective State Government and UT Administration-which are the appropriate Government under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE)Act, 2009.
