

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1625
ANSWERED ON 15/03/2023

Closing of schools

1625 Shri Ryaga Krishnaiah:

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

- (a) whether nearly 50000 schools were shut down in the last two years in the country, in 2018-2019 there were 10,83,678 schools and now there are only 10,32,049 Schools;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to ensure education for all; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any credible steps to increase the access of education for marginal sections of the society?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a): The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education has developed the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) system to record data on indicators of school education provided by all the States and Union Territories. As per data recorded in UDISE+, total Government schools for the year 2018-19 to 2021-22 are as under:

| School Management/Year | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Government schools | 10,83,747 | 10,32,570 | 10,32,049 | 10,22,386 |

(b) and (c): Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and the opening and rationalisation 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.
