GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1327
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH MARCH, 2022

SPENDING ON DEFENCE

1327. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total spending on defence as a per cent of total Government expenditure over the last five years;

(b) whether there has been a decline in this spending percentage over this period;

(c) if so, the reasons for this decline; and

(d) given the increased hostility along the border with China, reasons for reducing defence budget during this crucial period?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE (SHRI AJAY BHATT)
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(a) to (d): Details of Defence Expenditure vis-à-vis Central Government Expenditure (CGE) from Financial Year 2017-18 are as under :-

(Rs. In crore)

Year	Defence Expenditure	Total CGE	Defence Expenditure as percentage of CGE
2017-18(Actual)	3,79,702	21,41,973	17.73
2018-19(Actual)	4,03,457	23,15,113	17.43
2019-20(Actual)	4,52,996	26,86,330	16.86
2020-21(Actual)	4,85,681	35,09,836	13.84
2021-22(RE)	5,02,884	37,70,000	13.34
2022-23(BE)	5,25,166	39,44,909	13.31

The above data reflects that though there have been fluctuations in percentage terms in Defence Expenditure vis-à-vis Central Government Expenditure (CGE), however, there has been consistent increase in Defence Expenditure in absolute terms year after year.

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Based on expenditure during the year, pending committed liabilities and critical/operational requirements, threat perception etc., additional funds, if required, are sought at Supplementary /RE stage. The progress of expenditure is reviewed from time to time to ensure that the allocated funds are optimally utilized towards operational activities so that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

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