

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3282
ANSWERED ON- 21/08/2025

UNDERFUNDING OF THE MINISTRY

3282. SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that its allocation in the Union Budget 2025–26 has declined to 0.41 per cent of the total Government expenditure, despite India's growing global commitments, if so, reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Ministry has accepted the recommendation of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (Fifth Report) to increase its budgetary allocation by at least 20 per cent in the next fiscal year; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure adequate resourcing for expanding India's diplomatic cadre, acquiring infrastructure for embassies abroad, and scaling up development assistance programmes aligned with India's foreign policy objectives?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to c) Net budget allocation towards core expenditure (excluding amount of Rs. 4,383.40 crore provided for payment to 'Exim Bank Guarantees invoked against Doubtful Debts') of the Ministry in BE 2024-25 was about Rs. 17,771 crore which was about 0.37% of the Government's total net BE 2024-25 and about 0.49% of the Government's total net BE 2024-25 excluding Interest Payments. Net allocation for the Ministry in BE 2025-26 is about Rs. 20,517 crore which is about 0.41% of the Government's total net BE 2025-26 and about 0.54% of the Government's total net BE 2025-26 excluding Interest Payments. There is no decline in the allocation towards core expenditure of the Ministry in BE 2025-26 vis-à-vis its BE 2024-25. Government's budget allocation for various sectors in each year is based on sanctioned space, absorptive capacity and overall fiscal position of the Government.

For BE 2025-26, the allocation towards the Ministry's overseas development partnership portfolio is Rs. 6750 crore, comprising 33% of its overall budget. This is an increase of approximately 20% (i.e. Rs. 1083 crore) over the previous year's BE allocation of Rs. 5667 crore, which is in alignment with India's foreign policy objectives as well as the Committee's recommendation.

The Ministry received approval of the Union Cabinet for the Fifth Cadre Review of the Indian Foreign Service in October 2023. These were aimed at keeping the Ministry's personnel requirements in line with India's expanding diplomatic footprint.

Acquisitions and several construction projects abroad are underway to house Chanceries, Embassy Residences, and staff residences within Government of India owned premises. To support these acquisition and construction projects, budgetary provisions are made annually, based on projects in the pipeline and their implementation schedules. The requirement of funds is assessed based on the progress of each project.

Pursuant to receiving the Standing Committee on External Affairs reports containing its observations/recommendations on the Ministry's Demands for Grants, the Ministry submits an Action Taken Report. The Ministry has already submitted its report on Action Taken on the observations/recommendations in the Fourth (2024-25) and the Fifth Report (2025-26) of the Committee.
