

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1993
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2025**

Underspending in Education Sector

1993 Ms. Dola Sen:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Ministry's allocation forms only about 2.50 percent of total Union expenditure in 2024-25, down from around 5.04 per cent in 2011-12 and has been constantly declining since 2014-15 as a percentage of GDP;
- (b) reasons for this decline despite NEP, 2020 commitment to raise public spending on education to 6 percent of GDP;
- (c) year-wise details since 2019-20 of Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates and funds surrendered, scheme-wise;
- (d) details of Government spending per student at primary, secondary, tertiary level of education; and
- (e) whether Government has formulated a time-bound plan to restore Centre share to 6 percent, if so, details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (e): Education being a concurrent subject, budget allocation for education is made by the Central and State Governments separately. Allocation for Ministry of Education, Government of India in Budget Estimate 2024-25 was Rs. 1,21,118 Crore which was 2.51% total Union Budget. As per the "Analysis of Budgeted Expenditure on Education 2021-22", the public expenditure (Centre and States) on Education in India has increased from 3.84% of GDP in 2013-14 to 4.12% of GDP in 2021-22.

The Government is committed to raise public spending on education. Allocations for various schemes have been aligned with the goals and objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. As a result of that, the allocation in current financial year for flagship schemes of Department of School Education and Literacy, viz PM Schools for Rising India (PMSHRI) and Samagra Shiksha, has been increased by 23.96% and 10% respectively over previous year and

as regards to the Department of Higher Education, the allocation for National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS), Prime Minister Research Fellowship (PMRF) and National Mission in Education through ICT has been increased by 96.33%, 71.43% and 36.46% respectively during the current financial year over the last financial year.

The year-wise details of Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure of the Ministry of Education from financial year 2019-20 to 2024-25 is as under:

Financial Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates/ Final Grant	Actual Expenditure
2019-20	94853.64	94853.64	89529.10
2020-21	99311.52	85089.07	84026.71
2021-22	93224.31	88001.52	80829.64
2022-23	104277.72	99881.13	97885.00
2023-24	112899.47	117218.28	111408.39
2024-25	121117.87	114186.32	110477.28

As per latest available publication “Analysis of Budgeted Expenditure on Education”, 2021-22 the sector-wise Public Expenditure on Education (Center & States/UTs) and its percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is as under: -

Sector	2019-20(Actual)		2020-21(RE)		2021-22(BE)	
	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)	% of GDP	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)	% of GDP	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)	% of GDP
Elementary & Primary Education	3,51,929	1.75	3,74,348	1.89	4,19,104	1.79
Secondary Education	1,99,912	0.99	2,16,190	1.09	2,45,043	1.04
University & Higher Education	1,09,616	0.55	1,12,540	0.57	1,22,468	0.52
Adult Education	601	0.00	737	0.00	944	0.00

Technical Education	1,50,156	0.75	1,60,636	0.81	1,79,618	0.77
Total (Education)	8,12,214	4.04	8,64,452	4.36	9,67,177	4.12

Source: Analysis of Budgeted Expenditure on Education,2021-22.

The Government unequivocally endorses and envisions a substantial increase in public investment in education both by the Central Government and all State Governments. The Centre and States are working together to increase the public investment in education Sector to reach 6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at the earliest. Several initiatives have been taken by the Government of India including consistent increase in Budget Allocation of the Ministry of Education from Rs.93,224.31 Crore in F.Y. 2020-21 to Rs.1,28,650 Crore in F.Y.2025-26. Further, in order to ensure that funds allocated under various schemes are utilised efficiently and effectively and reach the ground level, Government of India has devised new modules for payment, namely Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and Treasure Single Account (TSA) for central sector schemes and Single Nodal Agency (SNA) and SNA-SPARSH for Centrally Sponsored Schemes under Public Finance Management System, thereby making fund available for utilisation by Implementing Agency (IAs) in states just in time.
