

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2642

TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026
20 SHRAVAN, 1948 (SAKA)

“BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH”

2642: SHRI SANJAY YADAV

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the budgetary allocation for education and health as a percentage of total Union Budget expenditure during each of the last five years;
- (b) whether this allocation meets the target of 6 per cent of GDP for education and 2.5 per cent of GDP for health as recommended in national policy documents;
- (c) whether the Government is considering any enhancement of this allocation, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the comparison of India's public health and education expenditure as a percentage of GDP with other G20 economies?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

- (a): The budgetary allocation (Actual Expenditure) for Education and Health as a percentage of total Union Budget expenditure during each of the last five years was as below:
2021-22: 4.4%, 2022-23: 4.2%, 2023-24: 4.7%, 2024-25: 4.4% and 2025-26 (provisional): 4.3%.
- (b): Education and Health are in the Concurrent List and State List, respectively. Both Centre and State/UT (with Legislature) Governments share the responsibility of Education and Health. Allocations mentioned in (a) above are limited to expenditure by the Ministries/Departments of the Central government. In addition to the above, expenditure on Education and Health is incurred by State/UT (with Legislature) Governments and Local Bodies. Targets for Education and Health mentioned in the policy documents such as National Education Policy 2020 and National Health Policy 2017 etc. are for total public investment in the above sectors which includes all above tiers of the Government. Hence, amounts mentioned in (a) above may not be strictly compared with the targets mentioned in the question.

(c): Specific allocations including enhancements to Ministries/Departments in the Union Budget are made based on mid-year reviews conducted by the Ministry of Finance taking into account expenditure trends, absorptive capacity of the concerned Ministry/Department and available fiscal space. However, total expenditure in Education and Health by Central Government has increased from ₹ 1.67 lakh crore in FY 2021-22 to ₹ 2.13 lakh crore in FY 2025-26 (provisional).

(d): As mentioned above, in view of the multi-tier nature of expenditure on Education and Health, a comparison of allocation of Central Government with the reported data of G20 economies (for example, as seen in the WHO's Global Health Database) may not be in the nature of like-to-like comparison.
