

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4024**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

**DEFENCE EXPENDITURE**

4024. MS. NUSSRAT JAHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Defence expenditure has declined as a percentage of GDP since 2014;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase its defence expenditure as a percentage of GDP; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) to (d): Details of Defence Expenditure as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product from FY 2014-15 to 2023-24 are tabulated below: -

(Rs. In Crore)

Financial Year	Defence Expenditure (Gross)	GDP	Defence Expenditure as a % age of GDP
2014-15	3,17,207	1,24,67,960	2.54
2015-16	3,27,096	1,37,71,874	2.38
2016-17	3,89,614	1,53,91,669	2.53
2017-18	4,17,242	1,70,90,042	2.44
2018-19	4,42,683	1,88,99,668 (3 <sup>rd</sup> RE)	2.34
2019-20	4,88,795	2,00,74,856 (2 <sup>nd</sup> RE)	2.43
2020-21	5,23,330	1,98,00,914 (1 <sup>st</sup> RE)	2.64
2021-22	5,32,264	2,36,64,637 (PE)	2.25
2022-23 (RE)	6,15,582	2,73,07,751 (1 <sup>st</sup> AE)	2.25
2023-24 (BE)	6,23,758	3,01,75,065	2.07

...2/-

Note: (i) GDP figures from FY 2014-15 to 2022-23 have been taken from Economic Survey 2022-23 - Table 1.6: Components of Gross Domestic Product at Current Prices.

(ii) GDP figure for FY 2023-24 has been taken from Budget at a Glance 2023-24.

BE- Budget Estimates, RE- Revised Estimates

PE- Provisional Estimates, AE- Advanced Estimates

It is seen from the above data that Defence Expenditure as a percentage of GDP may appear to be decreasing due to increasing trend in the growth of GDP. However, Defence Expenditure is increasing in absolute terms, implying higher spending. Further, as and when required, additional funds are sought at Supplementary/RE stage. Also, if need arises, through reprioritization, it is ensured that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to the operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

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