

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3728
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, THE 16th MARCH, 2026
PHALGUNA 25, 1947 (SAKA)

Outstanding Debt of Union Government

3728. Ms. S Jothimani:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- the outstanding debt of the Union Government from 2004–05 to 2025–26, indicating internal debt, external debt and liabilities under the Public Account separately, year-wise;
- the debt-to-GDP ratio of the Union Government for each of the above years;
- the annual interest payments made on Union Government debt during the said period, and their share in total revenue receipts;
- the major factors contributing to the increase in public debt since 2004, including fiscal deficits, off-budget borrowings and extraordinary expenditures; and
- the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to manage and reduce the debt burden while ensuring adequate expenditure on social and developmental priorities?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): The outstanding debt of the Union Government from 2004–05 to 2025–26, indicating internal debt, external debt and liabilities under the Public Account and debt-to-GDP ratio are in the Table below

(₹ in lakh crore)

Financial Year	Internal Debt	External Debt#	Public Account liabilities	Total Debt	Debt to GDP ratio (Base year 2011-12)
2004-05	12.76	1.91	6.58	21.25	66.7
2005-06	13.90	1.94	7.76	23.60	65.0
2006-07	15.45	2.01	8.91	26.37	62.0
2007-08	18.08	2.10	9.17	29.35	59.9
2008-09	20.29	2.64	10.08	33.00	59.8
2009-10	23.49	2.49	10.35	36.33	57.1
2010-11	26.67	2.79	11.14	40.60	53.2
2011-12	32.17	3.23	11.17	46.56	53.3
2012-13	37.65	3.32	11.29	52.25	52.5
2013-14	42.41	3.74	12.45	58.60	52.2

Financial Year	Internal Debt	External Debt#	Public Account liabilities	Total Debt	Debt to GDP ratio (Base year 2011-12)
2014-15	47.38	3.66	13.07	64.11	51.4
2015-16	53.05	4.07	13.87	70.98	51.5
2016-17*	57.54	4.08	14.66	76.28	49.6
2017-18*	63.76	4.45	15.84	84.05	49.2
2018-19*	70.90	4.74	17.39	93.03	49.2
2019-20*	81.08	5.44	19.27	105.79	52.6
2020-21*	98.14	6.15	17.82	122.10	61.5
2021-22*	115.65	6.58	16.65	138.88	58.9
2022-23*	132.11	7.48	16.57	156.17	58.1
2023-24*	146.64	7.96	17.14	171.73	57.0
2024-25*	159.83	8.74	17.38	185.95	56.2
2025-26* (RE)	173.71	9.07	17.75	200.53	56.1

Source: Budget Documents

* As per FRBM Definition, Internal Debt is net of cash balance and includes EBR.

External Debt at current exchange rate.

(c): The annual interest payments made on Union Government debt and their share in total revenue receipts from 2004–05 to 2025–26 are in the Table below.

Financial Year	Revenue Receipts (₹ in lakh crore)	Interest payment (₹ in lakh crore)	% age of Revenue Receipts
2004-05	3.06	1.27	41.5%
2005-06	3.47	1.33	38.2%
2006-07	4.34	1.50	34.6%
2007-08	5.42	1.71	31.6%
2008-09	5.40	1.92	35.6%
2009-10	5.73	2.13	37.2%
2010-11	7.88	2.34	29.7%
2011-12	7.51	2.73	36.4%
2012-13	8.79	3.13	35.6%
2013-14	10.15	3.74	36.9%
2014-15	11.01	4.02	36.5%
2015-16	11.95	4.42	37.0%
2016-17	13.74	4.81	35.0%
2017-18	14.35	5.29	36.9%
2018-19	15.53	5.83	37.5%
2019-20	16.84	6.12	36.3%
2020-21	16.34	6.80	41.6%
2021-22	21.70	8.05	37.1%
2022-23	23.83	9.29	39.0%
2023-24	27.29	10.64	39.0%
2024-25	30.36	11.16	36.8%
2025-26 (RE)	33.42	12.74	38.1%

Source: Budget Documents

(d): Public Debt to GDP ratio, which includes fiscal deficit, off-budget borrowings & extraordinary expenditure has followed a downward glide path except during the Covid years 2019-20 & 2020-21. Public Debt to GDP ratio has increased during FY 2019-20 & 2020-21 mainly on account of the stimulus provided to support the economy, however, since 2020-21 the debt to GDP ratio has followed a downward glide path.

(e): Government focuses on income- generation expenditure (effective capital expenditure) to progressively reduce the debt burden. For example, in BE 2026-27, the Government's net borrowing of ₹16.96 lakh crore has been fully used for meeting effective capital expenditure of ₹ 17.15 lakh crore which includes expenditure on critical development sectors such as health, education and infrastructure.
