

MINISTRIES' SPENDING: LEADERS AND LAGGARDS

One of the key objectives of the Narendra Modi government was to kick-start the economy by expanding public investment in infrastructure projects as private sector investment was sluggish. However, an analysis shows that while ministries such as road, transport and highways have used a high percentage of the funds allocated to them, others such as housing and urban poverty alleviation and railways have been laggards in utilizing their funds.

■ Plan expenditure spent during (April-September) 2015-16 ■ Five year average of Plan expenditure spent during April-September (2010-15)

| Top six spenders | Minister in charge | (in %) | 2015-16 budget (₹ cr) |
|---|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Ministry of civil aviation | Ashok Gajapati Raju Pusapati | 70 78.8 | 2,720 |
| Ministry of drinking water and sanitation | Chaudhary Birender Singh | 37 43 | 6,236 |
| Ministry of women and child development | Maneka Gandhi | 35 60.4 | 10,286.73 |
| Ministry of road, transport and highways | Nitin Gadkari | 70 54.4 | 42,912.65 |
| Ministry of commerce and industry | Nirmala Sitharaman | 66 54.2 | 3,689.65 |
| Ministry of rural development | Chaudhary Birender Singh | 46 52.8 | 73,269.77 |
| Bottom six spenders | | | |
| Ministry of housing and urban poverty alleviation | Venkaiah Naidu | 6 36.2 | 5,625.3 |
| Ministry of labour and employment | Bandaru Dattatreya | 16 47.4 | 2,153.02 |
| Ministry of tourism | Mahesh Sharma | 18 43.2 | 1,483.2 |
| Ministry of minority affairs | Najma Heptulla | 29 35.4 | 3,712.78 |
| Ministry of development of north-eastern region | Jitendra Singh | 34 45.2 | 2,334.5 |
| Ministry of communications and information technology | Ravi Shankar Prasad | 34 34.6 | 8,236.56 |

For more data, see Page 8

HOW MINISTRIES SPEND

One of the key objectives of the Narendra Modi government was to kickstart the economy by expanding public investment in infrastructure projects as private-sector investment was sluggish. As part of the plan, finance minister Arun Jaitley allocated ₹70,000 crore in additional funds to the infrastructure sector with a focus on railways and roads in the budget for the year to 31 March 2016. While the road transport and highways ministry has used a high percentage of the funds allocated to it, ministries such as housing and urban poverty alleviation and railways have been laggards in utilizing their funds, according to an analysis of the Plan expenditure record of various ministries for the six months ended 30 September. The analysis was based on data compiled by the Controller General of Accounts. The civil aviation ministry tops the list of high fund utilizers. It is, of course, because of the annual transfer of money to Air India to fund the turnaround plan of the national airline. The analysis includes ministries that have Plan outlays of more than ₹1,000 crore during 2015-16. The Plan expenditure of a ministry during the first six months of the fiscal year is compared with its five-year average during the same period. Ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship, which spent 33% of its ₹1,500 crore budgeted Plan expenditure during the six-month period, has not been included in the list as it is a new ministry and comparable data for it is not available.

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| Ministry | Minister in charge | Part of Plan expenditure spent during the April-September period | | 2015-16 budget (₹ crore) |
|--|--------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| | | (in %) | (₹ crore) | |
| TOP 10 SPENDERS | | | | |
| Ministry of civil aviation | Ashok Gajapathi Raju | 90 | 78.8 | 2,720 |
| Ministry of drinking water and sanitation | Chaudhary Birender Singh | 87 | 43 | 6,236 |
| Ministry of women and child development | Maneka Gandhi | 83 | 60.4 | 10,286.73 |
| Ministry of road, transport and highways | Nitin Gadkari | 70 | 54.4 | 42,912.65 |
| Ministry of commerce and industry | Nirmala Sitharaman | 66 | 54.2 | 3,689.65 |
| Ministry of rural development | Chaudhary Birender Singh | 66 | 52.8 | 73,269.77 |
| Ministry of ayurveda, yoga, and naturopathy, unani, siddha and homoeopathy | Shripad Naik | 61 | 34.8 | 1,008 |
| Ministry of tribal affairs | Jual Oram | 60 | 57 | 4,792.19 |
| Ministry of health and family welfare | J.P. Nadda | 56 | 48 | 26,659.17 |
| Ministry of power | Piyush Goyal | 56 | 28 | 6,799.74 |
| BOTTOM 10 SPENDERS | | | | |
| Ministry of housing and urban poverty alleviation | Venkaiah Naidu | 6 | 36.2 | 5,625.3 |
| Ministry of labour and employment | Bandaru Dattatreya | 16 | 47.4 | 2,153.02 |
| Ministry of tourism | Mahesh Sharma | 18 | 43.2 | 1,483.2 |
| Ministry of minority affairs | Najma Heptulla | 29 | 35.4 | 3,712.78 |
| Ministry of development of north eastern region | Jitendra Singh | 34 | 45.2 | 2,334.5 |
| Ministry of communications and information technology | Ravi Shankar Prasad | 34 | 34.6 | 8,236.56 |
| Department of space | Jitendra Singh | 36 | 36.2 | 6,000.19 |
| Ministry of railways | Suresh Prabhu | 39 | 54.8 | 40,000 |
| Ministry of external affairs | Sushma Swaraj | 41 | 58.8 | 5,336.2 |
| Ministry of youth affairs and sports | Sarbananda Sonowal | 43 | 46.4 | 1,389.48 |
| OTHER SPENDERS | | | | |
| Ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises | Kalraj Mishra | 55 | 41.8 | 2,612.51 |
| Ministry of finance | Arun Jaitley | 55 | 38.8 | 54,274.1 |
| Department of atomic energy | Jitendra Singh | 55 | 30.8 | 5,900 |
| Ministry of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation | Uma Bharati | 54 | 27.8 | 3,607 |
| Ministry of social justice and empowerment | Thaawar Chand Gehlot | 52 | 42.2 | 6,467 |
| Ministry of environment, forest and climate change | Prakash Javadekar | 51 | 39.6 | 1,446.6 |
| Ministry of home affairs | Rajnath Singh | 50 | 38 | 9,542.98 |
| Ministry of textiles | Santosh Gangwar | 48 | 41 | 3,523.32 |
| Ministry of planning | Rao Inderjit Singh | 46 | 17 | 2,114.52 |
| Ministry of earth sciences | Harsh Vardhan | 41 | 40.2 | 1,179 |
| OTHER LAGGARDS | | | | |
| Ministry of urban development | Venkaiah Naidu | 44 | 46.2 | 16,054.18 |
| Ministry of statistics and programme implementation | V.K. Singh | 45 | 45.4 | 4,352.5 |
| Ministry of culture | Mahesh Sharma | 46 | 55.2 | 1,455 |
| Ministry of science and technology | Harsh Vardhan | 49 | 55 | 7,289.3 |
| Ministry of agriculture | Radha Mohan Singh | 50 | 58.4 | 21,828.49 |
| Ministry of human resource development | Smiti Irani | 54 | 56.4 | 54,893.76 |