

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	Minister in charge	(in %)	2015-16 budget (₹ cr)
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

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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 highways 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