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Report on the panel discussion on union budget 2023-24 & economic survey 2022-23

GIFT organized a panel discussion on Economic Survey 2022-23 and Union Budget 2023-24 wherein policy makers of repute and scholars of eminence participated. This report briefly highlights the reflections of the panelists.

Some issues and hopes

Shri K M Chandrashekhar, IAS (Rtd.)*

The reaction to the budget depend on whether one likes or dislikes the government in power. Those who don't like the government will not like the budget and those who are with the government will find every reason to support it. Generally, there is not much difference between budgets as they are not likely to be very different from each other . There is no relationship between the economic survey/ economic review report and the budget .

But the fact is that a lot of good material is available in the economic review and survey which can used by scholars and writers all over the country. Many of the assumption we make in the budget may go wrong and may deliberately change in during the year . For example , in October 2019 the government decided to suddenly reduce the corporate income tax rates from 35 per cent to 25 per cent . This was not part of the budget, it came in October . This was a big change because the government lost revenue to the tune of Rs 144,000 crore.

One strong point in the budget is that the public investment is likely to go up 33 per cent in 2023-24 . The total expenditure increases from Rs 42 Lakh crore to Rs 45 lakh crore and capital outlay from Rs 7 lakh crore to Rs 10 lakh crore.

* Prepared by the GIFT team based on the presentation.

An attempt is being made to bring the fiscal deficit down in the current year from 6.7 per cent to 5.9 per cent and it will be brought down to 4.5 per cent by 2025-26.This is of course of far above the 3 per cent limit stipulated in the FRBM Act. But we had reached 9.2 per cent fiscal deficit in 2020-2021. It is notable that Rs 2.4 lakh crore investment proposed in Railways compared to Rs 1.4 lakh crore last year. I read an article by Dr Rangarajan jointly with Dr Srivastava and they opined that domestic saving is 8 per cent and foreign inflows are 2.5 per cent . So total availability in the market is about 10.5 per cent, out of that the combined fiscal deficit of states and center is 9.4 per cent and public sector borrowing is 1.1 per cent.

I have a doubt about is whether the fiscal deficit will remain at 5.9 per cent as the MNREGA the allocation has come down sharply to Rs 60,000crore this year. Allocation for Prime Minister Avas Yojana is less than what had achieved in 2021 and the same is the case with Prime Minister Kisan Yojana . Subsidy to FCI has come down, there is hardly any allocation for the price stabilization fund in Agriculture.

Some changes have been made in the income tax structure for the benefit of the middle class giving up about Rs 35,000 crore in revenue. Hope that this will translate into more demand which will lead to ,more production and then to investment. Headline inflation according to the RBI is still 6.8 per cent and to bring it down with a high fiscal deficit , putting all the pressure only on the RBI .

So all these issues are there, but let us hope that we are able to get over it and get going to better future which is very important for the country.

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Boost to infrastructure, reduction in subsidy a concern

Prof M Govind Rao *

India has gone through a series of shocks during the last three years, Corona virus pandemic, the Russian- Ukrain war and the supply chain disruption which slowed down the manufacturing process. High inflation and increase in interest rates across the world show, that the world economy is slowing down. In India although the GDP has crossed the 2019-20 level as stated in the economic survey, it is still below the pre- pandemic level, actually 6 to 7 per cent below the pre pandemic period . There has been a decline in investment right from 2011-12, when investment was 39 per cent of GDP and it has come down to 31 - 32 per cent in 2019-20. This year GDP is expected to rise by about 8 per cent and then obviously the Revenue estimates of the budget are not very unrealistic.

During last 3 years there has been much greater focus on capital expenditure and in this year 37 per cent increase in capital expenses is expected. Capital expenditure was just about 1.5 per cent of GDP in 2019-20 and this becomes 3.3 per cent this year. The budget promises to reduce the fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent that means half a percentage point deduction and will be reduced to 4.5 per cent by 2025-26.As next year is going to be an election year it is not easy to reduce fiscal deficit. So the finance minister preferred to increase the capital expenditure rather than reducing the fiscal deficit because the overall expenditure - GDP ratio has been declined to 14.7 per cent. As a percentage of GDP there is a decline in revenue expenditure also. The budget also proposed reduction in fertilizer and food subsidies and allocation to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREG) scheme. In 2022-23 fiscal deficit is contained at 6.4 per cent mainly due to higher tax collections, collections are higher by Rs 1.6 lakh crore. This means an increase from Rs 19.3 lakh crore to 20.9 lakh crore as per the budget estimate.

The important proposals in the budget as far as macroeconomics is concerned are the total expenditure as a share of GDP declined from 15.3 per cent to 14.9 per cent. The main focus in this budget is on national highways and railways. There is also capital infusion in the name of capital expenditure; there is a capital infusion to BSNL, MTNL of over Rs 50,000 crore. There is reduction in food subsidy by Rs 90,000 crore, reduction in fertilizer subsidy by Rs 50,000 crore and the reduction of MGNREGA is Rs 29000 crore.

Basically there hasn't been much of change in taxes and as far as the income tax is concerned the principle of taxation basically says that to broaden the tax base and to reduce the rates. It would have been nice to have a transparent tax system but when you say that you have the choice between the old and new schemes, these only confusing the issue, though the intention is good. The elevated fiscal deficit leaves very little borrowing space for the private sector and the overall public consumption will remain subdue because the government expenditure in 21centrally sponsored scheme virtually stagnant. The reduction in the allocation for rural poverty alleviation is a matter of concern as this is a demand driven programme. The government may have to increase the allocation in these flagship programmes. Increase in the capital expenditure and reduction in fiscal deficit particularly how well this will work out will depend upon its implementation.

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Capex will bring in overall growth

Prof R Nagaraj *

India's GDP rate plunged by 6.6 in 2021-22 in line with the rest of the world due to Covid-19 pandemic. However, output growth decreased by 8.7 in 2021-22 and the current year has witnessed strong recovery, signaling one the best performing economies in the world. This is something to be admitted and should give credit to the policy makers as the recovery has been pretty fast.

Sudden and repeated lockdowns led to a collapse in output, employment and people's livelihood during the during the pandemic period. It led to historically unprecedented reverse migration to rural India and government's free food distribution program in addition to the existing PDS under the national food security Act, helped rural India to tide over the crisis.

The budget aims to pursue investment growth, boosting public investment by 33 per cent over the previous year, totaling 3.8 percent of GDP. The budget can be defined as growth oriented one, but it has reduced allocation for MGNREGA. This has been widely criticized and very little mentioned about unemployment in the budget. The idea seems to be that government ships no more pandering to populists measures and getting on with growth. That is the message that the government wants to say through the budget.

Capital formation which augment the productive potential of the economy. The budget gives thrust to capital outlay, what are called capex and loans and advances to the states. This include equity investment in PSUs like banks, BSNL and MTNL.

The government has brought budget capex borrowing of various base and the capex is reduced year on year to 20.7 per cent and 3.5 per cent percent of GDP lower than 4 per cent in the previous year.

The last decade had been bad for India's long term growth trajectory, India's growth rate was accelerating from 1980's to till 2010 from 5.5 per cent to 8.3 per cent. India become a highly growing economy, very close behind China in terms of growth rate. But there has been major reversal during second decade of the current century.

The manufacturing growth rate as per IIP has gone down from 13 per cent in 2014-16 to negative 0.4 per cent in 2019. Even excluding the pandemic year there's been a steep fall and this is something which the policy makers are refusing to acknowledge. Similarly manufacturing sector share in GDP has stagnated. The budget has a well designed investment plan, can crowd in private investment to boost output growth. It has stuck to fiscal consolidation timeline.

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Reduction in interest burden is key to development

Prof Pinaki Chakraborty

There are three aspects to the capital expenditure, one is when we say that capital expenditure has increased this year to around 4 percent , we have to look at the history of capital expense of the Union government. The 15th finance commission recommended that center should allow the states to go to the market. Up to 2020, we had a capital expenditure of around 11.4 lakh crore or 1.5 per cent of GDP at the Union government level. The government of India actually increased allocation and gave 50 years interest free loan to states with a bullet payment option after 50 years.

RBI study on state finances for FY 2022-23 reports that the states have shown huge revenue deficit in 2021-22.

The third point is about the 50 year interest free loans to states. This is to bind the states and they have to get permission from the central government. This is a very prudent provision of the Constitution. States are not sovereign entities and the permission of the central government is a kind of sovereign guarantee to the state loans. So if a state goes to the market and there is no central guarantee and without the permission of the Union government that means it's an independent entity going to the market to borrow.

Revenue deficit of the center is 2.9 per cent of GDP. The central government outstanding debt as per the medium term fiscal plan presented in the budget is 57.2 per cent of GDP. So the kind of contraction in the revenue deficit is primarily because there has been a reduction in the allocation for CSS. Inflation plays a major role in increasing the denominator and give a better ratio in terms of fiscal deficit and revenue deficit. So the cushion in this year's budget is that structural problems like high interest burden which is 3.5 per cent has come down. So this would have resulted in reduction in interest burden to GDP ratio and freeing up resources for development both in the revenue account and in the capital account.

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Striking balance between expenditure and fiscal prudence

Prof M Suresh Babu*

There are two important backgrounds for this budget. One is the global background where we find three major shocks, the pandemic induced contraction, which was followed by the Russian-Ukraine conflict and a worldwide surge in inflation. What it has led to and what have been the repercussions of that on Indian economy is well known. There is also slowing down in Global economic growth as part of monetary tightening. and a reduction in global trade, due to a host of problems regarding Supply chains.

India has managed this kind of a crisis, but there have been a couple of challenges. One important challenge is the deficit and the widening of current account deficit.

It is in this background that the present budget is actually trying to strike a balance between spending and fiscal prudence. The budget actually comes at a time when the government faces, a very delicate balance in terms of prioritizing expenditure and sticking to fiscal Prudence.

So there are two major areas that are very important. One, the fiscal deficit target and allocation of capital expenditure. Hence, the budget signals a path towards fiscal consolidation. The logic behind this is very simple that as stated in the Economic Survey, it is assumed that the economy has recovered fully from the pandemic induced crisis and it is on a growth path. The fiscal deficit target also assumes importance that the economy is on a relatively stronger growth path with very healthy tax collections. The implied attached buoyancy in 2022-23 as per the first Advanced estimates of GDP and the gross tax to GTR, come down to 0.8 per cent. We are assuming this at 0.99 or close to 1 percent. So, on the whole the assumption of tax buoyancy on the revenue side seems to be reasonable and it is well within the limits.

On the expenditure side, the strategy is increasing capital expenditure. There is a conscious effort to increase or improve the quality of expenditure. And this in turn is also reflected in the effective capital expenditure, which is now close to 13.7 per cent, which was 10.5 per cent earlier. So there is a concerted effort in terms of improving the quality of expenditure, while on the revenue side the assumptions in terms of tax buoyancy, seems to be fairly reasonable. When we look at the expenditure, the interest payments are high.

What are the expected growth drivers of the budget? Credit disbursal, there is slight Improvement in credit disbursal and we hope that it would actually pick up more. There is also a kind of an expectation that the capital investment cycle will unfold and that will actually result in higher or increased Investments.

There are two important risks that we need to keep in mind. There is a challenge to the macroeconomic stability because of external pressure. So foreign capital inflows is pragmatic and there are concerns about elevated energy prices. Trade balance is an area where we might actually be looking very carefully because, some of the major trade partners of India in the West are having very low levels of demand. Global growth is expected to slow to 1.7 percent next year, from 3 percent this year.

An emergency action is needed to increase the allocation for MNREGA as this is a demand driven kind of a program. So if the demand is high, we really need to increase the allocation for that. In short the present budget has attempted to strike a balance between spending and fiscal Prudence.

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Fiscal marksmanship

Prof Lekha Chakraborty

The focus of my discussion on Union Budget 2023-24 will be twofold: (i) post-pandemic fiscal strategy and budget credibility of Union Budget 2023-24 and (ii) role of fiscal policy in inflation containment, as inflation in India cannot be entirely tackled through inflation targeting within the realm of new monetary policy framework (nmf).

In the post-pandemic fiscal strategy, budget credibility has a significant role. Fiscal marksmanship, the accuracy of budgetary forecasting, is a significant piece of information for the budget policy makers to form expectations about revenue and expenditure components. The significant variations between forecasted budgetary magnitudes and actuals could be an indicative of non-optimization or non-attainment of set fiscal policy objectives. The "BE" figures in the Union Budgets are "fiscal signals". We can see that in Union Budget 2023, the Budget Estimates (BE) for tax components and disinvestment proceeds are very conservative. I hope Revised Estimates (RE) will be greater than Budget Estimates (BE) - "RE > BE" - for tax and non-debt creating capital receipts. In NIPFP we have done a study on fiscal marksmanship of major macro-fiscal variables and analyzed the sources of errors pf budget forecasting. We realized that in case of Union Budgets, most of the errors are random and beyond the capacity of policymakers. However, there is a scope for using better assumptions and models in revenue projections - both tax and non-tax including disinvestment proceeds.

Fiscal deficit, mounted to more than 9 per cent of GDP during the pandemic period. This rise in deficit was partly due to budget transparency (making a portion of OBB transparent) and also due to economic stimulus package announcements. However, with the normalization procedure of rolling back the economic stimulus package programmes and containing fiscal deficit to around 6 per cent of GDP this year, the human development related expenditure has undergone a downward revision including that of "employer of last resort" allocations in the Budget OBB was incorporated into the realm of fiscal deficit. Mounting inflation and unemployment are matters of concern. When inflation hurts poor, a strict policy coordination between fiscal and monetary stance is needed.

There was an emphasis on the Beyond GDP Paradigm in the Union Budget 2023-24 especially when extension of food security measures were announced. This will help poor people in the midst of mounting inflation. However, inequality issues cannot be tackled through taxation side reforms, though there was an announcement related to tax exemption in this Union Budget. Tax exemption limits do provide increased disposable income in the hands of people. However, the proportion of tax payers constitute a minuscule segment of Indian population as only around 8 percent of Indian work in organized public sector. A conspicuous absence of announcements to incentivize the "calculus of consent" of people in the form of freebies is indeed welcome, especially when this is the full budget prior to India's next major elections in 2024.

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Positive signals in employment sector

Dr A V Jose*

There are a number of promises listed by the Finance Minister that are important in raising labor force participation especially among women. We have a faster growth of formal employment indicated by rising registration of Employee Provident Fund Schemes. The employment guarantee schemes have provided jobs in rural area, opportunities for income generation of households and to diversify their income.

According to the Economic Survey and the budget there was a decline in the unemployment rate. The labour force participation of men increased from 76 percent to 77 percent in both rural and urban areas. Labor force participation of women increase in rural area, from 23 to 30 percent and in urban area this increased from 20 to 22 percent. Worker population ratio, that is the employed out of population of the relevant age group among women, increased from 69 to 71 per cent in rural areas and stayed at 67 percent in urban area . In urban area unemployment rate among men increased from 17 to 19 per cent . Based on the age specific estimates, decreased from 9 to 7 percent in rural areas stayed at 9 percent in urban areas.

In the midst of the positive developments, significant income differentials exist between the self- employed, the regularly paid and the casually employed workers. During the four quarters of 2021- 22, the total employment declined in most industries where regularly paid workers dominate, notably manufacturing, construction, trade, transport, hospitality and financial services. There have been increase in the paid labour force. The development so far where we hope to increase employment in the traditionally labor intensive industries. The growth of formal employment indicated through Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) registration rises. Economic survey claims that EPFO data indicates a consistent year to increase of payroll additions as economic activities have picked up.

The average monthly subscribers added under EPFO increased from 0.9 million in April - November 2021 to 1.3 million. There are 46.3 million contributing members of EPFO in 2022 which is much lower than the 48.9 million contributing members in the pre-pandemic years. Evidently formal sector employment measured through EPFO contributions had not recovered to the pre-pandemic level. It has declined by 5 per cent .

There is sizable reduction in the allocation for the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee program , from Rs 89,000 crore in the revised estimate to Rs 60,000 crore in the budget 2023-24. The reason is that there had been normalization of the rural economy with better employment opportunities due to strong economic growth .

The world bank has recommended 1.7 percent of the GDP should be spent on the program. but right now the expenditure is 0.2 percent . There are two aspects which deserve close attention; we have moved away from asset creation to enhancing individual household income. The Economic Survey says that there had been a fall in real wages in rural areas. From 1960 onwards it has been consistently declining in most Indian states . It has been declining for a longer period and that's something to be really worried.

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Healthcare finance and the union health budget 2023-24: More for the tertiary sector?

Prof D Narayana

Centre and healthcare budget

The Constitution of India is a comprehensive document that covers all aspects of governance of the country. It also specifies the distribution of powers and responsibilities between the state and central governments. The Seventh Schedule is the most important part of the constitution in this regard as it specifies the roles and responsibilities in three lists namely, Union List, State List and Concurrent List. Health as a subject does not appear in the Union List. Some aspects of healthcare are in the concurrent list in which the Centre and States share responsibilities. It may be seen that Population Control and Family Planning (Entry 20 A), Legal, Medical and Other Professions (Entry 26) and Lunacy and mental deficiency, including places for the reception and treatment of lunatics and mental deficiencies (Entry 16) appear in the Concurrent List. The Union government has specific responsibilities in the management of disease outbreaks under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and the Disaster Management Act, 2005 - which were invoked during the COVID 19 crisis. The State List has 61 subjects that state legislatures enjoy jurisdiction over. In layman's terms, the state legislature can pass laws and govern the said subjects. They appear in the following order: Public order, police; Land, Water; Agriculture including agricultural education and research; Communication: Roads, bridges; Local Government; Public health and Sanitation; hospitals and dispensaries. Thus, health appears as the sixth subject in the State List.

Successive central governments have undertaken various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in public health and sanitation (subjects in the State List). Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) was started in 1954 for serving / retired Central government employees and their families. Initially, it was confined to Delhi but has been extended to many capital cities now. It provides comprehensive OPD, and inpatient care in empanelled hospitals. Specialist consultation is also provided. In 1956, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) was established, following up on a decade-old plan for a central institute to "produce the future leaders of Indian medicine and public health, the teachers and research workers". The original idea was for a centre modelled on Johns Hopkins University in the United States, probably because the Johns Hopkins Medical Centre was explicitly expected to combine patient care with teaching and research.

Over the years a number of national programmes/ schemes were started to address specific diseases - Leprosy, TB, Blindness, AIDS etc. But the first decade of the new millennium was momentous as far as central funding of health initiatives in the country is concerned. In 2003, Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). It was launched correct the regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country. PMSSY has two components:

(i) Setting up of AIIMS

Each New AIIMS aims to add state of the art Modular operation theatres (OTs) and diagnostics facilities, 15-20 super specialty departments, 750 Beds, 100 UG (MBBS) seats and so on; 60 B.Sc. (Nursing) seats; and focus on PG education and Research.

(ii) Upgradation of Government Medical College (GMC)/ Institutions.

Each up-gradation project would be adding 8-10 Super Specialty Departments, around 15 new PG seats, 150-250 beds and so on.

National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in 2005 with the objective to, Provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to the rural population; Make public health delivery system fully functional; Decentralise the system with community involvement; Achieve high standards; Develop human resources at the lowest level; and Achieve convergence of health and related programmes. In 2013, National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) was launched as a sub-mission of National Health Mission (NHM). NUHM aimed to meet the health needs of the urban population with special focus on the poor and vulnerable and aimed to cover all cities/towns with population above 50,000.

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) RSBY was launched in 2008 to provide health insurance coverage to the poor. To start with the financing pattern was 75:25 by the Centre and the States. In 2017, RSBY was renamed PM Ayushman Bharat Yojana (PM-ABY) with sum assured raised to Rs 5 lakhs. The scheme aimed at Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This is one of the targets of Sustainable Development Goals - to 'leave no one behind'

(SDG3). But Centre covers only below poverty line population, inpatient care and part of catastrophic health expenditure - burden is entirely on the states to achieve UHC.

Health allocation in the union budget 2023-24

Allocation for healthcare in the Union budget falls into three categories: Finance Commission grants; Ministry of Ayush; and Ministry of Health and Family welfare. XV Finance Commission awards once accepted the amounts are fixed for 2021-22 to 2025-26. Ayush is a priority under National Health Mission. As is evident from Table 1, while Finance Commission grants budgeted in 2022-23 was as per the recommendation, the expenditure was only 67 percent of the allocation. Although the share of the Ministry of Ayush has been less than 3 percent of the total budget, the allocation and expenditure on it has been growing at over 20 percent a year. Both the Department of Health and Family Welfare and the Department of Health Research (DHR) has hardly seen an increase in budgetary allocation during the last three years and expenditure has either remained stagnant or has come down. And within DHR, Indian Council of Medical Research which accounted for about 50 percent of the expenditure has seen its share go up to almost 80 percent.

The message coming out of the numbers shown in Tables 2 and 3 is that the allocation and expenditure on establishment, hospitals and regulatory bodies under the central government are being allocated larger amounts and their expenditure often overshoots the allocation. The allocation and expenditure on central schemes implemented by the states and centrally sponsored schemes have seen their allocation fall. Even when allocations under broad heads such as National Health Mission have not fallen, net amounts being transferred to the states for implementing national programmes and centrally sponsored schemes have shown drastic fall. What seems to take priority is the establishment of AIIMS under PMSSY and upgrade medical colleges under NHM.

In sum, the important trends in allocation in the budget are the following. Ministry of Ayush has been getting a huge boost. In the DHR, overall allocation has been falling but the share of ICMR has been going up- the increase in the share has been from around 50 percent in 2020-21 to close to 80 percent in the budget of 2023-24. In the Department of Health and family Welfare, Centre's establishments, statutory bodies and autonomous institutions have seen a steady rise. National Programmes and National Health Mission have been starved of funds.

Even there, increasingly funds have been flowing into tertiary care - AIIMS and Medical Colleges (Table-1).

Table 1. Health Expenditure and Allocation, 2020-21 to 2023-24

Item	2020-21 Actuals	2021-22 Actuals (%Change)	2022-23 BE (%Change over 2021-22 Actuals)	2022-23 RE (%Change over 2021-22 Actuals)	2023-24BE (%Change over 22-23BE)	2023-24BE (%Change over 22-23RE)
FC Grants-Health	-	13192	13192	8895	13851	-
Other Grants (Vaccination)	-	35,438	5,000	967	0.01	-
Ministry of Ayush	2292	2359 (+2.92)	3050 (+29.29)	2846 (+20.64)	3642 (19.41)	3642 (27.97)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare-DHFW	77,569	81,780 (+5.43)	83,000 (+1.49)	76370 (-6.62)	86175 (+3.83)	86175 (+12.84)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – DHR and (ICMR)	3125 (1612)	2691 (1841)	3201 (2198)	2775 (2117)	2980 (2360)	2980 (2360)

Source: Union Budget papers

Table 2. Expenditure and Allocation, 2020-21 to 2023-24 (Rs crore), Dept. of H&FW

Item	2020-21 Actuals	2021-22 Actuals (%Change over 2020-21)	2022-23 BE (%Change over 2021-22)	2022-23 RE (%Change over 2021-22)	2023-24 BE (%Change over 2022-23 BE)	2023-24 BE (%Change over 2022-23 RE)
Centre's Establishment Expenditure (Direction, Admn, Hospitals in Delhi etc)	5547	5824 (+4.99)	6857 (+17.73)	6913 (18.69)	7698 (12.26)	7698 (11.36)
Central Sector Schemes (AIDS Control, Zoonotic Diseases Surveillance)	21,818	15097 (-30.80)	15,163 (+0.43)	11869 (-21.38)	8820 (-41.83)	8820 (-25.69)
Other Central sector Expenditure (Statutory and Regulatory such as MCI, Food Safety, ...)	226	308 (+36.28)	335 (+8.77)	635 (+106.17)	639 (+90.75)	639 (+0.63)
Autonomous Bodies (AIIMS, JIPMER, ...)	7,565	8,459 (+11.82)	10,022 (+18.48)	10348 (+22.33)	17323 (+72.85)	17323 (+67.40)

Source: Same as Table 1.

Table 3. Priorities of Central Schemes and NHM

	2020-21 Actuals	2021-22 Actuals	2022-23 BE	2022-23 RE	2023-24BE
1. Central Sector Schemes	21,818	15,097	15,163	11,869	8,820
2. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana	6,840	9270	10,000	8,270	3365
3. Net Central Sector Schemes (1-2)	**14,978**	**5,827**	**5,163**	**3,599**	**5,455**
4. National Health Mission	37,080	32,958	37,160	33,708	36,785
5. Establishment of MCs and Increase seats	5386	5051	7500	4083	6500
6. Net NHM (4-5)	**31,694**	**27,907**	**29,660**	**29,625**	**30,285**

The main message of the budget is the following. No money for national disease programmes; No money for national health mission; No money for primary care or hospital beds. But there is money (lot of it) for Ayush, for AIIMS, for upgradation of Medical Colleges. Let the states take care of the primary care needs of the poor and rural folks! The PMSSY initiated in 2003 has got a huge boost but not the NHM launched during 2004-14.