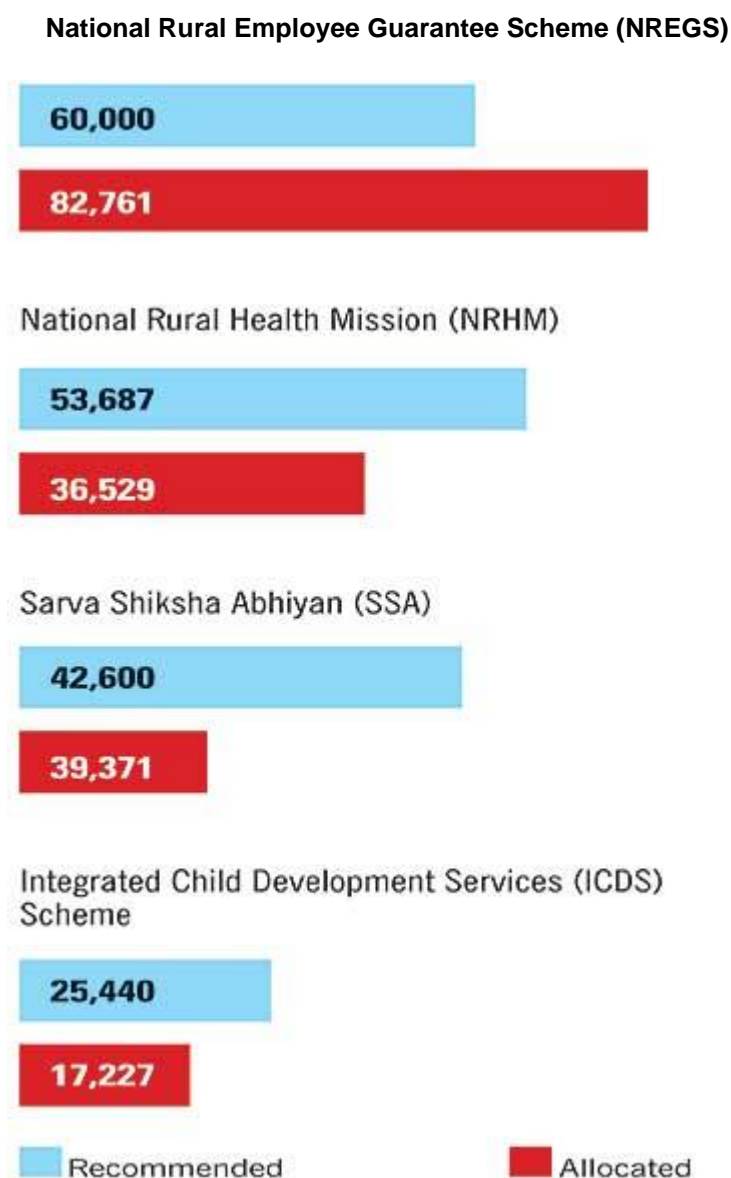


Use And Misuse

In spite of a periodic increase, not enough is being allocated. And what's being allocated is not being spent well.

How much money is being allocated?

Budget allocations made by the government for some of its flagship programmes during 2007-08 to 2009-10 (first three years of the 11th Five-Year Plan) are less than what's been recommended by the Planning Commission.



Figures in Rs cr for three years (2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10); Recommended: based on the five-year Planning Commission projection for 11th Five-Year Plan (2007-12); Allocated: based on budget estimates and revised estimates

Source: Compiled by CBGA from Planning Commission and Union Budget

How well are the funds being spent?

NREGS

- Only 79% of the money available was used in the three years.
- Positives include rise in the market wage rate, leading to lesser exploitation of wage labour and better organisation of the rural poor into collectives.
- Availability of funds per district has remained at Rs 60 crore per year and utilisation varies from Rs 44-48 crore.
- Of the total person-days of work created, the share of women is 48.1%, SCs 29.6% and STs 25.1%.
- The national average for wages paid per household in 2008-09 was Rs 3,438. This indicates the number of days for which households were provided work was less than the 100.

NRHM

- Expenditure has increased each successive year. However, in the 18 'focus' States (mostly the 'empowered action group states' and north-eastern states), fund utilisation has been slow, resulting in lower Central grants.
- The weaknesses in such states need to be addressed through recruitment and capacity building of staff.
- NRHM promotes providing a limited package of services through the government health centres, rather than comprehensive healthcare.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) notes implementation bottlenecks in planning, community participation, fund management, infrastructure development, procurement and supply of medicines and equipment, among others.

SSA

- Teacher attendance, both at the primary and upper primary levels, is less than 75% in Assam, Gujarat, MP, Chhattisgarh and Bihar. Likewise, primary student attendance is less than 75% in Bihar, UP and Rajasthan (63%); in upper primary, in Bihar, UP, Orissa, MP and West Bengal.
- Educationists attribute absenteeism to children not being able to follow what is being taught, and caste discrimination by teachers
- The dropout rate at the elementary level remains a high 46%.
- It is unlikely SSA would be able to address these gaps, as the thrust of spending is on civil works (28% of outlay in 2008-09) and recruitment of teachers (31%).
- At the elementary level, despite a relatively favourable pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) of 34:1 (at the national level), there are 10% single-teacher schools. Another 13% have a PTR in excess of the current SSA norm of 40:1.
- Average spending as a proportion of total approved outlay was only 29% in the first half of 2008-09. Advances continue to be reported as expenditure in SSA, affecting reliability of data.

ICDS

- Staff vacancy is a critical factor for poor quality of spending. The quality of service delivery is poor as the monitoring and supervision of anganwadi centres (AWCs) is weak.
- 26% of anganwadi worker posts are vacant. Vacancies for other such posts are also quite high.
- According to a NCAER study, in 2004-05, only 46% of the (then operational) AWCs were running from pucca buildings.

Analysis by Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability.