

Open Budget Survey 2019

Questionnaire

India

April 2020

Country Questionnaire: India

PBS-1. What is the fiscal year of the PBS evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2018-19

Source:
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/budget.asp>

Comment:
India does not produce a Pre Budget Statement.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In a meeting with two senior government officials (the Controller of Aid Accounts and Audit and the Director, Budget Division) of the Ministry of Finance, it was informed that Pre Budget Statements (PBS) is not produced in India; not even for internal purposes. However, the different ministries send their demands to the Budget Division of the Finance Ministry that compiles those demands in formulating the EBP. Individual ministries however invite pre budget estimates from line departments and other agencies.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-2. When is the PBS made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for a PBS to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration. If the PBS is not released to the public at least one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the PBS.

Answer:
d. The PBS is not released to the public, or is released less than one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is introduced to the legislature

Source:
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/budget.asp>

Comment:
India does not produce a Pre Budget Statement

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree with the response of the researcher that PBS is not produced in India.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-3a. If the PBS is published, what is the date of publication of the PBS?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/budget.asp>

Comment:

India does not Produce a Pre Budget Statement

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the PBS.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

n/a

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/budget.asp>

Comment:

India does not produce a Pre Budget Statement

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-4. If the PBS is published, what is the URL or weblink of the PBS?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/budget.asp>

Comment:
India does not produce a Pre Budget Statement

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

PBS-5. If the PBS is published, are the numerical data contained in the PBS available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the PBS is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:
d. Not applicable

Source:

Comment:
India does not produce a Pre Budget Statement

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

PBS-6a. If the PBS is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the PBS is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question PBS-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question PBS-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:
d. Not produced at all

Source:

Comment:
India does not produce a Pre Budget Statement

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

PBS-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question PBS-6a, please specify how you determined whether the PBS was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question PBS-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

No such document / report that government brought out and shared in the public domain or with the policy makers before the presentation of EPB 2018-19, hence option 'd' was selected for question 6a.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

PBS-7. If the PBS is produced, please write the full title of the PBS.

For example, a title for the Pre-Budget Statement could be "Proposed 2019 State Budget" or "Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Plan and Budget for 2018/19."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

"n/a" n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

PBS-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the PBS?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now

evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EBP evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2018-19 FY 2018-19

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/budget.asp>

Comment:

All relevant documents / budget papers, which can be considered as EBP available for India.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: As the cut-off date is 31 December 2018, the EBP of the FY 2018-19 has been evaluated by the researcher. I agree with the researcher.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-1b. When is the EBP submitted to the legislature for consideration?

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

01/02/2018 1/2/2018

Source:

<http://164.100.47.194/Loksabha/Business/ListofBusiness.aspx>

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/budget/union-budget-2018-live-updates/article22617297.ece>

Comment:

As per the business procedure of the Parliament of India, the Union Budget (i.e. a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the

Government of India for the FY 2018-19) was presented by the Finance Minister in the Parliament, along with the introduction of Finance Bill.

Please use the link and then following steps:

1. Click on the 16 Loksabha
2. Click on the range in the next tab: XIV 29/01/2018 to 06/04/2018)
3. Click on the next tab: Month February
4. Click on dates as 1

Then you can see that Finance Minister presented the Union Budget in the Parliament.

Please also reference the attached news article.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In addition to the documents cited by the researcher, the Budget Speech (<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bs/bs.pdf>) also confirms the date of submission of EBP to the legislature for consideration.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-2. When is the EBP made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an EBP to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public while the legislature is still considering it and before the legislature approves (enacts) it. If the EBP is not released to the public before the legislature approves it, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EBP.

The OBS definition of an Executive's Budget Proposal is a document(s) that (i) the executive submits to the legislature as a formal part of the budget approval process and (ii) the legislature either approves or on which it approves proposed amendments.

The OBS will treat the Executive's Budget Proposal as "Not Produced," in the following cases:

- *The executive does not submit the draft budget to the legislature; or*
- *The legislature receives the draft budget but does not approve it or does not approve recommendations on the draft budget;*
- *The legislature rejects the draft budget submitted by the executive, but the executive implements it without legislative approval; or*
- *There is no legislature, or the legislature has been dissolved.*

Answer:

b. At least two months, but less than three months, in advance of the budget year, and in advance of the budget being approved by the legislature

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019>

Comment:

The presentation of budget in the parliament happened on 1 February, 2018 at 11.00 AM. The presentation starts with the budget speech of the Finance Minister. Once the presentation of budget speech got over, the online links for various budget documents, including EBPs were made available to the public.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: As the FY starts in India from 1st April and EBP is put in the public domain on 1st February, the EBP is made available to the public exactly two months in advance of the budget year.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-3a. If the EBP is published, what is the date of publication of the EBP?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their date of publication.

Answer:

01/02/2018 1/2/2018

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

Comment:

The date of publication of EBP is noted in the printed document as 1st February, 2018.

As verified with Javascript, the document were also available at least by this date.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EBP.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The date of publication is mentioned in the soft copy, which is available online. However, using the Wayback Internet Archives the date of publication of the document was on 28 January,2018. The date of publication of EBP is mentioned in the document.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

Comment:

To know the date of publication of EBP, we use the following command:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20180128150048/http://www.indiabudget.gov.in/ub2017-18/afs/allafs.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-4. If the EBP is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EBP?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the

document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their URL or weblink.

Answer:

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/budget.asp>

Comment:

1. The Finance Bill, 2018: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/fb/bill.pdf>
2. Receipt Budget: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/rec.asp>
3. Expenditure Budget: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ebmain.asp>
4. Annual Financial Statement: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

See also the following documents (listed on the link under the Source):

- E. Memorandum Explaining the Provisions in the Finance Bill, 2018
- F. Macro-economic framework for the relevant financial year
- G. Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement for the financial year
- H. Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement
- I. Expenditure Profile
- J. Expenditure Budget
- K. Receipts Budget

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-5. If the EBP is published, are the numerical data contained in the EBP or its supporting documents available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Option "d" applies if the EBP is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/afs.asp>

Comment:

Some EBP documents have xls files and not all.

For example, the Expenditure Budget has Excel files: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/vol2.asp>

But the Receipts Budget only has some Excel files, as does the Medium-Term Fiscal Policy Statement: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/rec.asp> and <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm2.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-6a. If the EBP is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the EBP is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EBP-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EBP-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Executive's Budget Proposal is available in the public domain and is produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EBP-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EBP was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EBP-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-7. If the EBP is produced, please write the full title of the EBP.

For example, a title for the Executive's Budget Proposal could be "Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for BY 2018-19, produced by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development."

If there are any supporting documents to the EBP, please enter their full titles in the comment box below.

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Union Budget of India 2018/2019

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/budget.asp>

Comment:

Union Budget of India 2018/2019

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EBP?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/glance.asp>

Comment:

Yes, there is a citizen version of the EBP, available. Publication date is the same as the EBP.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2018-19 FY 2018-19

Source:

Appropriations Act No 2 of 2018: <http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Finance Act of 2018:
<http://egazette.nic.in/writereaddata/2018/184302.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

EB-1b. When was the EB approved (enacted) by the legislature?

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
29/03/2018 29/3/2018

Source:
Appropriations Act No 2 of 2018: <http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Finance Act of 2018:
<http://egazette.nic.in/writereaddata/2018/184302.pdf>

Comment:
The proposed budget for the FY 2018-19 was Passed by the Lower House of the Parliament on 14 March 2018 and subsequently it was given assent on 29 March 2018. The name of the EB is "THE APPROPRIATION (No. 2) ACT, 2018"
The date of Publication in the Gazette of India was on 29 March 2018

The Finance Act was also passed covering revenue provisions for FY 2018-2019 on revenue and tax laws. It was also given assent on 29 March 2018.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

EB-2. When is the EB made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an EB to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public three months after the budget is approved by the legislature. If the EB is not released to the public at least three months after the budget is approved by the legislature, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EB.

Answer:
a. Two weeks or less after the budget has been enacted

Source:

Appropriations Act No 2 of 2018: <http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Finance Act of 2018:
<http://egazette.nic.in/writereaddata/2018/184302.pdf>

Comment:

The EB was available on the day of enactment of appropriation bill. In this case the publication date of the Appropriations Act (EB) was 05/04/2018, and the Finance Act was published on 29/03/2018.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-3a. If the EB is published, what is the date of publication of the EB?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

5/4/2018 29/3/2018

Source:

Appropriations Act No 2 of 2018: <http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Finance Act of 2018:

<http://egazette.nic.in/writereaddata/2018/184302.pdf>

Comment:

The date of publication of EB is printed in the front page of the document.

However, after running the javascript, the date of publication of Appropriations Act No 2 (the EB) was on 5 April, 2019. The Finance Act was published on 29 March 2018.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EB.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The date of publication of EB (Appropriation Act) is mentioned in the first page of the document as 29-03-2018. However, after running the javascript, the date of publication of the said document was on 5 April, 2019. The date of publication is in the first page of the document.

Source:

Appropriations Act No 2 of 2018: <http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Finance Act of 2018:

<http://egazette.nic.in/writereaddata/2018/184302.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

EB-4. If the EB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Appropriations Act No 2 of 2018: <http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Finance Act of 2018:

<http://egazette.nic.in/writereaddata/2018/184302.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

EB-5. If the EB is published, are the numerical data contained in the EB available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the EB is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

Comment:

The EB (Appropriations Act No 2 and Finance Act) are both PDF files.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

EB-6a. If the EB is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the EB is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EB-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EB-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Appropriations Act No 2 of 2018: <http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFfiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Finance Act of 2018:

<http://egazette.nic.in/writereaddata/2018/184302.pdf>

Comment:

The EBPs are publicly available. The title of the EB is THE APPROPRIATION (No. 2) ACT, 2018 NO. 14 OF 2018.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EB-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EB-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-7. If the EB is produced, please write the full title of the EB.

For example, a title for the Enacted Budget could be "Appropriation Act n. 10 of 2018."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

THE APPROPRIATION (No. 2) ACT, 2018

Source:

The EB is the Appropriations Act No 2 of 2018: <http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Also approved was the Finance Act of 2018:

<http://egazette.nic.in/writereaddata/2018/184302.pdf>

Comment:

THE APPROPRIATION (No. 2) ACT, 2018

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EB?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

CB of the EB is available. The title of the document is: Budget At A Glance, 2018-19. <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag1.pdf>

However, there is no CB for the EB.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

CB-1. What is the fiscal year of the CB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for each CB please indicate the document the CB simplifies/refers to, and the fiscal year.

Answer:
FY 2018-19

Source:
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/glance.asp>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag1.pdf>

Comment:
The Budget at a Glance page includes summarized versions of multiple EBP documents:
Budget at a Glance; Debt and Deficit Statistics; Transfer of Resources to States and Union Territories with Legislature; Budget Profile; Receipts; Expenditure and Outlay on Major Schemes

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Aggregate level statistics on Extra Budgetary Funds are also mentioned in this document.

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

CB-2a. For the fiscal year indicated in CB-1, what is the public availability status of the CB?

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document (Executive's Budget Proposal or Enacted Budget) you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its public availability status.

Remember that publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

*Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology
Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.
Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.
Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.
Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.*

Answer:
e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag1.pdf>

Comment:
This Citizens Budget is meant for EBP.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

CB-2b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question CB-2a, please specify how you determined whether the CB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question CB-2a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

CB-3a. If the CB is published, what is the date of publication of the CB?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its dates of publication.

Answer:

01/02/2018

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag1.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

CB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the CB.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The CB was made available on the date of Union Budget presentation, i.e. on 1 February, 2018. However, the document was made available online on 28 January, 2018.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag1.pdf>

This date can also be confirmed with Javascript.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

CB-4. If the CB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the CB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its URL or weblink.

Answer:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag1.pdf>

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag1.pdf>

Comment:

Budget At A Glance: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/glance.asp>

Key to Budget Documents: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/keybud/keybud2018.pdf>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

CB-5. If the CB is produced, please write the full title of the CB.

For example, a title for the Citizens Budget could be "Budget 2018 People's Guide" or "2019 Proposed Budget in Brief: A People's Budget Publication."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for the other CB, indicate the document the CB refers to and, next to it, its full title.

Answer:

Budget at a Glance

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag1.pdf>

Comment:

Budget at a Glance

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Budget at a Glance <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/glance.asp>

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

CB-6. If the CB is produced, please indicate which budget document it corresponds to.

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and which budget document it simplifies.

Answer:

Annual Financial Statement, one of the EBP.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/glance.asp>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IYRs-1. What is the fiscal year of the IYRs evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2018-19

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/1/2018-2019.aspx>

Some of the IYRs reviewed are also from FY 2017-18.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IYRs-2. When are the IYRs made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for IYRs to be considered publicly available, IYRs must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends. If at least seven of the last 12 monthly IYRs, or at least three of the last four quarterly IYRs are not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the IYRs.

Answer:

a. At least every month, and within one month of the period covered

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/>

Monthly Economic Reviews (published monthly, on-time):

The monthly report for October 2018 was publicly available online on 30 November 2018 at:

https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/MER_October_2018.pdf

The monthly report for September 2018 was publicly available online on 30 October 2018 at:

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/MER%20September%202018.pdf>

The monthly report for August 2018 was publicly available online on 28 September 2018 at:

https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/MER_August_2018.pdf

The monthly report for July 2018 was publicly available online on 6 September 2018 at: https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/MER_July_2018.pdf

The monthly report for June 2018 was publicly available online on 30 July 2018 at: <https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/MER%20-June%202018.pdf>

The monthly report for May 2018 was publicly available online on 3 July 2018 at: <https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/MER-May%202018.pdf>

The monthly report for April 2018 was publicly available online on 3 July 2018 at: <https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/MER-April%202018.pdf>

The monthly report for March 2018 was publicly available online on 7 May 2018 at: <https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/MER-March%202018.pdf>

The monthly report for February 2018 was publicly available online on 28 March 2018 at:

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/MER%20February%202018.pdf>

The monthly report for January 2018 was publicly available online on 5 March 2018 at:

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/MER%20January%202018.pdf>

The monthly report for December 2017 was publicly available online on 9 February 2018 at:

https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/MER%20December%202017_0.pdf

The monthly report for November 2017 was publicly available online on 2 January 2018 at:

https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/MER_November%202017.pdf

The quarterly report for September 2018 was publicly available online on 17 December 2018 at:

https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Quarterly%20Report%20on%20Public%20Debt%20Management%20for%20the%20Quarter%20July%20-%20September%202018_1.pdf

The quarterly report for June 2018 was publicly available online on 14 September 2018 at:

https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Quarterly%20Report_Q1%202018-19.pdf

Comment:

All the IYRs (Monthly Reports) were published within one month (with the exception of the March 2018 IYR (Provisional Report for the Fiscal Year)), which was published within two months.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

In later questions, some of the reviewers mention the Debt Management Reports, which was assessed in OBS 2017, at: <https://dea.gov.in/public-debt-management> However, in OBS 2019, two of the last four quarterly reports were published late, with the following publication dates: The quarterly report for September 2018 was publicly available online on 17 December 2018 at:

https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Quarterly%20Report%20on%20Public%20Debt%20Management%20for%20the%20Quarter%20July%20-%20September%202018_1.pdf

The quarterly report for June 2018 was publicly available online on 14 September 2018 at:

https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Quarterly%20Report_Q1%202018-19.pdf

The quarterly report for March 2018 was published late on 29 August 2018 at: <https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Quarterly%20Report%20on%20Public%20Debt%20Management%20Jan-March%202018.pdf>

The quarterly report for February 2018 was published late on 29 August 2018

at: <https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Status%20Paper%20final%2028.3.18%20online.pdf> As there needs to be a minimum of three of four reports to be published on-time to count the reports as publicly available, this report is scored as late and the content cannot be assessed in Section 3.

IYRs-3a. If the IYRs are published, what are the dates of publication of the IYRs?

Specifically: if quarterly In-Year Reports are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least three of the last four IYRs that were publicly available. If monthly IYRs are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least seven of the last 12 IYRs that were publicly available.

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD Month YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05 September 2018. If the document is not published or not produced, please mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The monthly report for November 2018 was publicly available online on 18 December 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/10/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for October 2018 was publicly available online on 27 November 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/9/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for September 2018 was publicly available online on 25 October 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/8/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for August 2018 was publicly available online on 25 September 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/7/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for July 2018 was publicly available online on 31 August 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/6/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for June 2018 was publicly available online on 31 July 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/5/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for May 2018 was publicly available online on 29 June 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/4/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for April 2018 was publicly available online on 31 May 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/3/2017-2018.aspx>
The monthly report for March 2018 was publicly available online on 31 May 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/2/2017-2018.aspx>
The monthly report for February 2018 was publicly available online on 21 March 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/1/2017-2018.aspx>
The monthly report for January 2018 was publicly available online on 27 February 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/12/2017-2018.aspx>
The monthly report for December 2017 was publicly available online on 25 January 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/11/2017-2018.aspx> The date of publication of IYRs is not known.

Source:

The monthly report for November 2018 was publicly available online on 18 December 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/10/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for October 2018 was publicly available online on 27 November 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/9/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for September 2018 was publicly available online on 25 October 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/8/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for August 2018 was publicly available online on 25 September 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/7/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for July 2018 was publicly available online on 31 August 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/6/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for June 2018 was publicly available online on 31 July 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/5/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for May 2018 was publicly available online on 29 June 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/4/2018-2019.aspx>
The monthly report for April 2018 was publicly available online on 31 May 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/3/2017-2018.aspx>
The monthly report for March 2018 was publicly available online on 31 May 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/2/2017-2018.aspx>
The monthly report for February 2018 was publicly available online on 21 March 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/1/2017-2018.aspx>
The monthly report for January 2018 was publicly available online on 27 February 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/12/2017-2018.aspx>
The monthly report for December 2017 was publicly available online on 25 January 2018 at: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/11/2017-2018.aspx>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IYRs-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the IYRs.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Based on the availability of latest IYR (Monthly Reports) from the website.

Source:

The latest Monthly Report for the FY 2018-19 published in 2018 is available for the month of November 2018, published 18 December 2018.

The previous twelve monthly reports were assessed and confirmed via Javascript, specifically on the 'Details' pages under the URL <http://164.100.158.190/writereaddata/MonthAccount/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IYRs-4. If the IYRs are published, what is the URL or weblink of the IYRs?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Researchers should provide the weblink to the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the weblinks to older IYRs.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/1/2018-2019.aspx> <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/1/2018-2019.aspx>

Source:

Also see <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/1/2017-2018.aspx>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IYRs-5. If the IYRs are published, are the numerical data contained in the IYRs available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the IYRs are not published or not produced, therefore their machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

All in PDF or html only

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Mostly the IYRs are available in the html format which is not machine readable.

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IYRs-6a. If the IYRs are not publicly available, are they still produced?

If the IYRs are not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question IYRs-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question IYRs-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IYRs-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question IYRs-6a, please specify how you determined whether the IYRs were produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question IYRs-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IYRs-7. If the IYRs are produced, please write the full title of the IYRs.

For example, a title for the In-Year Report could be "Budget Monitoring Report, Quarter 1" or "Budget Execution Report January-March 2018."

If In-Year Reports are not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Researchers should provide the full title of the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the full titles of older IYRs.

Answer:

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, UNION GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS AT A GLANCE AS AT THE END OF EVERY MONTH.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNION GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS AT A GLANCE AS AT THE END OF JANUARY 2019

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IYRs-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the IYRs?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-1. What is the fiscal year of the MYR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2018-19

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

MYR-2. When is the MYR made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an MYR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends (i.e., three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year). If the MYR is not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the MYR.

Answer:

d. The MYR is not released to the public, or is released more than three months after the midpoint

Source:

The latest available MYR is for the FY 2015-16. The link below can be viewed. Further there has been media reports that the MYR is expected to be produced in December, 2018 and January 2019, but there is no such documents made available in the public domain. The media report can be viewed as well from the link given in source box.

Comment:

<https://dea.gov.in/mid-year-review>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

MYR-3a. If the MYR is published, what is the date of publication of the MYR?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

There are no MYR published after FY 2015-2016

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

MYR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the MYR.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
n/a

Source:
There are no MYR published after FY 2015-2016

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

MYR-4. If the MYR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the MYR?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:
There are no MYR published after FY 2015-2016

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

MYR-5. If the MYR is published, are the numerical data contained in the MYR available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Option "d" applies if the MYR is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

d. Not applicable

Source:

There are no MYR published after FY 2015-2016

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-6a. If the MYR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the MYR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question MYR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question MYR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

d. Not produced at all

Source:

There are no MYR produced after FY 2015-2016

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question MYR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the MYR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question MYR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The latest available MYR is for the FY 2015-16. The link below can be viewed. Further there has been media reports that the MYR is expected to be

produced in December, 2018 and January 2019, but there is no such documents made available in the public domain. The media report can be viewed as well from the link given in source box.

Source:

<https://dea.gov.in/mid-year-review>

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/mid-year-economic-review-set-to-make-a-comeback-maybe-out-in-december-118071900513_1.html

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-7. If the MYR is produced, please write the full title of the MYR.

For example, a title for the Mid-Year Review could be "Semi-annual Budget Performance Report, FY 2017/18" or "Mid-Year Report on the 2018 National Budget."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the MYR?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In India citizen budget is available only for the Annual Financial Statement, which is the main budget document.

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

YER-1. What is the fiscal year of the YER evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2016-17

Source:
<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>
<http://www.cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I have found that both Finance and Accounts and Appropriation Accounts for the FY 2016-17 are available on the website and the date of publication is December 3, 2018. However, these documents were uploaded on the website after December 31, 2018 (cut off date).
<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2017-2018.aspx> <http://www.cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2017-2018.aspx> So, for evaluating the YER for the FY 2016-17 is appropriate.

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

YER-2. When is the YER made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an YER to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than one year after the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the YER is not released to the public within one year after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the YER.

Answer:
b. Nine months or less, but more than six months, after the end of the budget year

Source:
<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017CGACert.pdf>

Comment:
This YER has been certified by the Controller of General of Accounts on 26 October, 2017 justifies that the document has been prepared within 9 months of the end of the FY 2016-17.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

YER-3a. If the YER is published, what is the date of publication of the YER?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
19/12/2017

Source:
<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017CGACert.pdf>

Comment:
The date of publication of the document was on 19 December, 2017, retrieved using Javascript.

Certificates from the Controller General and Comptroller and Auditor General were published on Dec 19 and Dec 20. Other documents were published earlier on October 13, 2017.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

YER-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the YER.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
The date of publication of the document has been retrieved by using Javascript.

Source:
<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20172018CGACert.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

YER-4. If the YER is published, what is the URL or weblink of the YER?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:
<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20172018CGACert.pdf>

Source:
<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>
<http://cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

YER-5. If the YER is published, are the numerical data contained in the YER available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the YER is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:
c. No

Source:
<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>
<http://cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

Comment:
No, the information provided in the document is not machine readable.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

YER-6a. If the YER is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the YER is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question YER-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question YER-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

<http://cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question YER-6a, please specify how you determined whether the YER was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question YER-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-7. If the YER is produced, please write the full title of the YER.

For example, a title for the Year-End Report could be "Consolidated Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2018" or "Annual Report 2017 Published by the Ministry of Finance and Planning." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

UNION GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACCOUNTS 2016-17 [<http://cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>]

UNION GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS (CIVIL) 2016-2017 [<http://cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>]

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the YER?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:
b. No

Source:
<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>
<http://cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

AR-1. What is the fiscal year of the AR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2016-17

Source:
<https://cag.gov.in/content/report-no44-2017-financial-audit-accounts-union-government>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

AR-2. When is the AR made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an AR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the AR is not released to the public at least 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the

public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the AR.

Answer:

b. 12 months or less, but more than six months, after the end of the budget year

Source:

https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Report_No.44_of_2017_-_Financial_Audit_on_Accounts_of_the_Union_Government.pdf

Comment:

The date of publication of the said document, using Javascript, was published on December 19, 2017.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-3a. If the AR is published, what is the date of publication of the AR?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2018 should be entered as 05/09/2018. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

19/12/2017

Source:

https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Report_No.44_of_2017_-_Financial_Audit_on_Accounts_of_the_Union_Government.pdf

Comment:

The date of publication of the said document, using Javascript, was published on December 19, 2017.

https://web.archive.org/web/20180127063907/http://www.cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Report_No.44_of_2017_-_Financial_Audit_on_Accounts_of_the_Union_Government.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the AR.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The date of publication of the said document was 19 December 2017. The date has been ascertained by using the following web search.

https://web.archive.org/web/*/https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Report_No.44_of_2017_-_Financial_Audit_on_Accounts_of_the_Union_Government.pdf

Source:

<https://cag.gov.in/content/report-no44-2017-financial-audit-accounts-union-government>

https://web.archive.org/web/*/https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Report_No.44_of_2017_-_Financial_Audit_on_Accounts_of_the_Union_Government.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-4. If the AR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the AR?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://cag.gov.in/content/report-no2-2019-accounts-union-government-financial-audit>

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Some part of the URL/weblink of the AR ((cited by the researcher) is missing. The appropriate link will be, https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Report_No_2_of_2019_Accounts_of_the_Union_Government_Financial_Audit.pdf Or, we can also site : <https://cag.gov.in/content/report-no44-2017-financial-audit-accounts-union-government>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

We can add these additional sources. Agree with PR's suggestion.

AR-5. If the AR is published, are the numerical data contained in the AR available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs and Word (.doc/.docx) files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the AR is not published or not produced, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

<https://cag.gov.in/content/report-no44-2017-financial-audit-accounts-union-government>

Comment:

Format is PDF only

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

AR-6a. If the AR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the AR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question AR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question AR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<https://cag.gov.in/content/report-no44-2017-financial-audit-accounts-union-government>

Comment:

The date of publication of the said document, using Javascript, was on December 19, 2017.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

AR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question AR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the AR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question AR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

AR-7. If the AR is produced, please write the full title of the AR.

For example, a title for the Audit Report could be "Annual General Reports of the Controller and Auditor General." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 2017-18, Union Government Accounts of the Union Government, No. 2 of 2019 (Financial Audit)

<https://cag.gov.in/content/report-no2-2019-accounts-union-government-financial-audit>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the AR?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/opening-budgets/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

<https://cag.gov.in/content/report-no44-2017-financial-audit-accounts-union-government>

Comment:

There is no such Citizens Version of Audit Reports as per OBS standard.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

GQ-1a. Are there one or more websites or web portals for disseminating government fiscal information? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation.

GQ-1a asks the researcher to list any government websites or portals where fiscal information can be found. For example, in New Zealand the Treasury website (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/>) hosts important budget-related information, including the Pre-Budget Statement, the Executive's Budget Proposal, the Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, the Mid-Year Review, and the Year-End Report. In addition, New Zealand's Parliamentary Counsel Office (<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>) posts the Enacted Budget while the Controller and Auditor-General website (<http://www.oag.govt.nz/>) publishes the annual Audit Report. The New Zealand researcher would provide the links to each of these sites. Other countries have developed portals that include fiscal information, though not in the "documents" format. For example, these portals have been created by Mexico (<https://www.transparenciapresupuestaria.gob.mx/>) and Brazil (<http://www.portaltransparencia.gov.br/>). Some countries have both a website and a portal.

The Brazilian government, for example, apart from the Transparency Portal, has a dedicated website for the federal budget, where all key documents and other information can be found (www.orcamentofederal.gov.br). Researchers should include details about all of the relevant websites and/or portals that they can be used to access budget information.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/budget.asp>

<https://cag.gov.in/>

<https://dea.gov.in/>

<http://www.cga.nic.in/index.aspx>

<https://loksabha.nic.in/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

GQ-1b. On these websites/portals, can revenue and/or expenditure data for the current fiscal year be downloaded as a consolidated file (or set of files)? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation.

GQ-1b, GQ-1c, and GQ-1d ask about whether governments publish specific types of content on their websites/portals: (a) consolidated files that contain revenue and/or expenditure information for the current fiscal year; (b) consolidated files that contain revenue and/or expenditure information for multiple years in consistent formats; and (c) infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis. Researchers should provide the links to relevant webpages and some explanations of what they contain.

Answer:

a. Yes, both revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded as a consolidated file

Source:

Yes, both the expenditure and revenue data can be downloaded as a set of files.

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/budget.asp>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/afs.asp>

Comment:

The consolidated revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded for multiple years and in consistent formats. These files are in PDF and Excel. The link of these files added into the source box.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

GQ-1c. On these websites/portals, can consolidated revenue and/or expenditure data be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation.

Answer:

a. Yes, both revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/index.asp>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/afs.asp>

Comment:

The consolidated revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded for multiple years and in consistent formats. These files are in PDF and Excel. The link of these files added into the source box.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: We can also prepare a consistent time series data base from these documents. Weblink is as follows:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/previousub.asp>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

GQ-1d. On these websites/portals, are infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://mofapp.nic.in/budgetmicrosite/index.html>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

GQ-2. Are there laws in place guiding public financial management and/or auditing? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where the law(s) contains specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

GQ-2 asks about the existence of any national laws governing public financial management and auditing. These may include a public finance act, a section of the constitution, or an organic budget law. In some countries, fiscal responsibility legislation may also be relevant. For example, the Kenya researcher may include the link to its Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (<http://www.kenyalaw.org/lex/actview.xhtml?actid=No.%2018%20of%202012>), and the Macedonian researcher may include a link to its State Audit Law (<https://www.finance.gov.mk/files/u11/Audit%20law.pdf>). Researchers should provide links to websites where such laws are published, if possible, or an electronic copy of the law itself. They should also indicate if and where (e.g. which article) these laws include specific provisions for budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND BUDGET MANAGEMENT ACT, 2003 (Act No. 39 of 2003)

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/FRBM%20Act%202003%20and%20FRBM%20Rules%202004.pdf>

Constitutional Provisions relating to Role and Responsibility of the CAG of India.

<https://cag.gov.in/content/constitutional-provisions>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

GQ-3. Are there additional laws regulating: (1) access to information; (2) government transparency; or (3) citizens participation? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where these laws contain specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

The third and last question asks researchers to list any additional laws regulating access to information, transparency, or citizens' participation that are relevant for the promotion of budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes. These might include legislation related to access to information, to planning processes, or to public administration more generally. India's Right to Information Act of 2005 (<https://www.ncess.gov.in/facilities/central-public-information-officer/rti-act-details.html>) is an example of this type of law. More information on access to information legislation (constitutional provisions, laws, and regulations), including examples of model laws, can be found here: <http://www.right2info.org/laws/constitutional-provisions-laws-and-regulations#section-1>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005 No. 22 of 2005 [<https://rti.gov.in/rti-act.pdf>]

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

1. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 1 addresses the presentation of expenditure by administrative unit. This information indicates which government entity (ministry, department, or agency, or MDAs) will be responsible for spending the funds and, ultimately, held accountable for their use.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all administrative units, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the administrative units shown individually, in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation, must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. In other words, the sum of the expenditures assigned to the individual MDAs (education, health, infrastructure, interior, defense, etc.) must account for at least two-thirds of the total expenditure budgeted for that particular year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents administrative units that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by administrative unit.

Answer:

a. Yes, administrative units accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:

See "Expenditures of Ministries and Departments which presents 2018-19 expenditures estimates for all 99 ministries and their administrations: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/stat3a.pdf>

Comment:

Expenditure Budget, Volume II: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/vol2.asp>
Volume II presents the budgets for all ministries and their departments.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Both the Expenditure Budget Vol. I & II present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by administrative unit. In Expenditure Budget Vol. II, along with the administrative unit-wise data, programme level data of the administrative unit are also available.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

2. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by functional classification?

GUIDELINES:

Question 2 addresses the presentation of expenditure by functional classification. This classification indicates the programmatic purpose, sector, or objective for which the funds will be used, such as health, education, or defense. Administrative units are not necessarily aligned with functional classifications. For instance, in one country all functions connected with water supply (which fall into the "Housing" function) may be undertaken by a single government agency, while in another country they may be distributed across the Ministries of Environment, Housing, and Industrial Development. In the latter case, three ministries have programs addressing water supply, so three ministries contribute to one function. Similarly, some administrative units may conduct activities that cut across more than one function. For instance, in the example above, some programs of the Ministry of Environment would also be classified in the "environmental protection" function.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by functional classification.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by functional classification.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

Comment:

Functional classification of Expenditures is available
Pages 1-10

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Apart from the EBP, since 1967-68 the government has presented economic-cum-functional classification of budget with one year lag, i.e. a year after the budget proposal. These documents are available in website of the Ministry of Finance. But, this document is not a part of the EBP.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

3. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by functional classification, is the functional classification compatible with international standards?

GUIDELINES:

Question 3 asks whether a country's functional classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's functional classification must be aligned with the OECD and the UN's Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG), or provide a cross-walk between the national functional presentation and COFOG.

The OECD Best Practices for Budget Transparency can be viewed at <http://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/Best%20Practices%20Budget%20Transparency%20-%20complete%20with%20cover%20page.pdf>

COFOG can be viewed at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_84E.pdf or at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/ch6ann.pdf>.

Answer:

b. No, the functional classification is not compatible with international standards, or expenditures are not presented by functional classification.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

Comment:

Functional Classification of Expenditure is available but not compatible as per OECD best practices.

The classification includes: Grants-in-Aid and Contributions. It does not include Social Protection.

A 2010 PEFA report says the classification is mostly aligned with COFOG, however some categories are not aligned (<https://pefa.org/sites/default/files/assessments/comments/IN-Mar10-PFMPR-Public.pdf>)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

4. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by economic classification?

GUIDELINES:

Question 4 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification. Economic classification provides information on the nature of the expenditure, such as whether funds are being used to pay for wages and salaries, capital projects, or social assistance benefits.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification.

Answer:

b. No, expenditures are not presented by economic classification.

Source:

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Economic%20Classification2016-2017.pdf> (Published only in July 2018, not available for EBP 2018-2019)

See all available documents: <https://dea.gov.in/central-government-budget>

Comment:

Government of India has been presenting economic-cum-functional classification of budget with one year lag, and hence can not be considered for the purpose here.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree with the researcher. Although economic-cum-functional classification of budget is available, it is not part of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

5. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by economic classification, is the economic classification compatible with international standards?

GUIDELINES:

Question 5 asks whether a country's economic classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's economic classification must be consistent with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 2001 Government Finance Statistics (GFS). The GFS economic classification is presented here: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>. To learn more about Government Finance Statistics also refer to the entire IMF 2001 GFS manual (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf>).

Answer:

b. No, the economic classification is not compatible with international standards, or expenditures are not presented by economic classification.

Source:

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Economic%20Classification2016-2017.pdf> - Not available for EBP 2018-2019

Comment:

Government of India has been presenting economic-cum-functional classification of budget with one year lag, and hence can not be considered for the purpose here.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

6. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 6 asks whether expenditures are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should treat the term "program" as meaning any level of detail below an administrative unit – that is, any programmatic grouping that is below the ministry, department, or agency level. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Budget decisions for the upcoming year can also affect the parameters of future budgets. It is therefore useful to estimate revenues and expenditures for multi-year periods, understanding that these estimates might be revised as circumstances change. Sometimes referred to as a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), a three-year period – that is, the budget year plus two more years – is generally considered an appropriate horizon for budgeting and planning.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/vol2.asp>;
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/stat14.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, the Executive's Budget Proposal presents expenditures for individual programmes for the budget year 2018-19. The programme level expenditure details are presented in Demands for Grants.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Very detailed information are available in Expenditure Budget, Vol II (the first reference cited by the researcher).

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

7. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 7 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," multi-year expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

d. No, multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any expenditure classification.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm2.pdf>

Comment:

India does not follow a multi-year budgeting practice in reporting any of the expenditure classifications required as per the international standards.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Multi-year budgeting is not practiced in India. However, for some aggregate Fiscal Indicators, annual rolling targets are set for multi year (<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm2.pdf>). This document is produced to fulfill the norms of the Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management Act 2003 and made public with the EBP. Very limited information on expenditure estimates are available for two years beyond the current FY 2018-19. This document gives estimates for 2019-20 and 2020-21 for some major expenditure heads like subsidy, pensions, defence, interest payments, etc. But, as these multi-year estimates do not follow any of the classifications, the answer should be kept unchanged. I agree with the researcher.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

7b. Based on the response to Question 7, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for a multi-year period in the Executive's Budget Proposal?

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm2.pdf>

Comment:

None of the classifications are reported in multi-year framework.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

8. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by program?

GUIDELINES:

Question 8 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures over the multi-year period. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if multi-year estimates are not presented by program.

Revenues generally are separated into two major categories: "tax" and "non-tax" revenues. Taxes are compulsory transfers that result from government exercising its sovereign power. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes. The category of non-tax revenues is more diverse, ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services. Note that some forms of revenue, such as contributions to social security funds, can be considered either a tax or non-tax revenue depending on the nature of the approach to these contributions. Particularly because different revenues have different characteristics, including who bears the burden of paying the tax and how collections are affected by economic conditions, it is helpful when estimates for revenues are disaggregated and displayed based on their sources.

For more information, please refer to the 2001 GFS manual, in particular Appendix 4 (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>).

Answer:

d. No, multi-year estimates for programs are not presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm2.pdf>

Comment:

India does not follow a multi-year budgeting practice.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

9. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 9 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of tax revenue accounting for all tax revenue are presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/afs1.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/tr.pdf>

Comment:

Annual Financial Statement and Receipt Budget-Tax Revenue gives in detail the amount from different types of taxes.

Although there are a couple categories of 'other' taxes (Other Taxes on Income and Expenditure, Other Taxes and Duties on Commodities and Services), these do not have any estimated revenues, therefore there all estimated tax revenue is attributed to an individual source.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Source-wise detailed information are available in the cited document.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

10. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of government-produced goods and services) for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 10 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "non-tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The category of non-tax revenues is diverse, and can include revenue ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of non-tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all non-tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of non-tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all non-tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of non-tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of non-tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of non-tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of non-tax revenue accounting for all non-tax revenue are presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/afs1.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/ntr.pdf>

Comment:

Individual sources of non-tax revenue for the Financial Year 2018-19 is available. Information is provided with enough disaggregation to count as an A score with no broad 'other categories'.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

11. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 11 evaluates whether revenue estimates are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year) by "category," that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of revenues classified by category for at least two years following the budget year in question.

Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year estimates of revenue are presented by category.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm2.pdf>

Comment:

Multi year period revenue estimates are presented (p. 11-12, Para 33-34).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

12. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates for individual sources of revenue presented for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 12 evaluates whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented for a multi-year period.

Answer:

d. No, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue are not presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm2.pdf>

Comment:

Multi-year estimates of individual sources of revenue is not presented in any of the EBPs.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Multi-year revenue estimate is available for aggregate level. But, no individual source-wise information is available.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

13. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 13 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt that the budget should include:

· the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;

- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies no information on borrowing and debt is presented for the budget year.

Answer:

a. Yes, all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag6.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag5.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/afs2.pdf>

Comment:

Details of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year are available.

Interest payments on debt for the budget year - p.1 of <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag6.pdf> and p. 4 (first PDF page) of <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/afs2.pdf>

Deficit and Net New Borrowing - p. 1 <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag2.pdf>

Total debt burden - <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/annex9.pdf> and <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf> p. 51

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

13b. Based on the response to Question 13, check the box(es) below to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year

The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year

The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag6.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag5.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/afs2.pdf>

Comment:

All these estimates are available.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

14. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the composition of the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year?"

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 14 focuses on the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 13, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens, banks, and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding at the end of the budget year.

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the composition of the total debt outstanding.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

Comment:

Details of the information related to the composition of the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year.

See p. 9 of <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf> shows broad categories of the types of loans, including foreign and domestic

See <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

p. 51-52 - Domestic vs Foreign debt

p. 58-62 - Maturity profile and Interest Rates for Rupee-denominated debt, including whether the rates are fixed or floating

p. 68-70 - Information on foreign debt, excluding interest rates on individual loans, or maturity dates, however since foreign loans account for less than 3% of total debt this can remain an A score.

More information on foreign debt is here: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/stat19.pdf>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

14b. Based on the response to Question 14, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the composition of the total debt outstanding are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Interest rates on the debt
Maturity profile of the debt
Whether the debt is domestic or external
Information beyond the core elements (please specify)

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

Comment:

Detail of current Rupee Loans of the Central Government, Debt Position of the Government of India, External Assistance-Receipts and Repayments-country/organisation wise in available in the Receipt Budget document. Information on interest payment is available in Annual Financial Statement.

Beyond the core information: Whether the rate is fixed or floating

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

15. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?"

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 15 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the budget's revenue and expenditure estimates, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

- nominal GDP level;
- inflation rate;
- real GDP growth; and
- interest rates.

While the core macroeconomic information should be a standard feature of the Executive's Budget Proposal, the importance of some types of macroeconomic assumptions may vary from country to country. For example, the budget estimates of some countries are particularly affected by changes in the price of oil and other commodities.

Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short and long-term interest rates; rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm1.pdf>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm2.pdf>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm3.pdf>

Comment:

The Macroeconomic Framework Statement, the Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement and Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement are part of Union Budget documents. They do include some but not all core elements for the macroeconomic forecast on which the budget is based.

"Macroeconomic Framework Statement" presents historical figures for 2017-2018, no projections for the budget year.

"Medium Term fiscal framework statement", p. 8 presents estimates of current year real GDP growth and nominal GDP and GDP deflator in addition to the core.

"Fiscal Policy strategy statement" p. 26 (Para 51) presents information on interest rates but no projections for budget year. In addition, there is some mention of inflation.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Comments: Based on the information available in the documents cited by the researcher, "b" should be the appropriate answer.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

Disagree with the PR's response and revising the score upward. Two core elements such as Interest rates and real GDP growth are not mentioned in the cited documents and hence the appropriate answer choice to this question would be 'C'.

15b. Based on the response to Question 15, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Nominal GDP level

Real GDP growth

Information beyond the core elements (please specify)

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm1.pdf>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm3.pdf>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm2.pdf>

Comment:

There is only information pertaining to Nominal GDP and Real GDP growth. There is also some information beyond the core, such as the GDP deflator.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

16. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions (i.e., sensitivity analysis) on the budget?"

(The core information must include estimates of the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for the inflation rate, real GDP

growth, and interest rates.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 16 focuses on the issue of whether the Executive's Budget Proposal shows how different macroeconomic assumptions affect the budget estimates (known as a "sensitivity analysis"). It asks whether "core" information related to a sensitivity analysis is presented, estimating the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for:

- inflation rate;
- real GDP growth; and
- interest rates.

A sensitivity analysis shows the effect on the budget of possible changes in some macroeconomic assumptions, and is important for understanding the impact of the economy on the budget; for instance, what would happen to revenue collections if GDP growth were slower than what is assumed in the budget proposal? Or what would happen to expenditure if inflation were higher than estimated? Or how will revenue be affected by a decrease in the price of oil?

As noted for Question 15, changes in certain macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil and other commodities, can have a significant impact on the budget estimates. As a result, some sensitivity analyses may also examine the impact on the budget estimates of changes in assumptions such as the price of oil that are beyond the core elements of the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to a "sensitivity analysis" as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to a "sensitivity analysis" is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on "sensitivity analysis" is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to different macroeconomic assumptions is not presented.

Source:

Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement and Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement:
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm2.pdf>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm3.pdf>

These documents have some discussion of risks but no sensitivity analysis

Comment:

No information of macroeconomic assumptions presented.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: These documents give some information on the macroeconomic assumptions. But the information are not presented systematically and lacks important details and there is no sensitivity analysis.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

17. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.

Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.

Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how some but not all new policy proposals affect expenditure is presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bs/bs.pdf>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/allsbpe.pdf>

Comment:

The information on new policy proposals are presented in the budget documents to some extent, but these are not very explicitly stated. From the speech of the Finance Minister and some other documents such as Expenditure Budget, it is easier to locate such policy announcements, but these are in scattered form across the cited documents.

For e.g., see page 6 (23) where the Minister of Finance proposes doubling the investments in food processing sector to further boost growth. Similarly, (25) proposes expenditure allocations for "operation Greens" to promote Farmers Producers Organizations". There is discussion on p.11 (59) about the launch of National Health Protection Scheme, but an exact expenditure amount is not discussed for these scheme.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

18. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.

Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.

Prior-year information constitutes an important benchmark for assessing the proposals for the upcoming budget year. Estimates of prior years should be presented in the same formats (in terms of classification) as the budget year to ensure that year-to-year comparisons are meaningful. For example, if the budget proposes shifting responsibility for a particular program from one administrative unit to another – such as shifting responsibility for the training of nurses from the health department to the education department – the prior-year figures must be adjusted before year-to-year comparisons of administrative budgets can be made.

Typically, when the budget proposal is submitted, the year prior to the budget year (BY-1), also known as the current year, has not ended, so the executive will provide estimates of the anticipated outcome for BY-1. The soundness of these estimates is directly related to the degree to which they have been updated to reflect actual expenditures to date, legislative changes that have occurred, and anticipated changes in macroeconomic, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

The first year that can reflect actual outcomes, therefore, is generally two years before the budget year (BY-2). Thus the OECD recommends that data covering at least two years before the budget year (along with two years of projections beyond the budget year) are provided in order to assess fully the trends in the budget.

Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how some but not all new policy proposals affect revenues are presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bs/bs.pdf>

Comment:

Some of the possible impacts on revenue mobilisation presents in the budget documents, but not all.

For e.g., Section III on Fiscal Management (p24-25) discusses the ongoing GST reforms and adopting the recommendations of Fiscal reform and

budget management committee to reduce debt.

Part B (p27 onwards) discusses tax proposals, for e.g., (150) discusses increasing the corporate tax benefits to a higher revenue cap and an estimate of the revenue forgone.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

19. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 19 asks if expenditure estimates for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) are presented by one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-1 by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-1 must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

b. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

Demands for Grants of Central Government, 2018-19 available at: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/alldg.pdf>

Expenditure Budget available at: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/allsbe.pdf>

Functional classification: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf> (p. 4-10)

Comment:

These above cited documents presents expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) by only two types of expenditure classifications (administrative and functional classification), not by economic classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

20. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 20 asks if expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-1. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-1. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-1.

Source:

Demands for Grants of Central Government, 2018-19 available at: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/alldg.pdf>

Expenditure Budget available at: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/allsbef.pdf>

Comment:

The above cited documents presents expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

21. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have expenditure estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect actual expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 21 asks whether the expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) have been updated from the original enacted levels. Updates can reflect actual experience to date; revised estimates due to shifting of funds by the executive, as permitted under the law; enactment of supplemental budgets; and revised assumptions regarding macroeconomic conditions, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

Answer "a" applies if the estimates have been updated; answer "b" applies if the original estimates are still being used.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/allsbef.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/alldg.pdf>

Comment:

The updated expenditure for the previous year (BY-1) are reported as Revised Estimates in the above cited document.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

22. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 22 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit

indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by any of the three classifications

Answer:

b. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

Administrative Classification:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/alldg.pdf>

Functional classification: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf> (p. 4-10)

Comment:

In the above cited documents, expenditure estimates for BY-2 are presented for administrative and functional classification of expenditure and no economic classification of expenditure is available.

Expenditure information includes prior year information as follows:

Estimates for FY 2017-2018

Revised Estimates for FY 2017-2018

Actuals for FY 2016-2017 (which is BY-2)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

22b. Based on the response to Question 22, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year in the Executive Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Functional classification

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/allsb.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

23. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for more than one year preceding the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 23 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year before the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-2 and prior years. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-2 and prior years. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/alldg.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/allsbe.pdf>

Comment:

Programs are presented by Estimates for FY 2017-2018, Revised Estimates for FY 2017-2018, and Actuals for FY 2016-2017 (which is BY-2).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

24. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all expenditures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 24 asks for which year the actual outcomes for expenditures are shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated all its expenditure data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/alldg.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/allsbe.pdf>

Comment:

Actual expenditure for the year BY-2 (Actuals for FY 2016-2017) is presented for different programmes in the above cited documents.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

25. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 are presented by category.

Source:

Revenues, including tax and non-tax categories: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/afs1.pdf> (p 1-3, 7)
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf> (p.1)

All revenue information in the above documents include BY-1 figures as follows:

Budget 2017-2018
Revised 2017-2018

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

26. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-1.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf> - Individual sources for both Tax and Non-Tax

All revenue information in the above documents include BY-1 figures as follows:

Budget 2017-2018
Revised 2017-2018

Comment:

Information is provided with enough disaggregation to count as an A score with no broad 'other categories'.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

27. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have the original estimates of revenue for the year prior to the budget year

(BY-1) been updated to reflect actual revenue collections?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

Comment:

All revenue information in the above documents include BY-1 figures as follows:
Budget 2017-2018
Revised 2017-2018

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

28. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by category.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf> p. 1
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf> p. 1-3, 7

Comment:

Revenue information includes prior year information as follows:
Estimates for FY 2017-2018
Revised Estimates for FY 2017-2018
Actuals for FY 2016-2017 (which is BY-2)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

29. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all sources are presented for BY-2 in these cited documents.

Information is provided with enough disaggregation to count as an A score with no broad 'other categories'.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

30. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all revenues reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

Comment:

In these EBPs information on actual revenues collected for BY-2 (Actuals for FY 2016-2017) is available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

31. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?"

(The core information must include the total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1; the amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1; interest payments on the debt; interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 31 focuses on prior-year debt information, rather than on prior-year expenditures or revenues, asking whether "core" information is provided on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1).

The "core" information includes:

- *total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1;*
- *amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1;*
- *interest payments on the debt;*

- interest rates on the debt instruments;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether it is domestic or external debt.

This core information for BY-1 is consistent with the budget year information for borrowing and debt, which is examined in Questions 13 and 14.

In addition, some governments provide information beyond the core elements, such as gross new borrowing required during BY-1; currency of the debt; whether the debt carries a fixed or variable interest rate; whether it is callable; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for BY-1 as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on government borrowing and debt for BY-1.

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for government debt.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

Comment:

All related information for BY-1 about the government's borrowing and debt is provided in a detailed manner in the Receipt Budget document.

For all documents, the 'Budget Estimates' and 'Revised Estimates for FY 2017-2018 (BY-1) is reported for:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf> p. 51 – Total debt outstanding, including foreign and domestic debt, and p. 58-62 - Maturity profile and Interest Rates for domestic debt (but not external debt, which is reported in aggregate on p. 68-70)

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/afs2.pdf> p. 4 – Interest payments on debt

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag2.pdf> p. 1 – Deficit and net new borrowing

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

32. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 32 asks for which year the actual outcome for debt is shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated its debt data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

It is essential that all government activities that may have an impact on the budget – in the current budget year or in future budget years – be fully disclosed to the legislature and the public in budget documents. In some countries, for instance, entities outside central government (such as public corporations) undertake fiscal activities that could affect current and future budgets. Similarly, activities that can have a significant impact on the budget, such as payment arrears and contingent liabilities, sometimes are not properly captured by the regular presentations of expenditure, revenue, and debt.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

Comment:

For all documents, 'Actual Accounts' for FY 2016-2017 (BY-2) is reported for:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf> p. 51 – Total debt outstanding, including foreign and domestic debt, and p. 58-62 - Maturity profile and Interest Rates for domestic debt (but not external debt, which is reported in aggregate on p. 68-70)
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/afs2.pdf> p. 4 – Interest payments on debt
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag2.pdf> p. 1 – Deficit and net new borrowing

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

33. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on extra-budgetary funds for at least the budget year? (The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund; and complete income, expenditure, and financing data on a gross basis.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 33 focuses on extra-budgetary funds, asking whether "core" information related to these funds, which exist outside the budget, are presented. These core components include:

- *a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund (i.e., why was a particular fund set up? what is it used for?); and*
- *estimates of its income, expenditure, and financing. (These estimates should be presented on a gross basis so that it is possible to tell how much money flows through each extra-budgetary fund.)*

In most countries, governments engage in certain budgetary activities that are not included in the central government's budget. Known as extra-budgetary funds, they can range in size and scope. For example, countries frequently set up pension and social security programs as extra-budgetary funds, where the revenues collected and the benefits paid are recorded in a separate fund outside the budget. Another example of an extra-budgetary fund can be found in countries dependent on hydrocarbon/mineral resources, where revenues from producing and selling those resources are channeled through systems outside the annual budget.

In some cases, the separation engendered by an extra-budgetary fund serves a legitimate political purpose, and the finances and activities of these funds are well documented. In other cases, however, this structure is used for obfuscation, and little or nothing is known about a fund's finances and activities.

The availability of information related to extra-budgetary funds is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the government's true fiscal position. In addition to the core information, other information about extra-budgetary funds is also desirable. Such information includes a discussion of the risks associated with the extra-budgetary fund; expenditures classified by economic, functional, or administrative unit; and the rules and procedures that govern the operations and management of the extra-budgetary fund.

For more information about extra-budgetary funds, see the Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 2.1.1 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to extra-budgetary funds as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. A "b" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation presents all of the core information. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to extra-budgetary funds is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on extra-budgetary funds.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some extra-budgetary funds.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

Comment:

It is available in the form of external assistance, but details are excluded.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all extra-budgetary funds.

Comments: Various Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) make most of the capital investments in India and for financing this capital expenditure and internal and extra-budgetary resources (IEBR) plays a major role for that. Sometime a small amount of budgetary support is given to these CPSUs for the capital investments. But, major portion of the resources are mobilised by the CPSUs themselves. Internal resources of CPSUs cover retained profits and depreciation; and extra budgetary resources include borrowings of CPSUs through debentures, bonds, external commercial borrowings, suppliers' credit, deposit receipts and term loans from financial institutions. This is an off-budget component and hence does not form a part of the fiscal deficit calculation nor does it get added to the debt of the government as it pertains to independent PSUs which have their balance sheets and Profit & Loss statements. In the Expenditure Budget of the Union Government, under each ministry, both the budget support and IEBR are reported. For clarification, please have a look at the demand for the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe81.pdf> In this demand, there is a budget head "C. Investment in Public Enterprises". Under this head, for the capital investment of the National Highway Authority of India, in 2018-19, there is a budget support of Rs. 29663.13 Crore. This is part of the EBP. However, the IEBR components of Rs. 62000.00 Crore is extra budgetary resources and not part of the EBP. Similarly, under individual demand of each ministry, under the budget head "C. Investment in Public Enterprises", IEBR of the respective CPSUs are reported. IEBR of Road Transport, Railways, etc. are large amounts. Railway Budget which was earlier extra budgetary fund, now it is merged with the main budget and part of EBP. Apart from those, Extra budgetary funds includes National Small Savings Fund, Prime Minister's Relief Fund, which are also reported in the EBP. So, given the detailed information, I think the answer should be "b".

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

We disagree with the reviewers comments. Although, different ministries do report extra budgetary resources in their respective demands, all details pertaining to them are not made available in public domain, for example, the statement of purpose for those heads or the expenditures classified by economic, functional, or administrative unit, etc. are not mentioned. Hence, we feel, the answer option should be "c" as not all core information are being presented.

IBP Comment

The researcher's response is confirmed. Without an explanation of the policy purpose and rationale of the EBFs, this question scores a C.

34. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 34 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documents present the finances of the central government on a consolidated basis, showing both its budgetary and extra-budgetary activities. Virtually all of the questions in the OBS questionnaire focus on budgetary central government – the activities of the ministries, departments, or agencies of central government. In addition, Question 33 asks about extra-budgetary funds, such as social security funds that are not included in the budget.

Coverage is an important aspect of fiscal reporting. Budget documents should cover the full scope of government's financial activity. In many countries, extra-budgetary activities are substantial, and can represent a sizable share of the central government's activities. To get a full picture of the central government's finances, therefore, it is necessary to examine both activities that are included in the budget and those that are extra-budgetary. This question asks whether such a consolidated presentation of central government finances is provided.

The central government is only one component of the overall public sector. The public sector also includes other levels of government, such as state and local government, and public corporations. (See Box 2.1 under Principle 1.1.1 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018): <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) For the purpose of answering this question, please consider only the central government level.

In order to answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year.

Answer:

a. Yes, central government finances are presented on a consolidated basis.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/alldg.pdf>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

Comment:

Some information is available and again is not in a consolidated manner.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, central government finances are presented on a consolidated basis.

Comments: Central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis are available in the Expenditure Budget Vol. I. Please have a look at the page no 3 of the document (<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/vol1.pdf>). Under the Head- " 9. Total Expenditure through Budget (1+5)", total budget of the Union Government in 2018-19 is reported as Rs. 2442213.30 crore. This is part of EBP. However, under " 10. Resources of Public Enterprises" the IEBR reported as Rs. 478271.07 crore. The consolidated amount (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) - " 11. Total Expenditure through Budget and Resources of Public Enterprises (9+10)" is 2920484.37 crore. So, the document shows the consolidated amount is not only for the budget year, but also for the previous years. So, the answer should be "a".

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

We agree with the reviewer's comments in this question. The suitable answer option is "A"

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's and researcher's responses are confirmed. In addition to a consolidated statement showing public enterprises, the budget documents also include the extra-budgetary resources (IEBR) and expenditures as part of the Demand for Grants. See response to Q33. The answer is revised from B to A.

35. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of intergovernmental transfers for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 35 asks about intergovernmental transfers. In many cases, the central government supports the provision of a good or service by a lower level of government through an intergovernmental transfer of funds. This is necessary because, independent from the level of administrative decentralization that exists in a given country, the capacity for revenue collection of a local government is unlikely to be sufficient to pay for all its expenses. However, because the activity is not being undertaken by an administrative unit of the central government, it is unlikely to receive the same level of review in the budget. Thus it is important to include in the budget proposal a statement that explicitly indicates the amount and purposes of these transfers.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all intergovernmental transfers and a narrative discussing these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all intergovernmental transfers are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, intergovernmental transfers (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of intergovernmental transfers are presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of all intergovernmental transfers are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

There are additional specific transfer statements:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/stat5.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/stat11.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/stat18.pdf>

Comment:

All information pertaining to intergovernmental transfers are available, but no narrative.

See annex 4 in the cited report, p. 23-25 (<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: We can add another reference, which contains the inter-governmental transfers in a consolidated manner. Available on:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag3.pdf> A lot of information are available. But, no narrative in the budget document.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

Yes, as suggested by PR, we can add the link into the source: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag3.pdf>

36. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present alternative displays of expenditures (such as by gender, by age, by income, or by region) to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 36 asks about "alternative displays" of expenditures that highlight the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens. As discussed above, expenditures are typically presented by at least one of three classifications – administrative, functional, and economic classifications (see Questions 1-5) – and by individual program (Question 6). In addition, governments can provide alternative displays to emphasize different aspects of expenditure policies and to show who benefits from these expenditures.

For the purpose of answering this question, the alternative presentation must differ from the presentations (such as administrative, functional, or economic classifications or presentation by program) used to answer other questions. The alternative display can cover all expenditures or only a portion of expenditures. For instance, it can show how all expenditures are distributed according to geographic region or it can show how selected expenditures (such as the health budget or the agriculture budget) are distributed to different regions. But such a geographic display must be something different than the presentation of intergovernmental transfers used to answer question 35. One exception is when a country includes a special presentation of all policies intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (and is used to answer Question 52) then that can be considered an alternative display for purposes of answering this question as well. Finally, brief fact sheets showing how proposals in the budget benefit particular groups would be insufficient; only more detailed presentations would be considered.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?"

(<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of the importance of alternative displays of budget information and provides a number of examples. For instance,

- Bangladesh in its 2017-18 Budget included a detailed supplementary Gender Budgeting Report, which presents the spending dedicated to advancing women across various departments. (<https://mof.portal.gov.bd/site/page/3bb14732-b5b1-44df-9921-efedf1496295>).
- The UK's 2017 budget included a supplementary analysis that provided a distributional analysis of the budget by households in different income groups (see https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661465/distributional_analysis_autumn_budget_2017.pdf)
- South Africa's 2017 Budget Review goes beyond the standard presentation of intergovernmental transfers, discussing the redistribution that results from national revenue flowing to the provinces and municipalities and presenting the allocations on a per capita basis (see chapter 6, <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2017/review/FullBR.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least three different presentations that illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least two different alternative displays of expenditures. A "c" applies if only one type of alternative display of expenditure is presented. Answer "d" applies if no alternative display of expenditure is presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, at least three alternative displays of expenditures are presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/vol1.pdf>

Comment:

Such classifications of expenditure available for the Union Budget of India:

Expenditure for Children p. 118-121

Gender Budget, p. 122-133

Scheduled Castes, p. 78-94

Scheduled Tribes, p. 95-114

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

36b. Based on the response to Question 36, select the box(es) below to identify which types of alternative displays are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:
Policy impacts based on gender
Policy impacts based on age
Other displays of expenditure (please specify)

Source:
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/vol1.pdf>

Comment:
Statements of allocations based on the caste and community of population like Dalits (Scheduled Castes) and Tribals (Scheduled Tribes).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

37. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of transfers to public corporations for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 37 asks about transfers to public corporations. It is often the case that governments have a stake in enterprises that manage resources that are particularly relevant for the public good (such as electricity, water, and oil). While these public corporations can operate independently, in some cases the government will provide direct support by making transfers to these corporations, including to subsidize capital investment and operating expenses.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all transfers to public corporations and a narrative discussing the purposes of these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all transfers to public corporations are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, transfers to public corporations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented.

Answer:
b. Yes, estimates of all transfers to public corporations are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/vol1.pdf>

Comment:
See statements 25 and 26, but details of such information with narrative discussions is not available.

Specifically, in Statement 26 (p. 237-242) that there are details of budget support to each corporation, which are transfers.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

38. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity and the intended beneficiaries.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 38 focuses on quasi-fiscal activities, asking whether "core" information related to such activities is presented. These core components include:

- *A statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity (i.e., what is the reason for engaging in this activity?);*
- *The identification of intended beneficiaries of the quasi-fiscal activity.*

The term “quasi-fiscal activities” refers to a broad range of activities that are fiscal in character and could be carried out through the regular budget process but are not. For example, a quasi-fiscal activity could take place if, instead of providing a direct subsidy through the budget for a particular activity, a public financial institution provides an indirect subsidy by offering loans at below-market rates for that activity. Similarly, it is a quasi-fiscal activity when an enterprise provides goods or services at prices below commercial rates to certain individuals or groups to support the government’s policy goals.

The above examples are policy choices that may be approved by the government and legislature. However, quasi-fiscal activities can also involve activities that violate or circumvent a country’s budget process laws or are not subject to the regular legislative approval process for expenditures. For example, the executive may issue an informal order to a government entity, such as a public commercial enterprise, to provide the executive with goods and services that normally would have to be purchased with funding authorized by the legislature. All quasi-fiscal activities should be disclosed to the public and subject to public scrutiny.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about quasi-fiscal activities, including for example: the anticipated duration of the quasi-fiscal activity; a quantification of the activity and the assumptions that support these estimates; and a discussion of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the activity, including the impact on the entity carrying out the activity. Principle 3.3.2 of the IMF’s Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) provides examples of quasi-fiscal activities that can be consulted as needed. And more details on quasi-fiscal activities can be found in the Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer “a,” the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to all quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer “b,” the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer “b” is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A “c” answer applies if some information related to quasi-fiscal activities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer “d” applies if no information is presented on quasi-fiscal activities.

If quasi-fiscal activities do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark “e.” However, please exercise caution in answering this question.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some quasi-fiscal activities.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/vol1.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

Comment:

Policy rationale for the quasi-federal activities or the beneficiaries are not exclusively presented in these budget documents.

Some information is presented, however:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf> p. 61 shows 'special securities' issued to public corporations in lieu of cash transfers, which appear to be for quasi-fiscal activities. The information is limited, therefore the score is C.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all quasi-fiscal activities.

Comments: A number of quasi-fiscal activities are undertaken in the year by government financial institutions and these are reflected in the budget documents explicitly. Please see the demand of Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Expenditure Budget (Vol. II) 2018-19 <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe31.pdf> The fiscal transfers to financial institutions for specified quasi-fiscal activities are captured in this. In this document, the details about the quasi-fiscal activities like “Subsidy to National Housing Bank for Interest Subvention on Housing Loans”, “Interest Subsidy to LIC for Pension Plan for Senior Citizens”, “Government contribution to subscribers of Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY)”, etc. are available. These types of quasi-fiscal activities are also mentioned few other ministries as well.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

We do not agree with the reviewer’s comments in this question. We feel the correct option should be “c” since information is limited.

IBP Comment

The researcher’s response is confirmed. The activities mentioned by the peer reviewer seem to be fiscal activities, such as transfers and subsidies, as opposed to quasi-fiscal activities undertaken by public entities and SOEs.

39. Does the Executive’s Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on financial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets, and an estimate of their value.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 39 focuses on financial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. These core components include:

- A listing of the financial assets; and
- An estimate of their value.

Governments own financial assets such as cash, bonds, or equities. Unlike private sector businesses, however, few governments maintain balance sheets that show the value of their assets and liabilities.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about financial assets, including for example: a discussion of their purpose; historical information on defaults; differences between reported values and market values; and a summary of financial assets as part of the government's balance sheet.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to all financial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to financial assets is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on financial assets held by the government.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some financial assets.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

Comment:

Some core elements of financial assets held is missing.

p53 provides a listing of financial assets for Budget year 2018-19. p57 provides a value estimation for financial assets upto BY-2 (2016-17). In addition, the document notes that financial assets for certain administrations are not disclosed as per FRBM rules.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all financial assets.

Comments: As per the information available in the document, "b" should be the appropriate answer.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

We disagree with the reviewer's comments on this. In the notes of Page 57 in the document, it has been mentioned that "This disclosure statement does not include assets of Cabinet Secretariat, Central Police Organisations, Ministry of Defence, Departments of Space and Atomic Energy as stipulated in the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Rules." Hence, we think, not all core information on financial assets have been presented.

IBP Comment

During an IBP review, the score for this question is confirmed as a C. Even though the information provided on p. 57 is for BY-2 (2016-2017) and therefore cannot be counted for this question, on p. 53 there is a record of cash balances that includes an estimate for the FY (2018-2019). This qualifies as a C score.

40. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on nonfinancial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets by category.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 40 focuses on nonfinancial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. The core information is a listing of nonfinancial assets, grouped by the type (or category) of asset.

Nonfinancial assets are things of value that the government owns or controls (excluding financial assets) such as land, buildings, and machinery. The valuation of public nonfinancial assets can be problematic, particularly in cases where the asset is not typically available on the open market (such as a government monument). In these cases, it is considered acceptable to provide summary information in budget documents from a country's register of assets. But, in some cases, governments are able to value their nonfinancial assets; some present a summary of nonfinancial assets as part of their balance sheets. For an example of how nonfinancial assets are presented in one of the many supporting documents to the New Zealand Executive's Budget Proposal, see the Forecast Financial Statement 2011, Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued), Note 14, accessible here: <https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2011->

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year a listing by category of all nonfinancial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to nonfinancial assets is presented, but some nonfinancial assets are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on nonfinancial assets held by the government.

Answer:

d. No, information related to nonfinancial assets is not presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

Comment:

See page no 57 in the cited document. It excludes most of the crucial information on non-financial assets of the government.

The table footnotes mention that assets of a few administrations are not disclosed as stipulated in FRBM rules.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all nonfinancial assets.

Comments: Based on the information available in the cited document, answer should be 'b'.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

We do not agree with the reviewer's comments in this question as the note in page 57 of the cited document mentions that assets of a few administrations are not disclosed as stipulated in FRBM rules. Hence, we feel option "c" should be the answer for this question.

IBP Comment

During an IBP cross-country consistency check, this response is revised from C to D. The information provided on p. 57 is only for the prior budget year (BY-2, 2016-17) not the estimated value for the budget year (BY, 2018-2019). This question asks for information in the budget year.

41. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure arrears for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 41 asks about estimates of expenditure arrears, which arise when government has entered into a commitment to spend funds but has not made the payment when it is due. (For more information see sections 3.49-3.50 of the IMF's GFS Manual 2001, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf> (page 29)). Though equivalent to borrowing, this liability is often not recorded in the budget, making it difficult to assess fully a government's financial position. Moreover, the obligation to repay this debt affects the government's ability to pay for other activities.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all expenditure arrears and a narrative discussing the arrears. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all expenditure arrears are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, expenditure arrears (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of expenditure arrears are presented.

If expenditure arrears do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question. Public expenditure management laws and regulations often will allow for reasonable delays, perhaps 30 or 60 days, in the routine payment of invoices due. Expenditure arrears impacting a small percentage of expenditure that are due to contractual disputes should not be considered a significant problem for the purpose of answering this question.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of expenditure arrears are not presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/fb/bill.pdf>

Comment:

Some information on arrears available for BY-1 and not for the BY.

The Receipts Budget (p27, Annex 6) and the Finance Bill (Ch5 (107) presents arrears of non-tax revenues. Expenditures related arrears are not noted in the budget documents.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: India follows a balanced budget principle and does not allow expenditure arrears. Unused expenditures cannot be carried forward, and debt financing is used to balance the budget. Further, India does not practice a multi-year budgeting system. Apart from the non-lapseable funds essentially meant for capital asset creation, expenditure arrears is not an issue, as the expenditure are settled on a year to year basis.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

42. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on contingent liabilities, such as government loan guarantees or insurance programs, for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability; the new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments (the gross exposure) at the end of the budget year.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 42 focuses on contingent liabilities, asking whether "core" information related to these liabilities is presented. These core components include:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability;
- the new contingent liabilities for the budget year, such as new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and
- the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments at the end of the budget year. This reflects the gross exposure of the government in the case that all guarantees or commitments come due (even though that may be unlikely to occur).

Contingent liabilities are recognized under a cash accounting method only when the contingent event occurs and the payment is made. An example of such liabilities is the case of loans guaranteed by the central government, which can include loans to state-owned banks and other state-owned commercial enterprises, subnational governments, or private enterprises. Under such guarantees, government will only make a payment if the borrower defaults. Thus a key issue for making quantitative estimates of these liabilities is assessing the likelihood of the contingency occurring.

In the budget, according to the OECD, "[w]here feasible, the total amount of contingent liabilities should be disclosed and classified by major category reflecting their nature; historical information on defaults for each category should be disclosed where available. In cases where contingent liabilities cannot be quantified, they should be listed and described."

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about contingent liabilities, including for example: historical default rates for each program, and likely default rates in the future; the maximum guarantee that is authorized by law; any special financing associated with the guarantee (e.g., whether fees are charged, whether a reserve fund exists for the purpose of paying off guarantees, etc.); the duration of each guarantee; and an estimate of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the guarantees.

For more details on contingent liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and page 59 (Box 11) and Principle 3.2.3 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to contingent liabilities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to contingent liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on contingent liabilities.

Answer:

d. No, information related to contingent liabilities is not presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>;
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm3.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, some information is available, but excludes details.

The Receipts Budget includes a Section on Guarantees given by government (p54-56) which includes a brief on the guarantee provided by government, the receiving administrative unit, and the amount guaranteed as of BY-1.

Also see p26 of the Fiscal Strategy Statement which notes that conditions and ceilings under which central government assumes contingent liabilities in the form of guarantees, total amount of contingent liabilities undertaken in BY-1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all contingent liabilities.

Comments: After the introduction of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act 2003, contingency liabilities as per rule 6, is being placed as part of the receipt budget. Based on the information available in the cited documents, the appropriate answer should be "b".

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

We do not agree with the reviewer's comments in this as information presented is limited and provides information pertaining to BY-1. We feel the answer option should be "c".

IBP Comment

During an IBP cross-country consistency review, the score for this question was revised from C to D, as the information presented only covers BY-1, and in some cases BY-2 (2016-2017). Since this question asks about the budget year (2018-2019), the information presented only scores a D.

43. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present projections that assess the government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer term?

(The core information must cover a period of at least 10 years and include the macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used and a discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 43 focuses on government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer-term, asking whether "core" information related to these issues is presented. These core components must include:

- *Projections that cover a period of at least 10 years.*
- *The macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used in making the projections.*
- *A discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections. Good public financial management calls for budgets to include fiscal sustainability analyses.*

The IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) recommends that governments regularly publish the projected evolution of the public finances over the longer term (see Principle 3.1.3.). Future liabilities are a particularly important element when assessing the sustainability of public finances over the long term. Future liabilities are the result of government commitments that, unlike contingent liabilities, are virtually certain to occur at some future point and result in an expenditure. A typical example consists of government obligations to pay pension benefits or cover health care costs of future retirees. Under a cash accounting system, only current payments associated with such obligations are recognized in the budget. To capture the future impact on the budget of these liabilities, a separate statement is required.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about the sustainability of their finances, including for example: projections that cover 20 or 30 years; multiple scenarios with different sets of assumptions; assumptions about other factors (such as the depletion of natural resources) that go beyond just the core macroeconomic and demographic data; and a detailed presentation of particular programs that have long time horizons, such as civil service pensions.

For more details on future liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of government finances over the longer term as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to future liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on future liabilities and the sustainability of government's finances

Answer:

d. No, information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of finances over the longer term is not presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

Comment:

Information on the future liabilities is not provided.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

44. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of the sources of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 44 asks about estimates of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind assistance. Such assistance is considered non-tax revenue, and the sources of this assistance should be explicitly identified. In terms of in-kind assistance, the concern is primarily with the provision of goods (particularly those for which there is a market that would allow goods received as in-kind aid to be sold, thereby converting them into cash) rather than with in-kind aid like advisors from a donor country providing technical assistance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all donor assistance and a narrative discussing the assistance. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all donor assistance are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, donor assistance (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if the sources of donor assistance are not presented, but the total amount of donor assistance is presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of donor assistance are presented. Select answer "e" if your country does not receive donor assistance.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all sources of donor assistance are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/annex13.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, it is available in the form of external assistance with descriptions.

Net external assistance shown on p. 20 and 22

See External Assistance, p. 68-70 shows the type of external assistance (grants, loans) and a description of each donor, but there is not an estimate of resources from each donor.

Please see the second link for details.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all sources of donor assistance are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Comments: I think the available information is enough to select the answer "a". Along with the donor assistance data narrative discussion are also there in the cited document. The Receipts Budget 2018-19 (cited above) shows the detailed information on external assistance with narratives.

Assistance from various multilateral and bilateral donors has been mentioned in details (see pg. no. 16 & 17). Out of these total external assistance, the amount of resources which is going to the sub-national level (state level) is also mentioned there. However, the in narratives (pg. no 19), the external assistance is described in terms of the currency of the donor countries. But, the aggregate figures mentioned in the narrative (item no. 7) is matching with the figures mentioned in the pg. no. 16 & 17; if we estimate the aggregate level of assistance of individual countries. Further, all these external assistance figures are presented differently and it is mentioned in the pg. no. 68. All the external assistance is reported here.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

We agree with the reviewer's response on this and the score should be revised to 'A'.

45. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on tax expenditures for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each tax expenditure, the intended beneficiaries, and an estimate of the revenue foregone.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 45 focuses on tax expenditures, asking whether "core" information related to these tax preferences is presented. These core components must include for both new and existing tax expenditures:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale;
- a listing of the intended beneficiaries; and
- an estimate of the revenue foregone.

Tax expenditures arise as a result of exceptions or other preferences in the tax code provided for specified entities, individuals, or activities. Tax expenditures often have the same impact on public policy and budgets as providing direct subsidies, benefits, or goods and services. For example, encouraging a company to engage in more research through a special tax break can have the same effect as subsidizing it directly through the expenditure side of the budget, as it still constitutes a cost in terms of foregone revenues. However, expenditure items that require annual authorization are likely to receive more scrutiny than tax breaks that are a permanent feature of the tax code.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about tax expenditures, including for example: the intended beneficiaries by sector and income class (distributional impact); a statement of the estimating assumptions, including the definition of the benchmark against which the foregone revenue is measured; and a discussion of tax expenditures as part of a general discussion of expenditures for those program areas that receive both types of government support (in order to better inform policy choices). For more details on tax expenditures, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 1.1.4 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, all of the core information related to tax expenditures as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to tax expenditures is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on tax expenditures.

Answer:

d. No, information related to tax expenditures is not presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

Comment:

Annex 7 (p28 -48) of the above cited document presents information on tax expenditure/tax revenue foregone etc. but the information is not available for the budget year rather BY-1 and BY-2. As the budget for 2018-19 was presented in the previous year, the estimation of tax expenditures for BY-1 is based on actuals for BY-2.

Some core information is missing.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for all tax expenditures.

Comments: Based on the information in the cited document, the answer should be "b".

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

Disagree with the PR's comment. First: this statement doesn't include the information for the BY. Second: it doesn't have details of beneficiaries (at an aggregate level). Hence, response 'C' would be appropriate.

IBP Comment

During an IBP review, the score for this question is revised from C to D. The information is only presented for BY-1, and this question requires at least some reference to tax expenditures in the budget year, which is not shown in the budget documents. Annex 7 only projects tax expenditures to BY-1 (2017-2018) with no reference to which tax expenditures are expected to continue through the budget year (2018-2019).

46. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of earmarked revenues for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 46 asks about estimates of earmarked revenues, which are revenues that may only be used for a specific purpose (for example, revenues from a tax on fuel that can only be used for building roads). This information is important in determining which revenues are available to fund the government's general expenses, and which revenues are reserved for particular purposes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all earmarked revenues and a narrative discussing the earmarks. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all earmarked revenues are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, earmarked revenues (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of earmarked revenues are presented. An "e" response applies if revenue is not earmarked or the practice is disallowed by law or regulation.

Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of all earmarked revenues are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

Comment:

For instance, estimated revenue from education cess given in page no.1 and subsequent explanation on page no.5 as: " 4.01.08. Education Cess:. Education Cess is leviable @ 2% on the aggregate of duties of Customs (except safeguard duty under Section 8B, CVD under Section 9 and anti-dumping duty under Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975). Items attracting Customs Duty at bound rates under international commitments are exempted from this cess."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of all earmarked revenues are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Comments: Based on the information in the aforementioned document, answer should be "b". It should be noted that there are only items of such earmarked revenues. They are all available in the budget document. But, there is no narrative discussion.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

Disagree with the PR's response. The information of Cess and description on cess is present but information pertaining to where these cesses are going is missing, so 'C' response would be appropriate.

IBP Comment

The researcher's comment is correct - there is a proposal within the budget for a 'Health and Education Cess', (see the budget speech on p. 31 of <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bs/bs.pdf>) that should replace the Education Cess in the Receipts Budget, however the information presented there is for the old Education Cess. Since the budget speech is not clear when the proposed Education and Health Cess will replace the existing Education Cess information, and each cess is quantified in the budget document that the researcher cites, in this case B appears to be the best response for the information given in the Receipts Budget, even without information on what the earmarked cess funding will be allocated for, which should be explained in a narrative. In responding to the Sector Module questions, this raises an issue as there is a proposed cess related to Health, but it is not estimated in the budget as an amount that would be available for health spending.

47. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government's policy goals. The budget is the executive's main policy document, the culmination of the executive's planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government's policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government's policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand's 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive's Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are "translated" into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government's policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government's policy goals (regardless of whether

it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer “d” applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals.

Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how the proposed budget is linked to some but not all of the government’s policy goals for the budget year is presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm2.pdf>

Comment:

The above cited document gives some information linking the objectives and policy goals of the government and the budget allocation (for example information given in the Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement shows a link between proposed budget and stated policy goals, such as those related to fiscal issues like deficits/debts etc.)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

48. Does the Executive’s Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government’s policy goals for a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government’s policy goals. The budget is the executive’s main policy document, the culmination of the executive’s planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government’s policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government’s policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand’s 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive’s Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are “translated” into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer “a,” the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer “b” for either question, the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A “c” response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government’s policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer “d” applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals.

Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how the proposed budget is linked to some but not all of the government’s policy goals for a multi-year period is presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/frbm/frbm2.pdf>

Comment:

After the implementation of the FRBM Act, rolling targets for broad fiscal indicators are being set and available in the cited document. However, it is very difficult to trace all these policy goals being translated into budgetary outlays.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

49. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on inputs to be acquired for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 49 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on inputs for the budget year. (Nonfinancial data on outputs and outcomes are addressed in Question 50.)

The budget should disclose not only the amount of money that is being allocated on a program but also any information needed to analyze that expenditure. Nonfinancial data and performance targets associated with budget proposals are used to assess the success of a given policy. For example, even when allocated funds are spent according to plan, there remains the question of whether the policy delivered the results that it aimed to achieve.

Nonfinancial data can include information on:

Inputs - These are the resources assigned to achieve results. For example, in regards to education, nonfinancial data on inputs could include the number of books to be provided to each school or the materials to be used to build or refurbish a school.

Outputs - These are products and services delivered as a result of inputs. For example, the number of pupils taught every year; the number of children that received vaccines; or the number of beneficiaries of a social security program.

Outcomes - These are the intended impact or policy goals achieved. For example, an increase in literacy rates among children under 10, or a reduction in rates of maternal mortality.

In addition, governments that set performance targets must use nonfinancial data for outputs and outcomes to determine if these targets have been met.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program is organized by functions. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on inputs for all administrative units or all functions, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on inputs are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on inputs is presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, nonfinancial data on inputs are presented for some programs and/or some administrative units (or functions).

Source:

Comment:

Non financial data are not presented in any of the EPB documents.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, nonfinancial data on inputs are presented for all administrative units (or functions) but not for all (or any) programs.

Comments: Significant amount of Non-financial data are provided in Output Outcome Framework for Schemes 2018-2019, which is a supporting for the EBP. It is made public within a few days of Budget announcement. This gives the list of all central sector and centrally sponsored schemes under different ministries and scheme wise non-financial data (inputs, targets, etc.) for the budget year. Output Outcome Framework for Schemes 2018-2019 https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/OutcomeBudgetE2018_2019.pdf Based on the information available, I think the correct answer should be "b".

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

We agree with the reviewer's comments in this. However, some of the outputs linked to outcomes and inputs are missing for all the programs and ministry. So the appropriate choice would be 'C' instead of earlier suggested "D" or the PR's response as 'B'.

IBP Comment

The peer reviewer's comment and researcher's response is confirmed. There are some elements in the Output Outcome Framework that show inputs, such as: p. 11: 245.00 LMT of indigenously manufactured urea will be made available to farmers p. 13 : Purchase of two new VVIP aircrafts for SESF Operations p. 15 : 2 new factories to be setup for production of green tea Response is revised from D to C.

50. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on results (in terms of outputs or outcomes) for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 50 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 49).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on results for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on results for each individual program is organized by functional classification. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on results for all administrative units or all functional classifications, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on results are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on results is presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, nonfinancial data on results are presented for some programs and/or some administrative units (or functions).

Source:

https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/OutcomeBudgetE2018_2019.pdf

Comment:

Yes, non-financial data on results (as outputs and outcomes) of some of the programs and administrative departments were available.

As noted in the introduction of the Outcome Budget document, outputs and outcomes are presented for all "Schemes" under 68 ministries and their departments. The outcome budget is not subjected to the entire union budget (100 ministries in total).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

51. Are performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results in the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation?

GUIDELINES:

Question 51 asks about performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. The question applies to those nonfinancial results shown in the budget, and that were identified for purposes of Question 50.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to all nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to a majority (but not all) of the nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget. A "c" response applies performance targets are assigned only to less than half of the nonfinancial data on results. Answer "d" applies if no performance targets are assigned to nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget, or the budget does not present nonfinancial results.

Answer:

c. Yes, performance targets are assigned to some nonfinancial data on results.

Source:

https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/OutcomeBudgetE2018_2019.pdf

Comment:

Yes, performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results in the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation is presented in the form of Outcome budget statement.

Targets are built into the output and outcome indicators. As noted in the introduction of the Outcome Budget document, outputs and outcomes are presented for all "Schemes" under 68 ministries and their departments. The outcome budget is not subjected to the entire union budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The outcome budget shows the performance targets of the central sector and centrally sponsored schemes under 68 ministries and the number programs will be several hundreds. There are several other ministries which run a number of programs/schemes which are not available in this document. Performance targets are not well defined in some schemes. So, I would go with the researcher.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

52. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations in at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 52 asks whether the budget highlight policies, both new and existing, that benefit the poorest segments of society. This question is intended to assess only those programs that directly address the immediate needs of the poor, such as through cash assistance programs or the provision of housing, rather than indirectly, such as through a stronger national defense. This information is of particular interest to those seeking to bolster government's commitment to anti-poverty efforts. For purposes of answering this question, a departmental budget (such for the Department of Social Welfare) would not be considered acceptable. In general, this question is asking whether the EBP includes a special presentation that pulls together estimates of all the relevant policies in one place. However, if the country uses "program budgeting," where programs are presented as expenditure categories with specific and identified objectives, and it identifies anti-poverty programs within each administrative unit, then that is also acceptable for this question.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?" (<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of countries that have provided information on how its policies affect the poor.

For instance, Pakistan provides a detailed breakdown of pro-poor expenditure as part of its 2017-18 budget proposal. In one document, the government sets out policy priorities, expected outputs, and estimates of past and future spending for several programs aimed at poverty alleviation. Another supporting document provides a comprehensive overview of ongoing policies, including a chapter on social safety nets, covering both financial and performance information of poverty alleviation schemes over a period of eight years. (http://www.finance.gov.pk/budget/mtbf_2018_21.pdf and http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey_1718.html).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must for at least the budget year both present estimates covering all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations and include a narrative discussion that specifically addresses these policies. (For countries using program budgeting that breaks out individual anti-poverty programs, there should be a separate narrative associated with each such program.) Answer "b" if a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented. Answer "c" if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" if no estimates of policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations are presented.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/vol1.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, some information on the policies for the poorer and disadvantaged sections of the population, but lacks detail information (methodology) as to how these estimates have been arrived at.

Please see the Statements 10 A to 13 and page numbers 78-133. These statements are meant for Children, Gender, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

53. Does the executive release to the public its timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal (that is, a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 53 asks about the budget timetable. An internal timetable is particularly important for the executive's management of the budget preparation process, in order to ensure that the executive accounts for the views of the different departments and agencies in the proposed budget. The timetable would, for instance, set deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. So that civil society is aware of the various steps in the budget formulation process, and when opportunities may exist to engage the executive, it is essential that this timetable be made available to the public.

To answer "a," the executive must prepare a detailed budget timetable and release it to the public. A "b" answer applies if the timetable is made public, but

some details are not included. A "c" response applies if the timetable is made public, but many important details are excluded, reducing its value for those outside government. Answer "d" applies if no timetable is made available to the public. As long as a timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal is released, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Executive's Budget Proposal is not made publicly available.

Answer:

a. Yes, a detailed timetable is released to the public.

Source:

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Budget%20Circular%202018-2019.pdf>

Comment:

Budget Circular 2018-19, gives the necessary guidelines for various departments/ministries for the required submissions.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

54. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 54 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

- *nominal GDP level;*
- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short- and long-term interest rates; the rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the macroeconomic forecast is not presented.

Source:

India does not produce a pre-budget statement.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

55. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities and an estimate of total expenditures.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 55 focuses on the government's expenditure policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total expenditures.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed programmatic proposals (such detailed information is typically only presented in the budget itself), it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least total expenditures associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can include some detail, for instance, estimates provided by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

India does not produce a pre-budget statement.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

56. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's revenue policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of revenue policies and priorities and an estimate of total revenues.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 56 focuses on the government's revenue policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of revenue policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total revenue.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed revenue proposals, it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least the total revenue associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can also include more detail, for instance, with estimates provided by revenue category – tax and non-tax – or some of the major individual sources of revenue, such as the Value Added Tax or the income tax.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

d. No, information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

India does not produce a pre-budget statement.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

57. Does Pre-Budget Statement present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 57 asks whether the Pre-Budget Statement includes three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- the amount of net new borrowing needed in the upcoming budget year;*
- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the upcoming budget year; and*
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the upcoming budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt for at least the upcoming budget year. For a "b" answer, the Pre-Budget Statement must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the PBS must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the PBS.

Answer:

d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

India does not produce a pre-budget statement.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

58. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present estimates of total expenditures for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 58 asks about multi-year expenditure estimates in the Pre-Budget Statement.

To answer "a," expenditure estimates for at least two years beyond the upcoming budget year must be presented. The estimates must be for at least total expenditures, but could include more detail than just the aggregate total.

Answer:

b. No, multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

India does not produce a pre-budget statement.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

59. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 59 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of the three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

c. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents expenditure estimates by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

<http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Comment:

In India, the EBP is not re-published and Appropriation Act (which is the EB) also does not make special reference of the EBP. Therefore, the Appropriation Act is the only document considered as part of the Enacted Budget. The Appropriations Act only presents expenditures by administrative classification, so option 'c' would be the appropriate choice.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

59b. Based on the response to Question 59, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Enacted Budget:

Answer:
Administrative classification

Source:
<http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Comment:
The Appropriation Act only provides administrative classification of budget.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

60. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 60 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all programs, which account for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:
d. No, the Enacted Budget does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:
<http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Comment:
The enacted budget does not provide expenditure estimates by program.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

61. Does the Enacted Budget present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 61 asks whether revenue estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

b. No, the Enacted Budget does not present revenue estimates by category.

Source:

THE FINANCE ACT, 2018 NO. 13 OF 2018

<http://egazette.nic.in/writereaddata/2018/184302.pdf>

Comment:

The Enacted Budget does not present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

62. Does the Enacted Budget present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 62 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Enacted Budget. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue that account for less than two-thirds of revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, the Enacted Budget does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

<http://egazette.nic.in/writereaddata/2018/184302.pdf>

Comment:

The Enacted Budget does not present individual sources of revenue.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

63. Does the Enacted Budget present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 63 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year;*
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Enacted Budget must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Enacted Budget must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:

c. Yes, one of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

<http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Comment:

Information pertaining to only interest payment and government debt repayment is available in the enacted budget. See page 3.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

64. What information is provided in the Citizens Budget?

(The core information must include expenditure and revenue totals, the main policy initiatives in the budget, the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based, and contact information for follow-up by citizens.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 64 focuses on the content of the Citizens Budget, asking whether "core" information is presented. These core components include:

- *expenditure and revenue totals;*
- *the main policy initiatives in the budget;*
- *the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based; and*
- *contact information for follow-up by citizens.*

To answer "a," the Citizens Budget or supporting documentation must present all of the above core information as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Citizens Budget must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if the Citizens Budget includes some of the core components above, but other core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if a Citizens Budget is not published.

Answer:

c. The Citizens Budget provides information, but it excludes some core elements.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/glance.asp>

Comment:

The citizens budget excludes some key elements like macroeconomic forecast and contact information to get feedback from the citizens.

For the macroeconomic forecast - only nominal GDP and nominal GDP growth on p. 1 (PDF page 3) of <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag1.pdf> - none of the other estimates of the macroeconomic forecast (real GDP growth, interest rates, inflation rate) are presented.

Total revenue and expenditure are presented in table form (p. 1) here <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag1.pdf> and in graphic form here: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag4.pdf>

On major policy initiatives - none provided <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/bag/bag7.pdf>

Contact information - None

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

65. How is the Citizens Budget disseminated to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 65 asks how the Citizens Budget is disseminated to the public. Citizens Budgets should be made available to a variety of audiences. Therefore paper versions and an Internet posting of a document might not be sufficient.

To answer "a," the executive must use three or more different types of creative media tools to reach the largest possible share of the population, including those who otherwise would not normally have access to budget documents or information. Dissemination would also be pursued at the very local level, so that the coverage is targeted both by geographic area and population group (e.g., women, elderly, low income, urban, rural, etc.). Option "b" applies if significant dissemination efforts are made through a combination of two means of communications, for instance, both posting the Citizens Budget on the executive's official website and distributing printed copies of it. Option "c" applies if the Citizens Budget is disseminated through only posting on the executive's official website. Option "d" applies when the executive does not publish a Citizens Budget.

Answer:

c. A Citizens Budget is disseminated only by using one means of dissemination.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/glance.asp>

Document only posted on the website

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Only other option is that the citizen's can collect the hard copy of the document from appropriate authority free of costs.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

Disagree with the PR's response. These can be collected from appropriate authority with a nominal price charged for that.

66. Has the executive established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information prior to publishing the Citizens Budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 66 asks whether the executive has established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information before publishing a Citizens Budget. What the public wants to know about the budget might differ from the information the executive includes in technical documents that comprise the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget; similarly, different perspectives might exist on how the budget should be presented, and this may vary depending on the context. For this reason the executive should consult with the public on the content and presentation of the Citizens Budget.

To answer "a," the executive must have established mechanisms to consult with the public, and these mechanisms for consultation are both accessible and widely used by the public. Such mechanisms can include focus groups, social networks, surveys, hotlines, and meetings/events in universities or other locations where people gather to discuss public issues. In countries where Citizens Budgets are consistently produced and released, it may be sufficient for

the government to provide the public with contact information and feedback opportunities, and subsequently use the feedback to improve its management of public resources.

Option "b" applies if the executive has established mechanisms for consultation that are accessible to the public, but that the public nonetheless does not use frequently. That is, the public does not typically engage with the executive on the content of the Citizens Budget, even though the executive has created opportunities for such consultation. Option "c" applies if the executive has established mechanism for consultation with the public, but they are poorly designed and thus not accessible to the public. Option "d" applies if the executive has not created any mechanisms to seek feedback from the public on the content of the Citizens Budget.

Answer:

d. No, the executive has not established any mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information in the Citizen's Budget.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/glance.asp>

Comment:

No, the executive has not established any mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information in the Citizen's Budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

67. Are "citizens" versions of budget documents published throughout the budget process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 67 asks if "citizens" versions of budget documents are published throughout the budget process. While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle.

To answer "a," a citizens version of at least one budget document is published for each of the four stages of the budget process (budget formulation, enactment, execution, and audit) – for a total of at least four citizens budget documents throughout the process. Option "b" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least two of the four stages of the budget process. Option "c" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least one of the four stages of the budget process. Select option "d" if no "citizens" version of budget documents is published.

Answer:

c. A citizens version of budget documents is published for at least one stage of the budget process.

Source:

A citizens version of budget documents is published for at least one stage of the budget process - the EBP.

Comment:

A citizens version of budget documents is published for only one stage of the budget process.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

68. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 68 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above.

Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," actual expenditures must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if actual expenditures are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by any of the three classifications in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

c. Yes, the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

Link for May Report: <http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/5/2018-2019.aspx>

Administrative classification: <http://164.100.158.190/writereaddata/MonthAccount/52018/TotalExpenditure1805.HTM>

Comment:

Administrative classification of expenditure is provided. However functional and economic classifications of expenditure are not provided.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

68b. Based on the response to Question 68, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the In-Year Reports:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/6/2018-2019.aspx>

Comment:

Only administrative classification of expenditures.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

69. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 69 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by program in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

d. No, the In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by program.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/4/2018-2019.aspx>

Comment:

The In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by program. It is available only Ministry or Department-wise.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

70. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date expenditures with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 70 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual expenditures to-date with either the enacted levels or actual expenditures for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date expenditures in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast expenditures (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports

Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

The In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by program. It is available only Ministry or Department-wise.

<http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/4/2018-2019.aspx>

Comment:

Yes, IYR compare actual year-to-date expenditures with the original estimate for that period and also compare the actual expenditure for the BY-1 year for the same time period.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

71. Do In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 71 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual revenues by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/4/2018-2019.aspx>

Comment:

Yes, IYRs provide actual revenues by category. Revenues are reported as tax and non-tax.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

72. Do In-Year Reports present the individual sources of revenue for actual revenues collected?

GUIDELINES:

Question 72 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual collections of individual sources of revenue (such as income taxes, VAT, etc.). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue collected, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue that account for less than two-thirds of all revenue collected. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of actual revenue are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/4/2018-2019.aspx>

Comment:

Yes, In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue accounting for all revenue. Other taxes account for less than 1% of the total tax revenue.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

73. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date revenues with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 73 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual revenues to-date with either the enacted levels or actual revenues for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date revenues in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast revenues (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/4/2018-2019.aspx>

Comment:

Yes, comparisons are made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports

Information is shown comparing the current actual figures with the values from the same period in the last fiscal year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

74. Do In-Year Reports present three estimates related to actual government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing; the total debt outstanding; and interest payments?

GUIDELINES:

Question 74 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- *the amount of net new borrowing so far during the year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at that point in the year; and*
- *the interest payments to-date on the outstanding debt.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, In-Year Reports must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, IYRs must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

b. Yes, two of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/4/2018-2019.aspx>

Comment:

Interest payment and new net borrowing are presented in the first page of IYR cited above. Figures on total outstanding debt are not reported in the monthly reports.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

75. Do In-Year Reports present information related to the composition of the total actual debt outstanding?

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 75 focuses on the composition of government debt, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- interest rates on the debt;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether the debt is domestic or external.

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 74, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens and banks and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt to-date as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

d. No, information related to composition of total actual debt outstanding is not presented.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/MonthlyReport/Published/4/2018-2019.aspx>

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Data%20on%20Central%20Government%20Debt%20for%20the%20Quarter%20Ending%20September%2C%202018-%28Q3%29.pdf>

Comment:

There is no information on composition of the total debt in the monthly reports.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Comments: Based on the information available in the following document, I think "C" is the appropriate answer. This is quarterly publication of the Budget Division, Ministry of Finance.

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Data%20on%20Central%20Government%20Debt%20for%20the%20Quarter%20Ending%20September%2C%202018-%28Q3%29.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

Disagreeing with PR's response. The response should be 'D'. These quarterly reports are not published on time as per the OBS standard timeline. For instance: 1. The quarterly report for September 2018 was publicly available online on 17 December 2018 at:

https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Quarterly%20Report%20on%20Public%20Debt%20Management%20for%20the%20Quarter%20July%20-%20September%202018_1.pdf 2. The quarterly report for June 2018 was publicly available online on 14 September 2018 at:

https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Quarterly%20Report_Q1%202018-19.pdf 3. The quarterly report for March 2018 was published late on 29 August 2018 at: <https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Quarterly%20Report%20on%20Public%20Debt%20Management%20Jan-March%202018.pdf> 4.

The quarterly report for February 2018 was published late on 29 August 2018

at: <https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Status%20Paper%20final%2028.3.18%20online.pdf> Out of four quarterly reports, two are produced late and hence, we can not consider these reports providing relevant information on public debt.

76. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 76 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated macroeconomic forecast and explain all of the differences between the initial forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and the updated forecast. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the macroeconomic forecast must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated forecasts are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the macroeconomic forecast has not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, the estimates for macroeconomic forecast have not been updated.

Source:

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Data%20on%20Central%20Government%20Debt%20for%20the%20Quarter%20Ending%20September%2C%202018-%28Q3%29.pdf>

Comment:

India didn't produce Mid-Year Review report.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: India has discontinued to publish the Mid-Year Review after 2015-16. <https://dea.gov.in/mid-year-review>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

77. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 77 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of expenditure for the budget year, and provides an explanation of the update.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated expenditure estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. The expenditure estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated expenditure estimates, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Source:

Comment:

India didn't produce a MYR.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

78. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present expenditure estimates for the budget year underway by any of the three expenditure classifications (by

administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 78 asks if expenditure estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer “a,” the Mid-Year Review must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer “b,” expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A “c” answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer “d” applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Comment:

India didn't produce a MYR.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

78b. Based on the response to Question 78, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Mid-Year Review:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Comment:

India didn't produce a MYR.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

79. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present expenditure estimates for the budget year underway for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 79 asks if expenditure estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term “program,” and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term “program” to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: “Program” level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

Comment:

India did not produce a MYR.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

80. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 80 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of revenue for the budget year, and provides an explanation of the update.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated revenue estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the revenue estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated revenue estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the revenue estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, revenue estimates have not been updated.

Source:

Comment:

India did not produce a MYR.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

81. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present revenue estimates for the budget year underway by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 81 asks whether revenue estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

b. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present revenue estimates by category.

Source:

Comment:
India did not produce a MYR.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

82. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 82 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Mid-Year Review. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenues, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

Comment:
India did not produce a MYR.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

83. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 83 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- *The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *The interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, and explain all of the differences between the initial estimates presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the estimates of borrowing and debt must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the estimates of borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of government borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Source:

Comment:

India did not produce a MYR.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: India discontinued to publish Mid Year Report since 2015-16.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

84. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 84 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual expenditures for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all expenditures are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all expenditures, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<http://cga.nic.in/writereaddata/1AppAcc20162017.pdf>

Comment:

Estimated differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures are presented, along with a narrative discussion. In the cited link, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare explains the details of such deviations.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

85. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 85 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. Answer "b" if expenditure estimates are presented by two of these three classifications. Answer "c" if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

b. Yes, the Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

<http://cga.nic.in/writereaddata/1AppAcc20162017.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, two of such classifications are available in YER.

See details for each administration here: <http://www.cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>;

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/SummaryAppAcc20162017.pdf>

Expenditures by functional classification: <http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement6.pdf> (p. 86);

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement9.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

85b. Based on the response to Question 85, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Functional classification

Source:

<http://cga.nic.in/writereaddata/1AppAcc20162017.pdf>

Comment:

Administrative and Functional classification of expenditures are available in YER.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

86. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 86 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" if expenditures are not presented by program in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Source:

<http://cga.nic.in/writereaddata/1AppAcc20162017.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, the YER presents expenditure estimates by program.

The link shows the Ministry head, and then the major heads which count as programs underneath.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

87. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Question 87 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual revenues for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all revenues are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all revenues, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for revenues are not presented.

Source:

<http://cga.nic.in/writereaddata/1AppAcc20162017.pdf>;
<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement6.pdf>;
<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement8.pdf>

Comment:

Union Government Finance Accounts, first two pages of statement 6 talk about receipts and then expenditure at the more aggregated level. On Statement 8 is the details of such receipts upto program wise classification. However, these statements do not present difference of enacted level and actual level of revenues.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

88. Does the Year-End Report present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 88 asks whether revenue estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement8.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, the Year-End Report present revenue estimates by categories.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

89. Does the Year-End Report present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 89 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Year-End Report. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement8.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

The '800 Other Receipts' categories, and Miscellaneous Receipts accounts for 2.9% of total receipts. Since this is less than 3%, the score is A.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

90. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 90 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome for the fiscal year for borrowing and debt, including its composition, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;
- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- interest rates on the debt;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether the debt is domestic or external.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of government borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement13.pdf>
<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement14.pdf>
<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement14A.pdf>

Comment:

Statements in the Union Government Finance Accounts 2016-17 (YER) provide all the necessary information on borrowing, debt, interest payment and other information. However the information is available in a slightly different format; where opening balance, addition during the year, discharges during the year, closing balance and the interest paid. For no figures is the comparison between the original enacted values presented, which is required by this question.

Statement 14 and 14A presents information on total outstanding debt, composition of the public debt (internal + external); interest rates and maturity profiles for the various debt instruments.

Statement 13 (table on page 83) presents an aggregate figure on interest payment and debt servicing for the fiscal year.

There is no accompanying narrative for any of the information.

The only information available with comparisons to the original enacted levels is net new borrowing:
<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/33AppAcc20162017.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

90b. Based on the response to Question 90, check the box(es) to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, have the differences between the original forecast and the actual outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement13.pdf>

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement14.pdf>
<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

Comment:

All information is presented as actual for BY-1 and BY, but no information on the comparison with the enacted levels in the original budget.

The only information available with comparisons to the original enacted levels is net new borrowing:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/33AppAcc20162017.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

91. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 91 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast in the Executive's Budget Proposal. Core components include estimates of the nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates, although the importance of other macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil, can vary from country to country.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year is not presented.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>
<http://cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

Comment:

In both the YERs, estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year is not presented.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

91b. Based on the response to Question 91, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast have the differences between the original forecast and the outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:
<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>
<http://cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

92. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 92 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 49 for the nonfinancial data on inputs included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:
<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>
<http://cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

Comment:
The Year-End Reports do not present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcomes.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

93. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 93 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 92).

Refer to Question 50 for the nonfinancial data on results included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

<http://cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

Comment:

The Year-End Reports do not present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcomes.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

94. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 94 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 52 for assistance to the most impoverished populations in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between the enacted level for some but not all of the policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted level for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

Comment:

The information pertaining to actual expenditure on the existing/new policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished and vulnerable populations is not presented in YERs.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

95. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 95 asks whether the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 33 for estimates of extra-budgetary funds in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome is not presented.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/FinanceReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

<http://cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2016-2017.aspx>

Comment:

The differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome is not presented in the Year End Reports

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Information on extra-budgetary funds like -Small Savings, Provident Funds. etc. are available in the YER. But, it does not show the difference between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome. So, the answer should be kept unchanged.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

PR's response complementing the answer choice!

96. Is a financial statement included as part of the Year-End Report or released as a separate report?

GUIDELINES:

Question 96 asks whether a financial statement is included as part of the Year-End Report, or whether it is released as a separate report. The financial statement can include some or all of the following elements: a cash flow statement, an operating statement, a balance sheet, and notes on accounting. For purposes of responding to this question, the financial statement in question does not need to be audited. For an example of a financial statement, see the document "Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand 2013" (<https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2013-10/fsgnz-year-jun13.pdf>)

To answer "a," a financial statement must either be included in the Year-End Report or must be released as a separate report. Answer "a" applies if a financial statement is released as a separate report, even if the Year-End Report is not publicly available. Answer "b" applies if no financial statement is released either as part of the Year-End Report or as a separate report.

Answer:

a. Yes, a financial statement is part of the Year-End Report or is released as a separate report.

Source:

<http://cga.nic.in/writereaddata/AccountAtAGlance20162017English.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, an annual report, named: "Accounts at a Glance" is released as a separate report, which contains detailed information with relevant explanations.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

97. What type of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) has the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) conducted and made available to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 97 asks about the types of audits conducted by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). There are three basic types of audits:

- Financial audits are intended to determine if an entity's financial information is accurate (free from errors or fraud) and presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting and regulatory framework. See ISSAI 200 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more detail.
- Compliance audits look at the extent to which the relevant regulations and procedures have been followed. See ISSAI 400 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more details.
- Performance audits assess whether activities are adhering to the principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. See ISSAI 300 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more details. ≈

Financial and compliance audits are more common than performance audits, which usually occur only once a performance framework has been agreed upon. In some countries, the SAI's mandate limits the type of audit it can conduct.

To answer "a," the SAI must have conducted all three types of audit – financial, compliance, and performance – and made all of them available to the public. A "b" response applies if the SAI has conducted two of the three audit types, and a "c" applies if it has conducted only one type of audit. Answers "b" and "c" may be selected even if the Audit Report is not publicly available, as long as the SAI has conducted compliance or performance audits and made them available to the public. A "d" response applies if the SAI has not conducted any of the three types of audits, or has not made them available to the public.

Answer:

a. The SAI has conducted all three types of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) and made them available to the public.

Source:

<https://cag.gov.in/audit-reports>

Comment:

SAI conducts all three types of audits and makes them available to the public.

Compliance Audit Report: <https://cag.gov.in/content/report-no4-2018-compliance-audit-observations-union-government>

Financial Audit: https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Report_No.1_of_2018_-_Finance_Audit_on_Railways_Finances_in_Indian_Railways_Union_Government.pdf

Performance Audit Report:

<https://cag.gov.in/content/report-no6-2018-performance-audit-national-projects-ministry-water-resources-river>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

98. What percentage of expenditures within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 98 focuses on the coverage of audits by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), asking what percentage of expenditures within the SAI's mandate has been audited.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to budgetary central government (ministries, departments, and agencies) that are within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 99 addresses audits of extra-budgetary funds.) Further, the question does not apply to "secret programs" (for example, security-related expenditures that are confidential). Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. Financial audits and compliance audits, or a hybrid of the two, can be taken into account to answer this question. Performance audits should not be considered for this question.

To answer "a," all expenditures within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if at least two-thirds, but not all, expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response is appropriate when less than two-thirds of expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies when no expenditures have been audited.

Answer:

a. All expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

Source:

<https://cag.gov.in/audit-reports>

Comment:

As part of the DPC Act of the CAG, and looking at all the three types of audit, it has been observed that all the expenditures of the Union Government have been audited by the CAG. Further as per the mandate of the CAG, all the expenditures carried out by the Union Government comes under the audit purview of CAG.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

99. What percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 99 focuses on audits of extra-budgetary funds, asking what percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited. These funds, although technically outside the budget, are governmental in nature and thus should be subject to the same audit requirement as other government programs.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 98 addresses audits of budgetary central government.) Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

To answer "a," all extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies if extra-budgetary funds have not been audited.

Answer:

a. All extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

Source:

<https://cag.gov.in/content/report-no18-2017-compliance-audit-union-government-food-corporation-india-reports-ministry>

Comment:

All Extra Budgetary Funds are audited by the SAI of India. The DPC Act empowers SAI to audit extra budgetary resources, primarily the Public Sector Undertakings. Other than that, funds going out from the Consolidated Fund of India are under the purview of a statutory auditor and the CAG acts there as Supplementary Auditor.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The accounts of the Government Companies (including companies deemed to be Government Companies as per the provisions of the Companies Act) are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) under the provisions of Section 619 of the Companies Act, 1956 and Sections 139 and 143 of the Companies Act, 2013. The accounts certified by the Statutory Auditors (Chartered Accountants) appointed by the CAG under the Companies Act are subject to supplementary audit by the officers of the CAG and the CAG gives his comments or supplements the reports of the Statutory Auditors. In addition, these companies are also subject to test audit by the CAG. So, all the extra budgetary funds from the Public sector (PSUs) undertakings are audited or scrutinized by the SAI. The document cited by the researcher is the audit report of the FCI (it has extra budgetary funds) done by the CAG. Similar kind of audit reports of other PSUs are also available in the public domain. And most of these PSUs have extra budgetary funds. SAI also audits other extra budgetary funds like Small Savings Fund, Calamity Relief Fund, Railway Fund, etc. A senior official from Indian Audit & Accounts Service also informed that SAI do audit of the extra-budgetary funds and release to the public. All extra budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate are audited.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

100. Does the annual Audit Report(s) prepared by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) include an executive summary?

GUIDELINES:

Question 100 asks whether the annual Audit Report includes an executive summary. Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. The Audit Report can be a fairly technical document, and an executive summary of the report's findings can help make it more accessible to the media and the public.

To answer "a," the Audit Report must include at least one executive summary summarizing the report's content. Answer "b" applies if the Audit Report does not include an executive summary, or the Audit Report is not made publicly available.

Answer:

a. Yes, the annual Audit Report(s) includes one or more executive summaries summarizing the report's content.

Source:

https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Report_No.44_of_2017_-_Financial_Audit_on_Accounts_of_the_Union_Government.pdf

Comment:

Yes, Audit Reports prepared by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) include an executive summary named: "Highlights".

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

101. Does the executive make available to the public a report on what steps it has taken to address audit recommendations or findings that indicate a need for remedial action?

GUIDELINES:

Question 101 asks whether the executive reports to the public on the steps it has taken to address audit recommendations made by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). The ultimate purpose of audits is to verify that the budget was executed in a manner consistent with existing law, and to hold the government accountable for this execution and its future improvement. The extent to which audits achieve the latter depends on whether there is adequate and timely follow-up on the recommendations provided in the SAI's audit reports.

To answer "a," the executive must report publicly on the steps it has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address audit finding, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if the executive does not report at all on its steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

c. Yes, the executive reports publicly on some audit findings.

Source:

https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/performance_activity_report/PA_2017_0.pdf
CAG's Performance Report (p. 73) notes there is some process for 'Action Notes Taken'.

Comment:

https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Chapter_5_-_Compliance_Audit_Paragraphs_of_Report_No.18_of_2017_-_Compliance_audit_Union_Government_Food_Corporation_of_India_Reports_of_Ministry_of_Consumer_Affairs%2C_Food_and_Public_Distribut.pdf
There are instances in the audit reports (compliance audit) that executives have responded to earlier audit findings, which can not be considered exclusively as Executive's response on audit paras.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The SAI presents its audit findings to the relevant Parliamentary Committees, which are entrusted with the task of examining the audit findings and seeking an explanation from and/or making recommendations to the relevant department/ministry of the Union Government. In response to the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee(s), the Government brings out Action Taken Reports, which are presented in Parliament. But action-taken' reports are produced for some findings only. So, 'c' might be a better assessment.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

PR's comments is complementing the answer choice.

102. Does either the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or legislature release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations?

GUIDELINES:

Question 102 asks whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or the legislature track actions by the executive to address audit recommendations. After audit results and recommendations are discussed and validated by the legislature, the executive is normally asked to take certain actions to address the audit findings. For accountability purposes, the public needs to be informed about the status of those actions, and steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations. In addition to the executive reporting on its actions (see Question 101), the SAI and legislature – as the key oversight institutions – have a responsibility to keep the public informed by tracking the executive's progress in addressing audit recommendations.

To answer "a," the SAI or legislature must report publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the SAI or legislature reports publicly on the steps the executive has taken, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if neither the SAI nor the legislature reports on the executive's steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

b. Yes, the SAI or legislature reports publicly on most audit recommendations.

Source:

http://164.100.47.193/lssccommittee/Public%20Accounts/16_Public_Accounts_130.pdf and
http://loksabhaph.nic.in/Committee/CommitteeInformation.aspx?comm_code=26&tab=0

Comment:

Yes, such reports or steps available in the public domain that executives have taken steps to address audit recommendations.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

During an IBP cross-country consistency check, the score is revised from C to B, as while not all audit recommendations are tracked and reported, a substantial number are included in these reports, which qualifies for a B score.

103. Is there an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) that conducts budget analyses for the budget formulation and/or approval process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 103 examines whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) exists that contributes budget analyses to the budget formulation and/or approval process. According to the Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions, adopted by the OECD Council in 2014, "independent fiscal institutions are publicly funded, independent bodies under the statutory authority of the executive or the legislature which provide non-partisan oversight and analysis of, and in some cases advice on, fiscal policy and performance", and with "a forward-looking ex ante diagnostic task". In practice, they come in two main forms:

- *Parliamentary budget offices (also known as PBOs) such as the Congressional Budget Office in the United States (<https://www.cbo.gov/>), the Parliamentary Budget Office in South Africa (<https://www.parliament.gov.za/parliamentary-budget-office>), and the Center for Public Finance Studies in Mexico (Centro de Estudios de las Finanzas Públicas, <http://www.cefp.gob.mx/>); or*
- *Fiscal councils such as the Office for Budget Responsibility in the United Kingdom (<https://obr.uk/>), the Fiscal Policy Council in Sweden (Finanspolitiska Rådet, <http://www.finanspolitiskaradet.com/>), and the High Council for Public Finances in France (Haut Conseil des finances publiques, <https://www.hcfp.fr/>).*

For more information, see von Trapp et al. 'Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions and Case Studies', OECD Journal on Budgeting 15:2 (special issue, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1787/budget-15-5jm2795tv625>.

To answer "a," there must be an IFI, and its independence must be set in law. In addition, it must have sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks. Answer "b" applies if an IFI exists, but either its independence is not set in law or its staffing and resources are insufficient to carry out its

tasks. Answer "c" applies if an IFI exists, but its independence is not set in law and it lacks sufficient staffing and resources. Answer "d" applies if no IFI exists.

If the answer is "a," "b," or "c," please specify in the comments the name and type of IFI that exists (e.g., parliamentary budget office or fiscal council). If the answer is "a" or "b," identify the law that guarantees its independence, and provide evidence in support of the assessment of the adequacy of its staffing and resources. This can include the IFI's total budget allocation over recent years, any press reports that discuss perceived funding shortfalls, assessments by international organizations, and/or information from interviews with staff of the IFI.

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI.

Source:

<http://164.100.47.194/Loksabha/Committee/CommitteeHome.aspx>
<https://www.nipfp.org.in/home-page/>

Comment:

There is no IFIs in the country.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: National Institute of Public Finance and Policy is an autonomous government institution . But, it has no role for the budget formulation and/or approval process.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

104. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts?

GUIDELINES:

Question 104 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a role in producing the macroeconomic forecast (e.g., GDP growth, inflation, interest rates, etc.) and/or the fiscal forecast (revenues, expenditure, deficits, and debt), and if so, what kind of role it has. Macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasting is a typical core function across IFIs, but their role in forecasting takes several forms (von Trapp et al. 2016, p. 17 and Table 2). Some IFIs produce just a macroeconomic forecast, while others produce a complete fiscal forecast (which also typically requires an underlying macroeconomic forecast). In some cases, the fiscal forecast reflects continuation of current budget policies; such forecasts can be used by the legislature, the media, or the public to assess the projections in the executive's budget reflecting the government's policy proposals.

Some IFIs produce the official macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts used in the executive's budget. In other cases, IFIs do not prepare their own independent forecasts, but rather produce an assessment of the official estimates, or provide an opinion on, or endorsement of, the government's forecasts. Some others have no role at all in forecasting.

To answer "a", there must be an IFI that publishes both its own macroeconomic AND fiscal forecasts. Answer "b" applies if an IFI publishes its own macroeconomic OR fiscal forecast (but not both). Answer "c" applies if the IFI does not publish a macroeconomic or fiscal forecast, but rather publishes an assessment of the official forecasts produced by the executive and used in the budget. Choose option "d" if there is no IFI; or if there is an IFI that neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts for the budget.

Macroeconomic forecasts may include indicators relating to economic output and economic growth, inflation, and the labor market, amongst others. Fiscal forecasts may include estimates of revenues, expenditures, the budget balance, and debt. If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify which indicators and estimates are included in the forecasts and whether the forecast is used by government as the official forecast. If the answer is "c," please describe the nature and depth of the assessment (e.g., the length of the commentary, or whether it covers both economic and fiscal issues).

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts produced by the executive.

Source:

<https://www.nipfp.org.in/home-page/>
<http://164.100.47.194/Loksabha/Committee/CommitteeHome.aspx>

Comment:

IFIs are not existent in the country.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree
Comments:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

105. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish its own costings of new policy proposals, to assess their impact on the budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 105 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a costing function that involves assessing the budgetary implications of new policy proposals for both revenues and expenditures, and if so, what kind of role it has. Many IFIs have a costing role, but with substantial diversity in the nature and extent of this work (von Trapp et al 2016, pp. 17-18 and Table 2). Some assess virtually all new policy proposals, while others cost only a selection of new policy proposals. Others only publish opinions on, or scrutinize the costings of, budget measures produced by the executive.

To answer "a," the IFI must publish its own costings of all (or virtually all) new policy proposals. Answer "b" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only for major new policy proposals – for instance, only those proposals that cost or save above a certain amount. Answer "c" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only on a limited number of proposals. This could occur, for instance, if the IFI lacked the capacity to assess proposals dealing with certain sectors. Instead of producing a cost estimate, it can also publish an assessment of the estimates produced by the executive. Answer "d" applies if there is no IFI; or if the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals or provide an assessment of the official costings of new policy proposals.

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals.

Source:

<http://164.100.47.194/Loksabha/Committee/CommitteeHome.aspx>
<https://www.nipfp.org.in/home-page/>

Comment:

There is no IFI in the country.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

106. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 106 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Almost all IFIs interact with the legislature in some form (von Trapp et al 2016, p. 18), but the intensity of the interaction varies. This question assesses this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the IFI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the IFI staff member in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). As evidence to support your answer, you can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the IFI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; and "c" for once or twice. Answer "d" should be selected if the head or a senior staff member of the IFI never took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature, or if there is no IFI.

Answer:

d. Never, or there is no IFI.

Source:

Comment:

There is no IFI in the country.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

107. Does the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 107 asks whether the legislature debates budget policies prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal. In general, prior to discussing the Executive's Budget Proposal for the coming year, the legislature should have an opportunity to review the government's broad budget priorities and fiscal parameters. Often times this information is laid out in a Pre-Budget Statement, which the executive presents to the legislature for debate. (See Questions 54-58.)

A number of countries conduct a pre-budget debate in the legislature around six months before the start of the budget year. In some cases, they adopt laws that guide the upcoming budget, for example the Budget Guidelines Law in Brazil and the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill in Sweden. A pre-budget debate can serve two main purposes: 1) to allow the executive to inform the legislature of its fiscal policy intentions by presenting updated reports on its annual and medium-term budget strategy and policy priorities; and 2) to establish "hard" multi-year fiscal targets or spending ceilings, which the government must adhere to when preparing its detailed spending estimates for the upcoming budget year.

To answer "a," the full legislature must debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal and approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.

Answer "b" applies if a legislative committee (but not the full legislature) debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, and approves recommendations for the budget. Option "b" also applies if, in addition to the action by the committee, the full legislature also debates budget policy in advance of the budget, but does not approve recommendations.

Answer "c" applies if the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, but does not approve recommendations for the budget. Answer "d" applies if neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

In your comment, please indicate the dates of the budget debate, and if both the full legislature and a legislative committee held a debate. Note that a debate does not need to be open to the public, but a public record of the meeting or a public notice that the meeting occurred is required. In addition, please indicate whether the budget debate was focused on a Pre-Budget Statement published by the Executive. If the Executive did not publish a Pre-Budget Statement, then please indicate what served as the focus of the legislature's debate (for instance, a report released by an IFI or some other institution).

Answer:

d. No, neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

Comment:

Neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal as India does not produce a pre-budget statement.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

108. How far in advance of the start of the budget year does the legislature receive the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 108 examines how far in advance of the start of the budget year the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to the legislature far enough in advance to allow the legislature time to review it properly, or at least three months prior to the start of the fiscal year. (See, for instance, Principle 2.2.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

For the purposes of responding to this question, if – and only if – the most recent budget submission occurred later than usual as a result of a particular event, such as an election, please use a more normal year as the basis for the response. If, however, delays have been observed for more than one budget year, and the legislature has not received the Executive's Budget Proposal in a timely manner on more than one occasion in the last three years, then "d" will be the appropriate answer.

To answer "a," the legislature must receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least three months in advance of the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least two months, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month, but less than two months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature does not receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month prior to the start of the budget year, or does not receive it at all.

Answer:

b. The legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least two months, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/budget.asp>

Comment:

Yes, the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal exactly two months, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year.

In 2018, the budget was presented to Parliament on February 1, 2018, which is exactly two months before the start of the budget year on April 1, 2018

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

109. When does the legislature approve the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 109 examines when the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be approved by the legislature before the start of the fiscal year the budget proposal refers to. This gives the executive time to implement the budget in its entirety, particularly new programs and policies.

In some countries, the expenditure and revenue estimates of the Executive's Budget Proposal are approved separately; for purposes of this question, at least the expenditure estimates must be approved. Further, approval of the budget implies approval of the full-year budget, not just a short-term continuation of spending and revenue authority.

To answer "a," the legislature must approve the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month before the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month after the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal more than one month after the start of the budget year, or does not approve the budget.

Answer:

b. The legislature approves the budget less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year.

Source:

<http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

Comment:

The legislators approved the budget only a week before the start of the financial year. The approval for the FY 2018/2019 budget was on 14 March 2018 and subsequently it was given assent on 29 March 2018. This is less than two weeks before the start of the budget year on 1 April 2018.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

110. Does the legislature have the authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 110 examines the legislature's power to amend—as opposed to simply accept or reject—the budget proposal presented by the executive. This question is about legal authority rather than actions the legislature takes in practice. The legislature's powers to amend the budget can vary substantially across countries.

The "a" response is appropriate only if there are no restrictions on the right of the legislature to modify the Executive's Budget Proposal, including its right to change the size of the proposed deficit or surplus. The "b" response would be appropriate if, for instance, the legislature is restricted from changing the deficit or surplus, but it still has the power to increase or decrease funding and revenue levels. The more limited "c" response would apply if, for instance, the legislature can only re-allocate spending within the totals set in the Executive's Budget Proposal or can only decrease funding levels or increase revenues. Finally, response "d" would apply if the legislature may not make any changes (or only small technical changes), or if amendments must first be approved by the executive. In these cases, the legislature is essentially only able to approve or reject the budget as a whole. If the answer is "b" or "c", please indicate the nature of the amendment powers available to the Parliament and how they are limited.

Answer:

b. Yes, the legislature has authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, with some limitations.

Source:

https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Budget_Manual_1.pdf
(page nos 6 and 130 of the Budget Manual)

Comment:

The only sections of the budget expenditure that cannot be amended relates to expenditures under the head 'charged' to the Consolidated Fund of India under Article 113 (3). These expenditures are related to constitutional functionaries, "but nothing in this clause shall be construed as preventing the discussion in either House of Parliament of any of those estimates".

See also 2016 Constitution Article 113(2):

"the House of the People shall have power to assent, or to refuse to assent, to any demand, or to assent to any demand subject to a reduction of the amount specified therein."

https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/India_2016.pdf?lang=en

This provision ensures that constitutional functionaries/bodies such as President of India, Supreme Court, High Courts, Union Public Service Commission, Election Commission, etc are not beholden to the executive or the legislature for meeting their expenses and can therefore function impartially. Further, legislature have the power to amend the EBPs through the Departmentally Related Standing Committees, but in practice there is hardly any alteration seen. Although the detailed discussions on such expenditure proposals made by the legislators.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree with comments made by the researcher. These are also clearly written in the Constitution of India. Constitution of India

http://india.gov.in/govt/constitutions_india.php

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

111. During the most recent budget approval process, did the legislature use its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 111 assesses whether any formal authority of the legislature to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal is used in practice. The responses to this question should be determined based on action by the legislature related to the Enacted Budget used in the OBS. Choose answer "a" if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal during the most recent budget approval process, and amendments were adopted (all, or at least some of them). Answer "a" also applies if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, but the amendments were rejected by executive veto. Answer "b" applies if the legislature used its authority in law to propose amendments to the Executive's Budget Proposal, but none of these amendments were adopted. Answer "c" applies if the legislature has the authority in law to amend the budget, but no amendments were proposed during its consideration. Answer "d" applies when the legislature does not have any authority to amend the budget (that is, Question 110 is answered "d").

If the answer is "a" or "b", please specify in the comments the number of amendments introduced by the legislature (and in the case of an "a" response, the number adopted, or if applicable, information about an executive veto) and describe their nature. For example, did the amendments result in an increase or decrease of the deficit? What were the most significant amendments to revenues and to expenditures in terms of the sums involved? How did amendments affect the composition of expenditures? If the answer is "a," please specify which amendments were adopted, and provide evidence for it.

Answer:

c. No, while the legislature has the authority in law to propose amendments to the Executive's Budget Proposal, no amendments were offered.

Source:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/lok-sabha-passes-budget-without-debate/story/272604.html>

Comment:

No amendments have been offered by the legislators.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

112. During the last budget approval process, did a specialized budget or finance committee in the legislature examine the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 112 assesses the role of a specialized budget or finance committee during the budget approval stage. Effective committee involvement is an essential condition for legislative influence in the budget process. Specialized committees provide opportunities for individual legislators to gain relevant expertise, and to examine budgets and policy in depth. Yet, the involvement of committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures have separate committees to examine spending and tax proposals, while others have a single finance committee. Not all legislatures have a specialized budget or finance committee to examine the budget. In addition, there can be differences in the time available for the committee's analysis of the budget.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, therefore it must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget.

Response "a" requires that, in the last budget approval process, a specialized budget or finance committee had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and it published a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such a committee examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if a committee examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where a specialized budget or finance committee did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please specify in your comment the name of the committee and the number of days it had available to examine the budget and to publish a report. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a copy of the report. Please note also if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

Answer:

d. No, a specialized budget or finance committee did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

http://164.100.47.193/lssccommittee/Rural%20Development/16_Rural_Development_46.pdf

Comment:

Specialized Budget Committee examined the Executive's Budget Proposal, i.e. Demand for Grants for different Departments/Ministries after tabling in the parliament for detailed discussion. Such reports were submitted for consideration and further detailed discussion before the budget is enacted in the house. An example of Ministry of Rural Development's Detailed Demand for Grants can be seen as cited above.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: As per the rule, in India, after the presentation EBP, all the individual demands are scrutinized by different standing committees. After scrutiny, the committees submit their reports to Parliament. The Committees' recommendations are useful for MPs to understand implications of the proposed expenditure across ministries and allow for informed debate before approving such expenditure. For detailed process please refer - <https://www.prsindia.org/budget/primers/overseeing-public-funds-how-scrutinise-budgets>. The list of Standing Committees are available on this link: <http://164.100.47.5/webcom/MainPage.aspx> The document (cited by the researcher) is one of the report of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee (DRSC). The specific committee here is the DRSC on Rural Development. After the presentation of EBP on February 1, 2018, DRSC on Rural Development has scrutinized the "Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development (part of the EBP)." The committee submitted the report on March 13, 2018, before enactment of budget. At the end of the report, the observations and recommendations of the committee are reported. So, the citation is appropriate and I agree with the researcher. On whether these committees are sector or budget committees: Under the Financial Committee (see the following weblink) in Lok Sabha (Lower House of the Parliament) there are three separate committees viz., Estimate Committee, Public Accounts Committee and the Committee for Public Undertakings.

http://loksabhaph.nic.in/Committee/CommitteeInformation.aspx?comm_code=10&tab=0 Among these three committees, earlier the Estimates Committee was the *Specialized Budget Committee*, who was responsible to review the proposed expenditure (budget) of different ministries and preparing a report with findings before the budget is approved. But, since 1993-94, the role of Estimates Committee was changed. Since 1993-93, Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) have taken over this function leaving the Estimates Committee to largely examine the working of certain government organisations. Presently, there are 24 Standing Committees and these DRSCs are actually specialised budget committees and these are regular committees. Each of these DRSCs are responsible to scrutinise few demands as assigned to them. In 2018-19 Union Budget, there were total 99 demands for grants (proposed expenditures) from different ministries/departments. These 99 separate demands were reviewed by the specific committees before the approval of budget and they submitted their reports.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

PR's comments can be retained.

IBP Comment

During an IBP review, this question was revised from A to D, understanding that in India the Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) review the individual demands for grants from the respective departments, but there is no committee that reviews the overall budget, including macro-fiscal issues such as deficit, extra-budgetary funds, consolidated positions, etc. This previously would have been the role of the Estimates Committee, however as that committee no longer plays this role, the score is D here.

113. During the last approval process, did legislative committees, responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.), examine spending in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the sector for which they are responsible?

GUIDELINES:

Question 113 assesses the role of committees of the legislature that are responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.) during the budget approval stage. The role of sectoral committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures do not involve them in the budget approval process, while others do. In addition, the time available for committee analysis differs.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, so therefore must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget. Response "a" requires that sector committees had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and published a report with findings and recommendations prior the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such committees examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if sectoral committees examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where sectoral committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please provide in the comments a brief overview of the committee structure and specify the number of days that sectoral committees had available to examine the budget and to publish their reports. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a sample copy of at least one of the reports. Please note if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

For purposes of responding to this question, use those sectoral committees that are best performing – that is, the ones that examine the budget the longest and that publish reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, sector committees had at least one month to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and they published reports with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted.

Source:

http://164.100.47.193/lssccommittee/Rural%20Development/16_Rural_Development_46.pdf

This document was published on March 14, 2018, which is more than one month after Parliament received the budget on February 1, 2018, and before it was approved on March 29, 2018.

Comment:

Specialized Sector Committee examined the Executive's Budget Proposal, i.e. Demand for Grants for different Departments/Ministries after tabling in the parliament for detailed discussion. Such reports were submitted for consideration and further detailed discussion before the budget is enacted in the house. An example of Ministry of Rural Development's Detailed Demand for Grants can be seen as cited above.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Yes. All the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the various sectors were scrutinized by specific DRSCs. Demands related to Health, education, defense, and all others are scrutinized by the specific standing committees (<http://164.100.47.5/webcom/MainPage.aspx>) . For instance, have a look at another reports. Defense: http://164.100.47.193/lssccommittee/Defence/16_Defence_41.pdf

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

114. In the past 12 months, did a committee of the legislature examine in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period?

GUIDELINES:

Question 114 is about legislative oversight of budget execution. It assesses whether and how often a committee examined the implementation of the budget during the budget execution period (i.e., financial year) for which it was approved, and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. This question does not apply to the ex post review of implementation following the end of the budget year as part of the audit stage, which is assessed separately. Nor does it apply to the legislature's review of the budget that it may undertake as part of the process of considering a supplemental budget during the year. In-year monitoring by the legislature will be affected by the frequency that the executive publishes In-Year Reports.

To answer "a," a committee must have examined in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget at least three times during the course of the relevant budget year and published reports with findings and recommendations. Answer "b" applies where this occurred only once or twice during the year.

Exception: If a legislature is in session only twice during the year, and it examines the implementation of the budget during both sessions, then it would be eligible for an "a" response.

Choose "c" if a committee examined in-year implementation (without regard to frequency), but did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined in-year implementation.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation.

For purposes of responding to this question, if more than one committee holds in-year reviews of the budget, use the committee that is best performing – that is, the one that examines in-year implementation the most times and that publishes a report.

Answer:

a. Yes, a committee examined in-year implementation on at least three occasions during a fiscal year, and it published reports with findings and recommendations.

Source:

http://164.100.47.194/Loksabha/Committee/CommitteeInformation.aspx?comm_code=32&tab=1

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: http://164.100.47.194/Loksabha/Committee/CommitteeInformation.aspx?comm_code=32&tab=1 In the cited link, several reports of the Standing Committee of Rural Development are available. On March 13, 2019 the committee submitted several reports. These reports are basically the scrutinized reports of demand for grants, which are the part of the EBP 2018-19. In between March 2018 to December 31, 2018, few reports (Report no 51, 52, 53) are available which basically assess the implementation status of the enacted budget and the examination had done by the committee of legislature. Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) examine the budget execution time to time during a financial year and come up with their observations and recommendations. These reports also provide detailed information about the response/actions taken by the government as per the recommendations of the DRSCs. For example, if we consider the FY 2018-19 (April 2018 to March 2019), Standing Committee on Rural Development submitted a report on 19th July 2018 http://164.100.47.193/Isscommittee/Rural%20Development/16_Rural_Development_51.pdf). So, the report was submitted during the financial year and it was about the execution of one of the biggest programs, that is, Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin [SBM(G)]. The committee observed huge amount of unspent balance (Section 11, page no. 48) to the tune of Rs. 9890.84 crore under SBM(G). The committee also made several recommendations regarding the corrective measures for that. Similarly, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment submitted a report on 9th August 2018. So, this report was also submitted during the Financial Year 2018-19. http://164.100.47.193/Isscommittee/Social%20Justice%20&%20Empowerment/16_Social_Justice_And_Empowerment_57.pdf This report shows the standing committee's observation/ recommendation (Section 1.14, page no. 48) on the execution of the program, namely, the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes Entrepreneurs. Section 1.15 shows the response from the government. Hundreds of such kind of reports are published during a financial year and these reports scrutinise a number of schemes and recommend for various corrective measures for proper implementations of those schemes. Actions taken by the government also mentioned in the reports. All these are related to ongoing financial year. These reports are not budget proposal or the enacted budget. These are about the in-year assessment of implementation of various schemes and necessary corrective measures taken by the government.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

IBP confirms this score based on such reports as report no 51 which is available:

http://164.100.47.193/Isscommittee/Rural%20Development/16_Rural_Development_51.pdf See p. 4 which discusses the in-year financial performance of these programs, including a discussion of whether the budget for the current BY is adequate. The score of A is confirmed.

115. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units that receive explicit funding in the Enacted Budget, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 115 examines whether the executive seeks approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and whether it is legally required to do so.

In some countries, the executive has the power in law to adjust funding levels for specific appropriations during the execution of the budget. This question examines rules around shifting funds between administrative units (ministries, departments, or agencies) or whatever funding unit (or "vote") is specified in the Enacted Budget.

The conditions under which the executive may exercise its discretion to shift funds should be clearly defined in publicly available regulations or law. In addition, the amount of funds that the executive is allowed to transfer between administrative units should not be so excessive as to undermine the accountability of the executive to the legislature.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before shifting funds, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to shift funds between administrative units and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. Answer "d" also applies if the executive is authorized to shift an amount considered so excessive as to undermine accountability (roughly equal to 3 percent of total budgeted expenditures). A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the shifting of funds after it has already occurred.

In the comments, please indicate any law or regulation that provides the executive with standing authority to shift funds between administrative units and, if so, describe that authority. Similarly, legislative approval for shifting funds between administrative units typically occurs with the adoption of legislation such as a supplemental budget. But if other formal procedures for gaining approval from the legislature exist, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

a. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice.

Source:

Budget Manual 2010:

https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Budget_Manual_1.pdf

Comment:

"No expenditure shall be incurred which may have the effect of exceeding the total grant or appropriation authorized by Parliament by law for a financial year, except after obtaining a supplementary grant or appropriation or an advance from the Contingency Fund" see page 111 of the Budget Manual

In practice the government also seek approval for changed expenditures:

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/First%20batch%20of%20Supplementary%202018-19.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Reallocation of funds between departments after the budget has been approved requires legislative approval, which is often obtained in the form of supplementary demands. In addition to this, the executive can draw upon the Contingent Fund of India for meeting emergency expenditures without prior parliamentary approval. But, later it needs to be approved.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

116. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue (that is, amounts higher than originally anticipated) that may become available during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 116 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if additional revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, which often happens in oil/mineral-dependent countries, and it was not accounted for in the Enacted Budget, there should be a procedure in place to ensure that the legislature approves any proposed use of these "new" funds. If such requirements are not in place, the

executive might deliberately underestimate revenue in the budget proposal it submits to the legislature, in order to have additional resources to spend at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before spending any funds resulting from higher-than-expected revenues, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if prior legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to spend excess revenue and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the additional spending after it has already occurred.

Typically, legislative approval of additional spending beyond what was reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur with the adoption of a supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

a The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenues, and it does so in practice.

Source:

http://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Budget_Manual_1.pdf

Comment:

Yes, prior permission is legally required to do so by the executive.

The additional grant needed to meet the required expenditure of the government is called Supplementary Grants. Executives need to get the approval of the legislature under article 115 of the Indian Constitution. Further, Article 265, 266 and 112 of the Indian constitution vests "the power over the purse in the hands of chosen representatives" by providing that "no tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law, no expenditure can be incurred except with the authorization of the legislature, and President shall, in respect of every financial year, cause to be laid before Parliament, "annual financial statement"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

117. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls (that is, revenues lower than originally anticipated) or other reasons during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 117 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to cutting spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls or for any other reason, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if less revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, the legislature should approve or reject any proposed reductions in expenditures that are implemented as a result. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might substantially change the composition of the budget at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

Typically, legislative approval of proposals to reduce spending below the levels reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur as part of the supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before implementing spending cuts in response to revenue shortfalls or for other reasons, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive received legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to obtain legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to implement such cuts and the executive does not obtain such approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the spending cuts after they have already occurred.

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below enacted levels, and in practice the executive implements these spending cuts before seeking prior approval from the legislature.

Source:

Comment:

The Constitution of India does not explicitly mention about the legal requirement of prior approval from the legislators for reducing the expenditure from the enacted levels.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

118. Did a committee of the legislature examine the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 118 is about ex post oversight following the implementation of the budget. It probes whether a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. A key issue is how soon after the SAI releases the report does it legislature review it. This question does not apply to the legislative scrutiny of in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period, which is assessed separately. Also, the question is asking specifically about the SAI's annual report on the execution of the budget, not about other audit reports that the SAI may produce. (This is the Audit Report used for responding to Question 98.)

To answer "a," a legislative committee must have examined the annual Audit Report within three months of it being released by the SAI, and then published a report (or reports) with findings and recommendations. (Note that the three-month period should only take into account time when the legislature is in session.)

Answer "b" applies when the committee examines it within six months of it being released (but more than three months), and then published a report with its findings and recommendations. Choose "c" if a committee examined the annual Audit Report more than six months after it became available or it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined the annual Audit Report.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed the Audit Report, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation. Answers "a," "b," or "c" may be selected if the Audit Report is produced by the SAI but not made publicly available.

Answer:

b. Yes, a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget within six months (but more than three months) of its availability, and it published a report with findings and recommendations.

Source:

http://164.100.47.193/lssccommittee/Public%20Accounts/16_Public_Accounts_66.pdf

Comment:

Yes, the Public Accounts Committee, a statutory committee of the Parliament of India tasked with the review and discussion of audit reports of Union Government finance.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree with the researcher. Review of Audit Report by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a conventional practice in India. As Audit Report takes more than 1 year starting from the the Financial Year to be published. It further takes few months for the scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee. Also, in the OBS 2019 guidelines, it is clearly mentioned that that the Audit Report of the FY 2016-17 will be taken into account. So, selecting the 2016-17 Audit Report by the researcher is also justified. However, a number of PAC reports (published in 2017-18) are available in the following link: http://loksabhaph.nic.in/Committee/CommitteeInformation.aspx?comm_code=26&tab=0

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

119. Was the process of appointing (or re-appointing) the current head of the SAI carried out in a way that ensures his or her independence?

GUIDELINES:

Question 119 concerns the appointment process of the current head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). Appointment procedures vary greatly across countries, as well as across different types of SAIs. Moreover, conventions and informal practices can greatly affect the de facto independence of the head of the SAI. While these factors make it difficult to devise a single metric against which all SAIs can be assessed with regard to this particular aspect, this question focuses on whether the legislature or judiciary must appoint or approve the appointment of the head of the SAI as a way to ensure the SAI's independence from the executive. However, if the appointment is carried out in another way that nonetheless ensures the independence of the SAI head, then that approach could be also considered.

To answer "a," the legislature or judiciary must appoint (or re-appoint) the head of the SAI, or approve the recommendation of the executive, as a way that

ensure his or her independence from the executive. (As noted above, alternative approaches may also be acceptable.) Choose "b" if the appointment process does not ensure the independence of the head of the SAI, e.g. the executive may appoint the head of the SAI without the final consent of the legislature or judiciary.

Irrespective of which answer you selected, provide a description of how the head of the SAI is appointed.

Answer:

b. No, the executive may appoint the head of the SAI without the final consent of the legislature or judiciary.

Source:

Under article 148 of the Constitution of India, The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of the executive and enjoys the same status as a judge of the Supreme Court of India, the highest court of India. Judiciary has no role in appointment of CAG in India.

Comment:

Though the President of India appoints the CAG, the recommendation is made by the Executive. However, the independence and unbiased functioning of the office of CAG is ensured through various provisions in the constitution of India: 1. The salary and other conditions of service of the Comptroller and Auditor-General shall be such as may be determined by Parliament by law and, until they are so determined, shall be as specified in the Second Schedule: Provided that neither the salary of a Comptroller and Auditor-General nor his rights in respect of leave of absence, pension or age of retirement shall be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment. 2. The Comptroller and Auditor-General shall not be eligible for further office either under the Government of India or under the Government of any State after he has ceased to hold his office. 3. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and of any law made by parliament, the conditions of service of persons serving in the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and the administrative powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General shall be such as may be prescribed by rules made by the President after consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General. 4. The administrative expenses of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General including all salaries, allowances and pensions payable to or in respect of persons serving in that office, shall be charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

120. Must a branch of government other than the executive (such as the legislature or the judiciary) give final consent before the head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) can be removed from office?

GUIDELINES:

Question 120 covers the manner in which the head or senior members of the SAI may be removed from office. This question draws on best practices identified in the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>), including measures intended to guarantee the office's independence from the executive.

To answer "a," the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the head of the SAI is removed. For example, the legislature or judiciary may give final consent following a certain external process, such as a criminal proceeding. So while the executive may initiate a criminal proceeding, the final consent of a member of the judiciary – or a judge – is necessary to render a verdict of wrongdoing that may lead to the removal from office of the head of the SAI. Answer "b" applies if the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature.

Answer:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before he or she is removed.

Source:

The CAG can be only removed by the President after special resolution passed in both the houses of the Parliament with special majority (Article 148 of the Constitution of India)

Comment:

The CAG can be removed from office in a manner and on grounds like Judge of a Supreme Court of India. Hence, the office of CAG is fairly independent in its working.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In consultation with a senior official from Indian Audit & Accounts Service, we were informed that the only way to remove the head of the

Supreme Audit Institution is 'impeachment' and for this 2/3rd majority among the legislatures is necessary. However, more detailed information are available in the following sites: The Constitution of India http://india.gov.in/govt/documents/english/coi_part_full.pdf http://www.legalserviceindia.com/constitution/const_india.htm Article 148 (see page no. 73 of the first citation) says: "Comptroller and Auditor General of India.-(1) There shall be a Comptroller and Auditor-General of India who shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal, and shall only be removed from the office in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court." Further, Article 124 (4) provides that procedure for removal of a Supreme Court judge as follows: "A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity."

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

121. Who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 121 asks who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). To ensure objective audits of government budgets, another important component of the SAI's independence from the executive is the extent to which the SAI's budget is determined by a body other than the executive, and whether the SAI has adequate resources to fulfill its mandate.

Answer "a" applies if the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate, AND either the SAI determines its own budget and then submits it to the executive (which accepts it with little or no change) or directly to the legislature, or the budget of the SAI is determined directly by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body). Answer "b" applies if the SAI's budget is determined by the executive (absent a recommendation from the SAI), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "c" applies if the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body) determines the SAI's budget, but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "d" applies if the executive determines the SAI's budget, and the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Please provide evidence in support of the assessment that the funding level is or is not broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Answer:

b. The budget of the SAI is determined by the executive, and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe36.pdf>

Comment:

Article 148 (6) says "The Administrative expenses of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, including all salaries, allowances and pensions payable to or in respect of pensions serving in that office, shall be "Charged" upon the Consolidated Fund of India" and hence not voted upon in the Parliament.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

122. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) have the discretion in law to undertake those audits it may wish to?

GUIDELINES:

Question 122 explores the scope of the investigative powers of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) as prescribed in law.

Question 97 asks which of the three types of audits – financial, compliance, and performance – the SAI conducts. This question asks if the SAI is constrained by law (rather than by a lack of capacity or an inadequate budget) from undertaking any form of audit or investigating irregularities in any program or activity.

There are numerous examples of limitations. For instance, some SAIs are not permitted by their legal mandate to audit joint ventures or other public-private arrangements. Others are only allowed to undertake financial audits, precluded from conducting performance or value-for-money audits. The SAIs in some countries do not have the legal mandate to review arrangements involving oil or stabilization funds, or other types of special or extra-budgetary funds. The SAI may also not have the ability to audit commercial projects involving the public and private sector.

To answer "a," the SAI must have full discretion in law to decide which audits to undertake. Answer "b" applies if some limitations exist, but the SAI enjoys significant discretion to undertake those audits it wishes to. Answer "c" applies if the SAI has some discretion, but significant legal limitations exist. Answer "d" applies if the SAI has no power at all to choose which audits to undertake

Consulting the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>) may be useful in answering this question as its provisions serve to define the appropriate scope of a SAI's legal mandate and jurisdiction.

Answer:

a. The SAI has full discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake.

Source:

<https://www.saiindia.gov.in/content/dpc-act-cags-duties-powers-and-conditions-service>

See sections 13 and 14, which shows that the CAG can Audit the Consolidated Fund, Union, States, Contingency Funds, Public Accounts, and all subsidiary accounts, as well as any bodies substantially financed by union or state revenues.

Comment:

CAG has complete authority of auditing government accounts and can undertake any financial matter to be audited. Please see the text mentioned in the cited document, sl. no. 17 as: "The Comptroller and Auditor-General shall have authority to audit and report on the accounts of stores and stock kept in any office or department of the Union or of a State".

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: SAI has the 'full discretion in law' to undertake those audits it may wish to. Further, the details are available in the following website. The Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 <http://www.cgaindia.gov.in/html/book3/appendix3.htm> http://finmin.nic.in/the_ministry/dept_eco_affairs/budget/CAGAct1971.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

Agree with the PR's response.

123. Are the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) reviewed by an independent agency?

GUIDELINES:

Question 123 assesses whether and to what extent the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) are subject to review by an independent agency. The latter could be a peer SAI, an international organization, an academic institution with relevant expertise, or an independent domestic agency with quality assurance functions in the area of financial reporting.

To answer "a," an independent agency must conduct and publish a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis. Answer "b" applies if a review was carried out within the past five years, and published, but it is not conducted annually, but. Choose answer "c" if the SAI has an internal unit that reviews the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis, but an independent agency does not conduct such a review. Answer "d" applies if the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.

If the answer is either "a" or "b," please specify the name of the independent agency and when last it conducted such a review, and provide a copy of the published report. If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the unit within the SAI that is tasked with conducting such reviews.

Answer:

d. No, the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.

Source:

CAG's report on their on views of internal review. See for example p. 86:
https://cag.gov.in/sites/default/files/performance_activity_report/PA_2017_0.pdf

Comment:

The Audit processes of the SAI are not reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

124. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 124 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Many SAIs interact with the legislature in some form, but the nature and intensity of the interaction varies. This question probes this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the SAI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the SAI representative in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). You can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the SAI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; "c" for once or twice, and "d" for never.

Answer:

a. Frequently (i.e., five times or more).

Source:

http://164.100.47.193/lsscommittee/Public%20Accounts/16_Public_Accounts_56.pdf

Comment:

Senior CAG officials are present in almost all Public Account Committee (PAC) meetings. This information can be found in minutes of the Committee meetings where the list of members is given (as appendix). Unfortunately, these minutes of meetings are not available in the public domain.

There are many instances where representatives of CAG were present on the hearings of the legislative committee. Please see the report link, page no- 97.

http://164.100.47.193/lsscommittee/Public%20Accounts/16_Public_Accounts_95.pdf

Also, see the link of the reports where the presence of CAG members can be seen.

http://loksabhaph.nic.in/Committee/CommitteeInformation.aspx?comm_code=26&tab=0

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

125. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation of the annual budget (prior to the budget being tabled in parliament)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf.

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in the formulation of the annual budget, including annual pre-budget discussions. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as spending and tax policy, funding and revenue levels, and macro-fiscal planning.

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government officials. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics,

independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

c. Yes, the executive uses participation mechanisms during the budget formulation phase, but either these mechanisms capture only some ad-hoc views, or the executive invites specific individuals or groups for budget discussions (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Source:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174149>

Comment:

In the budget making process in India, executive holds a few pre-budget consultations with industry groups, trade unions, social sectors and budget groups etc. During the last few years, Finance Minister has been meeting with larger civil society groups before the budget is finalised. But the discussions are open to invited groups only.

On the MyGov website, there has previously been a suggestion page for input into the budget, for example, from 2017:

<https://www.mygov.in/group-issue/suggestions-invited-union-budget-2017/>

However, this did not appear to happen in 2018, therefore is not scored for this question.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

126. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive take concrete steps to include vulnerable and under-represented parts of the population in the formulation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on the executive's efforts to seek out the views of members of the public from socially vulnerable groups and/or who are underrepresented in the process.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from vulnerable and underrepresented communities and/or civil society organizations representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives of vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

a. Yes, the executive takes concrete steps to include individuals and/or CSOs representing vulnerable and underrepresented parts of the population in the formulation of the annual budget.

Source:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174149>

Comment:

Pre Budget consultations are ad-hoc in nature and not a formal process in India, which was initiated since 2010. The Constitution or any other law does not make it a mandatory process. The pre-budget consultation does include groups that represents the vulnerable and under-represented sections of the society (like Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, persons with disabilities etc.) and the same is reflected in the union budget preparation also in the form of separate statements like Schedule Caste Sub Plan, Tribal Sub-Plan, Gender Budget Statement, Child Budget Statement. However, the pre-budget consultations are not binding and also not an open forum. Organisations / groups can participate only by invitation and the recommendations made may not necessarily be incorporated in the budget. The same can be seen in the form of a Press Information cited in the link.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Comments: Although a system of pre-budget consultation is in place, it is not very effective. However, there are some provisions in the budget for the vulnerable and under-represented sections of the society. These were started since 2005-06 and practice is continuing. It is not a concrete step taken by the executive. So, I think "b" should be the appropriate answer.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

We do not agree with the reviewer's answer to this question. In terms of mechanisms of participation for the public, we think the pre-budget consultation is a concrete step to include individuals and/or CSOs representing vulnerable and underrepresented parts of the population in the formulation of the annual budget. Hence, our answer is option "a".

127. During the budget formulation stage, which of the following key topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the formulation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics -- and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget formulation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above -- for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

c. The executive's engagement with citizens covers at least one (but less than three) of the above-mentioned topics.

Source:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174149>

Comment:

During the budget formulation stage the executive's engagement with citizens cover only social spending. However, we do not have an agenda for this rather a press release is available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

128. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf.

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget. If the executive has designated a central coordinating agency to implement participation mechanisms throughout the national budget process, researchers may consider these mechanisms. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the implementation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenue administration, public service delivery, public investment project implementation, including procurement, and the administration of social transfer schemes.

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings, online, deliberative exchanges, procurement complaint mechanisms, and social monitoring and dialogue.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input on the implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include public hearings, surveys, focus groups, report cards, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to provide input on budget implementation, but:

1) *The mechanisms are not structured, happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.*

and/or

2) *The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.*

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", the researcher must have evidence that the government is holding participation mechanisms that have some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that all CSOs and members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples include hotlines, Facebook announcements, one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Social Audits are conducted in government flagship programmes like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). Similarly School Management Committees (which include parents, local government officials and teachers), under the Right to Education are constituted to look into the expenditure done by schools from specific grants received. Village health and sanitation committee monitor the implementation of health related initiatives and provide inputs on health related issues. However, these mechanisms are still not strictly adhered to by all the states. Additionally, because social audits are initiated by civil society and not the state, answer choice "d" is selected.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

129. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive take concrete steps to receive input from vulnerable and underrepresented parts of the population on the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on national government's efforts to obtain input from members of the public who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes during the implementation of the annual budget.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from vulnerable and underrepresented community and/or civil society organizations representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives from vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the national executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174149>

Comment:

The executives do not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms and even the executives do not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

130. During the implementation of the annual budget, which of the following topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Changes in macroeconomic circumstances
2. Delivery of public services
3. Collection of revenue
4. Implementation of social spending
5. Changes in deficit and debt levels

6. Implementation of public investment projects

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the implementation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics -- and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget implementation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above -- for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be ONLY the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

http://nrega.nic.in/netnrega/SocialAuditFindings/sa_home.aspx

Comment:

The social audit process generally covers the flagship programmes of the Union Government. The evidence shows that such audits are restricted to 'delivery of public services' and 'implementation of social spending'. However, since they are run by civil society, and not the government, the choice is D.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

131. When the executive engages with the public, does it provide comprehensive prior information on the process of the engagement, so that the public can participate in an informed manner?

Comprehensive information must include at least three of the following elements:

1. Purpose
2. Scope
3. Constraints
4. Intended outcomes
5. Process and timeline

GUIDELINES:

This question relates to the GIFT principle of "Openness," and addresses whether the executive provides relevant information on the process of the engagement before public participation takes place, in order to help citizens engage effectively. The question addresses whether the "rules of the public engagement" are clearly spelled out, in advance and in detail, so that those members of the public who want to engage know how to do so, in terms of when they can do so, what they are expected to provide input on, by when, to whom, etc. This question does not cover the substance of the engagement, which is covered by questions 127 and 130.

Non-comprehensive information means that the government provides information that includes at least one but less than three of the elements listed above.

Purpose refers to a brief explanation of why the public engagement is being undertaken, including the executive's objectives for its engagement with the public.

Scope refers to what is within the subject matter of the engagement as well as what is outside the subject matter of the engagement. For example, the scope may include how a current policy is administered but exclude the specifics of the policies themselves.

Constraints refers to whether there are any explicit limitations on the engagement. An example of a constraint could be that any policy changes must not cost (or forgo revenue) more than a specific amount or have no net fiscal cost.

Intended outcomes refers to what the executive hopes to achieve as a result of the engagement. Examples of intended outcomes could be revising a policy to better reflect citizen or service-user views or to improve the way in which a particular program is administered.

Process refers to the methods by which the public engagement will take place and the discrete steps in the process. For example, the process may simply be a one-off Internet-based consultation, with a summary published of public inputs and the official response. The process may involve simultaneous or overlapping steps, and may be conducted in one round or in two or more rounds of engagement.

Timeline refers to the specific dates on which the discrete steps in the process will take place, or during which they will be completed, and clear start and end dates for the overall engagement.

Answer "d" applies if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation or formulation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

http://nrega.nic.in/netnrega/SocialAuditFindings/sa_home.aspx - Information is provided but not comprehensive. However, as the mechanism scores D in Q128, this answer is also D.

Comment:

From Q125 - In the budget making process in India, executive holds a few pre-budget consultations with industry groups, trade unions, social sectors and budget groups etc. But the discussions are open to invited groups only. Information about the meetings is not provided to the public beforehand.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

132. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used in the formulation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used in the formulation of the annual budget, and how/why.

By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.

Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used.*

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

c. Yes, the executive provides a written record which includes either the list of the inputs received or a report or summary on how they were used.

Source:

Comment:

The executive does not provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used in the formulation of the annual budget. It has not been in the practice as of now. Also, citizens are not informed that their recommendations / suggestions have been incorporated or not.

However there is some information on the inputs that were received that is published in the press release:
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174149>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

133. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive provide the public with information on how citizens' inputs have been used to assist in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received during the implementation of the annual budget, which ones are taken into account to improve budget monitoring, and how/why.

By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.

Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received (e.g., a written transcript) from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were or were not taken into account by the executive during budget monitoring.*

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/impbud/impbud.pdf>
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/ub2019-20/impbud/impbud.pdf>

Comment:

No, the executive does not provide the public with information on how citizens' inputs have been used to assist in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget. Although there is a document that provides status of the implementation of budget proposals of previous year.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

134. Are participation mechanisms incorporated into the timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Sustainability," "Timeliness" and "Complementarity" and addresses whether the executive is able to link participation mechanisms to the administrative processes that are used to create the annual budget.

Please note that "timetable" refers to a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. This document is sometimes referred to as the budget calendar and is the same document referenced in Question 53.

Answer "a" applies if the national executive establishes a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget. For answer choice "a", the timetable must be available to the public prior to the budget preparation process beginning.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not establish a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

Comment:

No, there is no such fixed time table for formulating EBPs and is made available to the public.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

135. Do one or more line ministries use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation or implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES

While questions 125 – 135 focus only on participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency currently use to allow the public to participate in the national budget process, this question asks about participation mechanisms used by line ministries to allow the public to participate in national budget processes. Thus, participation mechanisms used by the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by a line ministry or if multiple line ministries use participation mechanisms, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation and/or implementation of the annual budget.

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf

To answer "a," a line ministry must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which a line ministry seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if a line ministry has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) A line ministry consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the line ministry determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

No line departments are using participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation or implementation of the annual budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There is no proper mechanism in place. But, sometime individuals/NGO representatives meet the officers in the line ministries. But, impact of these types of engagement is not visible.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

136. Does the legislature or the relevant legislative committee(s) hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the formulation of the annual budget (pre-budget and/or approval stages)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislature are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) has put in place and is using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the annual budget. This includes deliberations during the pre-budget phase (i.e., when the executive is still in the process of formulating the draft budget) and the budget discussions after the budget has been tabled to parliament and before it is approved. In the comment box, please specify during which stage of the budget cycle the legislature has put in place a public participation mechanism.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual Members of Parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

If there is more than one mechanism, please select a mechanism that best shows/reflects the legislature's efforts to incorporate citizens into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenues, policy selection, and macro-fiscal planning (please note that the issue of coverage is covered in a subsequent question).

To answer "a," the legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs; but
- There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs;
- No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, but
- The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

The legislature or the relevant legislative committee (s) do not hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the formulation of the annual budget (pre-budget and/or approval stages).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

137. During the legislative deliberations on the annual budget (pre-budget or approval stages), which of the following key topics does the legislature's (or relevant legislative budget committee) engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider the range of mechanisms currently used by the legislature to promote public participation during legislative deliberations on the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics, for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the legislature's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

During the legislative deliberations on the annual budget (pre-budget or approval stages), the legislature (or relevant legislative budget committee) does not engage citizens on any of the topics. As the practice of public engagement is not in place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

138. Does the legislature provide feedback to the public on how citizens' inputs have been used during legislative deliberations on the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the legislature provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received and how inputs were used during legislative deliberations (please note that these deliberations can refer to the pre-budget and approval phases). By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the legislature.

Answer "a" applies when the legislature provides a written document with:

- *The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).*

Answer "b" applies when the legislature provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and*
- *A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used in legislative deliberations on the annual budget (please note that these deliberations refer to the pre-budget and approval phases).*

Answer "c" applies when the legislature provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

The Legislature/any legislative committee (s) is / are not informing on how citizens' inputs have been used during legislative deliberations on the annual budget as they are not involving citizens in any of the stages of budgeting.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

139. Does the legislature hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the Audit Report?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislative are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.

A key constitutional role of the legislature in almost all countries is to oversee the government's management of public resources. While the Supreme Audit Institution is responsible for checking the government's accounts and publishing the outcome of their audits, for accountability purposes it is essential that the legislature reviews and scrutinizes those reports, and checks on whether the executive is taking the appropriate corrective actions based on the Supreme Audit Institution's recommendations.

Holding public hearings to review audit findings allows the public to learn more about how the government has managed its resources for the budget years that have ended, and demand accountability in case of mismanagement and irregularities. Reviewing and discussing those reports in public is therefore a key responsibility of a legislature.

Please note that by "Audit Report" we refer to the same audit report assessed in the transparency section of this Survey, i.e., one of the eight key budget documents that all governments (in this case, the Supreme Audit Institution) must produce, according to best practice.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) have put in place and using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the Audit Report.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual members of parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

To answer "a," the national legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *No testimony is allowed from the public; BUT*
- *There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.*

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *No testimony is allowed from the public;*
- *No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, BUT*
- *The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the Audit Report.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

No, the legislature does not hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the Audit Report(s).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

140. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program (for example, by bringing ideas on agencies, programs, or projects that could be audited)?

GUIDELINES:

This question assesses whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has established mechanisms through which the public can provide suggestions on

issues/topics to be included in its audit program. When deciding its audit agenda, the SAI may undertake audits for a sample of agencies, projects, and programs in the country; and such a selection could be based on complaints and suggestions made by members of the public. To receive such suggestions, the SAI may create formal mechanisms, like setting up a website, hotline, or office (or assigning staff to liaise with the public).

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

<https://cag.gov.in/content/audit-advisory-board-0>

Comment:

The Audit Advisory Board, constituted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), is the only formal mechanism through which the representatives from the public can be part of functioning of the SAI. The board represents public figures and during advisory board meetings, issues and areas of audits are being taken up for the discussion and subsequent action by the CAG.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

141. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used to determine its audit program?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the Supreme Audit Institution provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used to determine the Supreme Audit Institution's audit program. By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the Supreme Audit Institution.

Answer "a" applies when the Supreme Audit Institution provides a written document with:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).*

Answer "b" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used to determine the SAI's annual audit program.*

Answer "c" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggests issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

No, CAG does not provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used to determine its audit program, even the discussions happening on the audit advisory board.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

142. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations (as respondents, witnesses, etc.)?

GUIDELINES:

This question mirrors question 140, but instead of covering public assistance in formulating the SAI's audit program, it focuses on whether the Supreme Audit Institution has established mechanisms through which the public can participate in audit investigations. In addition to seeking public input to determine its audit agenda, the SAI may wish to provide formal opportunities for the public and civil society organizations to participate in the actual audit investigations, as witnesses or respondents.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

Comment:

No, the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) does not maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

S0. Are you participating in the Sector Budget Transparency Module pilot?

Please select "Yes" to this question if you have confirmed your participation in the Sector Budget Transparency Module pilot, and S1-S20 related to sector budget transparency will become available for you to complete.

For all others, please select "No," and you will be directed to the last page of the Open Budget Survey questionnaire.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

S1. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal present revenue earmarked for the sector and/or the sector's expenditure associated with this earmarked revenue?

Answer:

d. No, the Executive's Budget Proposal does not present total revenues earmarked for the sector or the total sector's expenditure associated with earmarked revenue.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe5.pdf>

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe43.pdf>

<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%202018-19%20HR%20PAO%20%28Final%29.pdf>

<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%202018-19%20%28NHM%29.pdf>

Comment:

The Executive's Budget Proposal does not present total revenues earmarked for the health sector or the total health sector's expenditure associated with earmarked revenue. In fact, the budgeting practice in India does not follow the practice of double entry book keeping, in which source of revenue (either for the entire sector or for specific heads) should necessarily be provided for each entry of allocation / expenditure reported.

Specifically, there is nothing earmarked revenue for health sector, except the user charges, fees etc. shown in page no -8 of the following link:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>.

However, government introduced a health cess as well, along with education cess from current FY. This is the similar process how it has been for education. This can be seen in the following link, page no.2 and in subsequent pages.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

During an IBP review, the score for this question is confirmed as D. The revenue from the 'Medical and Public Health' are not explained whether they are earmarked, or general revenues. Therefore you can't tell which of the taxes has an earmark for the health sector.

S2. Does the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) present revenue earmarked for the sector and/or the sector's expenditure associated with this earmarked revenue?

Answer:

d. No, the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) does not present total revenues earmarked for the sector or the total sector's expenditure associated with earmarked revenue.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/42AppAcc20172018.pdf>

Comment:

The Year-End Report does not present total revenues earmarked for the sector or the total sector's expenditure associated with earmarked revenue. It only explains what is the amount allotted (various stages) and the extent of expenditure of these allotted fund. It also records the reasons of variations therein.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S3. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal present donor assistance for the sector and/or the sector's expenditure associated with this donor assistance?

Answer:

d. No, the Executive's Budget Proposal does not present total donor assistance for the sector or the total sector's expenditure associated with donor assistance.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/rec/allrec.pdf>

Net external assistance shown on p. 20 and 22

See External Assistance, p. 68-70 shows the type of external assistance (grants, loans) and a description of each donor, but there is not an estimate of resources from each donor.

Furthermore, there is no way of identifying how much of the external assistance goes to the health sector. The score is D.

Comment:

"Detailed Demands for Grants" is not part of the EBP as per OBS methodology, but certainly this is the more elaborated document presented by the executive while presenting the budget in the parliament.

<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%2018-19%20Health%20%28final%29.pdf>

Furthermore, the donor assisted resources for the sector does not fully accounted in the budgetary practice in the country. However, a smaller proportion of funds (supported through budget, as a top up grant) is being recorded in the executive's budget proposal. Larger support of the donors are reported as off budget and directly to the implementing agencies.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S4. Does the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) present expenditure by a functional classification (first-level functional) that is consistent with the first-level functional classification presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and/or the Enacted Budget?

Answer:

b. Yes, the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) presents expenditure by a functional classification that is consistent with the classification presented in either the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget. (Please add a comment for which document the functional classification is presented.)

Source:

EBP (for FY 2016/2017) - <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2016-2017/ub2016-17/afs/allafs.pdf> P. 3 and 7

YER - <http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement9.pdf>, page number 152-154

Both present "Medical and Public Health 4210" although only the YER provides a sub-functional classification.

Comment:

The Year-End Report presents expenditure by a functional classification that is consistent with the classification presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

The Enacted budget only presents the administrative classification of budgets and not the functional classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S5. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal and/or the Enacted Budget present the sector's expenditure by a subfunctional classification (second-level

functional)?

Answer:

b. No, neither the Executive's Budget Proposal nor the Enacted Budget present the sector's expenditure by a subfunctional classification.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/afs/allafs.pdf>

Functional classification of Expenditures is available Pages 4

However there is no information for the health sector below a single line for "Medical and Public Health"

Comment:

"Detailed Demands for Grants" is not part of the EBP as per OBS methodology, but certainly this is the more elaborated document presented by the executive while presenting the budget in the parliament. These documents made available (some of these and not all) to the public in the respective Ministries web portal and not in the main portal for India's Budget. These documents, in fact, provide details of the budget layers, up to the object-wise classification.

<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%202018-19%20HR%20PAO%20%28Final%29.pdf>

<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%2018-19%20Health%20%28final%29.pdf>

Therefore, the information exists, but it is not part of the formal budget package released to the public on the Ministry of Finance's website.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S6. Does the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) present the sector's expenditure by a subfunctional classification (second-level functional) that is consistent with the subfunctional classification presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and/or the Enacted Budget?

Answer:

c. Yes, the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) presents the sector's expenditure by a subfunctional classification, but it is not consistent with the classification presented in either the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget.

Source:

EBP (for FY 2016/2017) - <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2016-2017/ub2016-17/afs/allafs.pdf> P. 3 and 7

YER - <http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement9.pdf>, page number 152-154

Both present "Medical and Public Health 4210" although only the YER provides a sub-functional classification.

Comment:

Yes, the Year-End Report presents the sector's expenditure by sub-functional classification. The EBP does not.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S7. Does the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) present expenditure by an administrative classification that is consistent with the administrative classification presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and/or the Enacted Budget?

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) presents expenditure by an administrative classification that is consistent with the administrative classification presented in both the Executive's Budget Proposal and the Enacted Budget.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2017-2018.aspx>

Comment:

Yes, the Year-End Report presents expenditure by an administrative classification that is consistent with the classification presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2017-2018/ub2017-18/eb/stat3a.pdf>

And also the EB: <http://164.100.47.193/BillsPDFFiles/Notification/2018-80-gaz.pdf>

YER 2017-2018 has:

42 Department of Health and Family Welfare

43 Department of Health Research

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S8. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal and/or the Enacted Budget present the sector's expenditure by program?

Answer:

a. Yes, the Executive's Budget Proposal and/or the Enacted Budget present(s) the sector's expenditure by program. (Please note in the comments in which document(s) programs are presented)

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe42.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, the Executive's Budget Proposal present the sector's expenditure by program. The Detailed Demands for Grants provides such programmatic expenditure details.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S9. Does the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) present the sector's expenditure by program consistent with sector programs presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and/or the Enacted Budget?

Answer:

c. Yes, the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) presents the sector's expenditure by program, but it is not consistent with the programs presented in either the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/42AppAcc20172018.pdf>

<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%2018-19%20Health%20%28final%29.pdf>

<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%202018-19%20HR%20PAO%20%28Final%29.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, the Year-End Report does present the sector's expenditure by program (see Q86).
The entire government departments are here in this link: <http://www.cga.nic.in/AppropriateReport/Published/2017-2018.aspx>

However, here in Sector budget question, the program wise details given in YER / IYR is not consistent what we get in EBP.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S10. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal and/or the Enacted Budget present the sector's expenditure by administrative or program classification, showing details below the second level of the classification's hierarchy?

Answer:

b. No, neither the Executive's Budget Proposal nor the Enacted Budget presents this level of detail.

Source:

See the links: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe42.pdf>.

Comment:

Here, for instance: Below the Ministry, there is a functional head (which is missing, but is given in the other document called- Demands for Grants (<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/dg42.pdf>).

So we are getting programme wise distribution.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S11. Does the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) present the sector's expenditure by administrative or program classification, showing details below the second level of the classification's hierarchy?

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) presents the sector's expenditure by administrative or program classification, showing details below the second level of the classification's hierarchy. (Please note in the comments the document and the type of classification.)

Source:

Yes, it has details of such classification. Please see the link:
<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/Fin20162017Statement9.pdf>
Page no. 152.

Here, we have: (b) Health and Family Welfare- This is sub-sectoral classification (Within Health Sector); 2210- Functional Classification- 01- Sub-Functional Classification- 001 to 911 are the program classification.

Comment:

Yes, there is a second level dis-aggregation below the Ministry shown in these documents.

This would be the Program / Head (Health and Family Welfare) , below that is sub-head (01 Urban Health Services-Allopathy), and then details of specific activities or schemes within each sub-head, which counts as a second-level of detail.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) presents the sector's expenditure by administrative or program classification, showing details below the second level of the classification's hierarchy. (Please note in the comments the document and the type of classification.)

Comments: As per the report cited by the researcher, the correct answer should be "a".

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

We agree with the reviewer's comments in this question.

S12. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal present an economic classification for the sector's expenditure (organized by functional, administrative, or program classification)?

Answer:

b. No, the Executive's Budget Proposal does not present an economic classification for the sector's expenditure.

Source:

See: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe42.pdf>
and <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe43.pdf>

No economic classification provided below the administrative

Comment:

No, the Executive's Budget Proposal does not present an economic classification for the sector's expenditure, which can be considered international.

Note that the detailed demand for grants are not submitted as part of the budget, but they do not include this information either:

<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%2018-19%20Health%20%28final%29.pdf>
<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%202018-19%20HR%20PAO%20%28Final%29.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S13. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal present a geographic distribution of the sector's expenditure (organized by functional classification, administrative classification, or program)? (For the purposes of this question, the sector's expenditure must include spending beyond just intergovernmental transfers.)

Answer:

b. No, the Executive's Budget Proposal does not present a geographic distribution of the sector's expenditure.

Source:

See: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe42.pdf>
and <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe43.pdf>

No geographic distribution of expenditures

Note that the detailed demand for grants are not part of the budget, but don't have this information either
<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%202018-19%20%28NHM%29.pdf>
<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%2018-19%20Health%20%28final%29.pdf>

Comment:

No, the Executive's Budget Proposal does not present a geographic distribution of the entire sector's expenditure.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S14. Does the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) present intergovernmental transfers to the sector?

Answer:

d. No, the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) does not present total intergovernmental transfers to the sector.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/42AppAcc20172018.pdf>

Comment:

No, the Year-End Report does not present total intergovernmental transfers to the sector.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S15. Does the Executive Budget Proposal present expenditure for individual front-line service delivery units for the sector?

Answer:

a. Yes, the Executive Budget Proposal presents expenditure for individual front-line service delivery units for the sector. (Please note in the comments the type of facilities, and whether they are primary, secondary or tertiary.)

Source:

There is some very limited information on hospitals here:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe42.pdf>

No information on clinics or other front-line service delivery units. These hospitals are likely either transfers or budget heads, not an additional analysis to show service unit spending.

Note that there are more detailed documents not part of the budget proposal that do not have additional information on service delivery units either however: <https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%2018-19%20Health%20%28final%29.pdf>

<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%202018-19%20HR%20PAO%20%28Final%29.pdf>

Comment:

No, the Executive's Budget Proposal does not present a complete picture of the entire expenditure of health sector into individual front-line service delivery units wise, but some limited information is provided, enough to score A here.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

S16. Does the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) present expenditure for individual front-line service delivery units for the sector?

Answer:

b. No, the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) does not present expenditure for individual front-line service delivery units for the sector.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/42AppAcc20172018.pdf>

Comment:

No, the Year-End Report does not present expenditure for individual front-line service delivery units for the sector.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S17. Does the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) present the differences between the original estimates of transfers to public corporations in the sector and the actual outcome?

Answer:

d. No, the Year-End Report (or the final In-Year Report) does not present the differences between the original estimates of transfers to public corporations in the sector and the actual outcome.

Source:

<http://www.cga.nic.in/writereaddata/42AppAcc20172018.pdf>

Comment:

No, the Year-End Report does not present the differences between the original estimates of transfers to public corporations in the sector and the actual outcome.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S18. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal present a narrative explaining the objectives for the sector's expenditure, and show the expenditure associated with achieving the objectives?

Answer:

c. Yes, the Executive's Budget Proposal presents a narrative explaining the objectives for the sector's expenditure but does not show how expenditure is associated with achieving the objectives.

Source:

<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe5.pdf>

Comment:

Yes, the Executive's Budget Proposal presents a narrative explaining the objectives for the sector's expenditure, partially and not fully, but does not show (report / explain) how expenditure is associated with achieving the objectives of the sector.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

S19. Is subnational expenditure in the sector (including expenditure financed from own-source revenues) reported in *central* government budget formulation documents (Executive's Budget Proposal or Enacted Budget) or budget execution documents (In-Year Reports or Year-End Report)?

Answer:

d. No, the sector's subnational expenditure is not presented in any central government budget formulation or execution documents.

Source:

<https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/DDG%202018-19%20%28NHM%29.pdf>

Comment:

No, the sector's subnational expenditure from own-source revenues is not presented in any central government budget formulation or execution documents.

The information pertaining to Scheme Expenditure (particularly for Centrally Sponsored Schemes) are reported in EBP. Please see the link (<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2018-2019/ub2018-19/eb/sbe42.pdf>) and page no-136 with the heading (Transfers to States / UTs), however there are no revenues.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree with the researcher. Transfers to sub-national expenditure from own-source revenues is not presented in any central government budget formulation or execution documents.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: