

NEW GOVERNMENT GIVES LITTLE HOPE to CHILDREN....

BUDGET FOR CHILDREN 2014-2015



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Almost 40 per cent persons in India are children.

On 10 July 2014, the new BJP Government presented its first budget, popularly being called the NAMOBudget.

Unfortunately, despite a letter to the Finance Minister on 23 June 2014 highlighting the areas of concern for children that require his attention, there was little attention paid to them.

Children have been given only 4.6 per cent of the total budget of 2014-15.

In fact the share of children in has decreased.

Is this the Finance Minister's gift to children on India?

Children received barely a mention in the Finance Minister's speech. What is more, the share of budget for children has seen a decrease.

Major highlights for Budget for Children (BfC) in Union Budget 2014-15

- Children who constitute almost **40 percent of the population have been allocated less than 5 per cent of the total budget** (4.46 percent).
- While the total Union Budget has gone up by 7.78 per cent in 2014-15, the **BfC has increased by 3.52 per cent.**
- What is more, although in actual allocations for children have gone up by 3.52 per cent, there is a **decrease in the percentage share from 4.64 per cent in 2013-14 to 4.46 per cent in 2014-15.** And this, **despite substantial increase in existing schemes like ICDS, ICPS and SSA and the addition schemes for children with disability and girl children.**
- **There is a discrepancy of Rs.1019.01 Crore between what Shri Arun Jaitley announced in his speech for children and what is in Statement 22** (Expenditure Statement on child welfare schemes; Expenditure Budget, Vol I). While in his speech Shri Arun Jaitley announced an allocation of Rs. 81,075 Crore allocation, in Statement 22 of 2014-15, the total allocation for children is Rs. 80055.99. What is the real figure?

- While **education sector** receives the maximum share (3.20 per cent) in the Union Budget, there is a **4.19 per cent decline against the allocation made for school education in the previous year.**
- **Despite small increases in the allocation for child health and protection sectors they remain poorly resourced.** (0.16 percent share of Union Budget for child health and 0.04 per cent for protection)

A look at some of the flagship schemes:

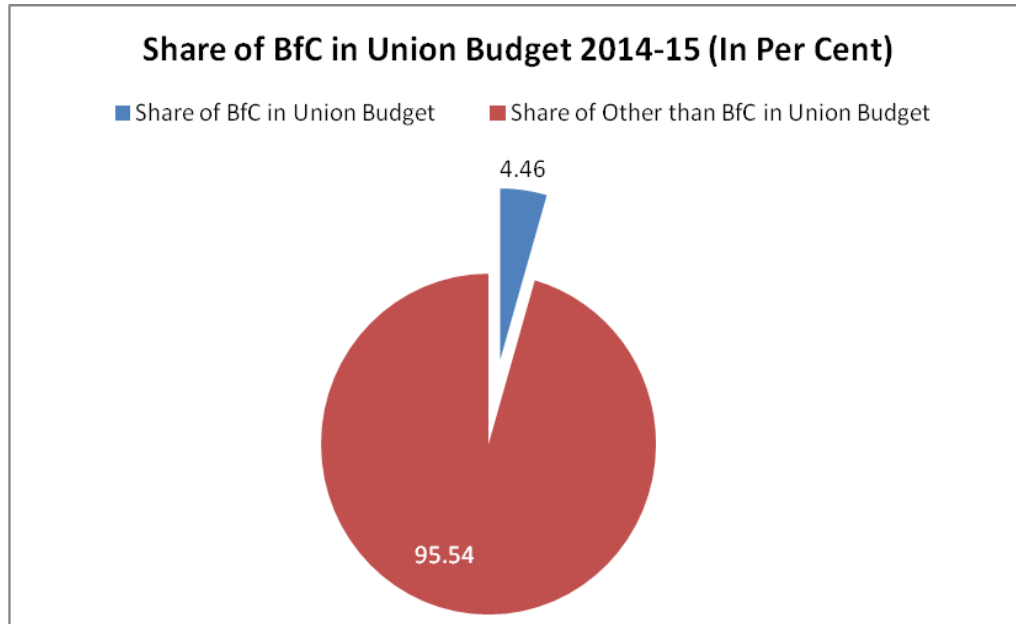
- A new scheme for the **welfare of girl child named “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana” has been launched this year with a total earmarked budget of Rs. 100 Crore. However, this scheme does not feature anywhere in the Statement 22.**
- There is a **2.79 per cent increase in the allocation for ‘Integrated Child Development Scheme’ (ICDS), (Rs. 18,195 Crore).** The new ICDS in mission mode to deal with malnutrition leaves us with some hopes in future.
- Allocation for **‘Mid Day Meal’ remains unchanged** this year with a total allocation of Rs. 13,215 Crore.
- **‘Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan’ (SSA) received a minimal increase of just Rs 500 Crore** compared to the last year’s allocation (Allocation of ₹27,758 Crore in 2014-15).
- There is a **33.33 per cent increase in allocation for ‘Integrated Child Protection Scheme’ (ICPS) in 2014-15.**
- The most laudable step has **been inclusion of specific allocation for children in two schemes the ‘Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme’ and the ‘Aids and Appliances for Handicapped’.** Department of Disability Affairs has been set up under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The most important and welcome move this year has been the addition of two schemes in Statement 22 relating to welfare of disabled children. These schemes have always been under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and are schemes that cater to all disabled children and not children specifically. However, by demarcating a separate budget under these schemes for children with disability is a very positive and long awaited move and must be welcomed by all.

- **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme** (₹36 Crore allocated in 2014-15)
- **Aids and Appliances for Handicapped** (₹11 Crore allocated in 2014-15)

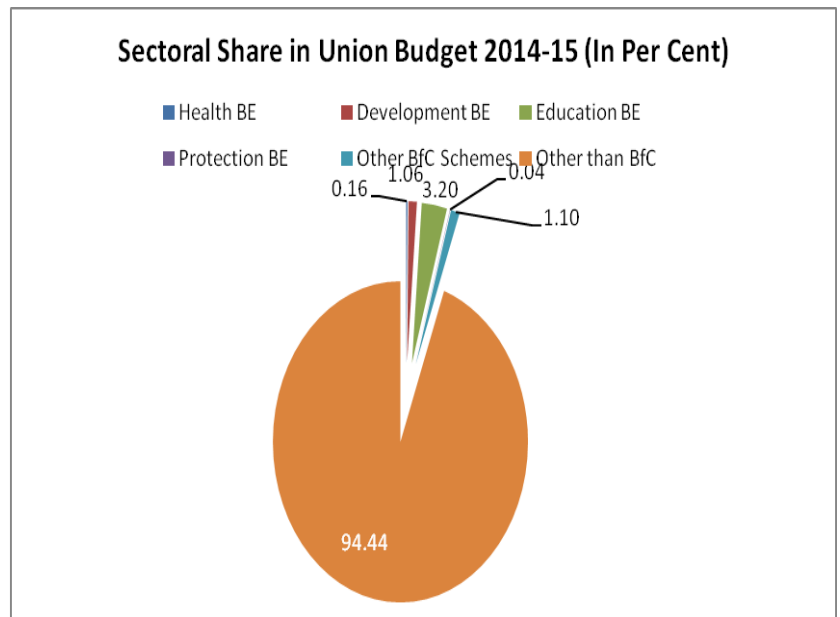
Children’s share in the Union Budget 2014-15

Out of every 100 rupees, children get only 4 rupees 46 paise in Union Budget 2014-15.



Sectoral Share in Union Budget 2014-15

- As usual, Education receives the maximum share of allocations, while Health and Protection continue to be at margins with minimal share of allocations.
- Although the Union Budget at BE stage increased by 7.78 per cent in comparison to previous year, the share of allocations for



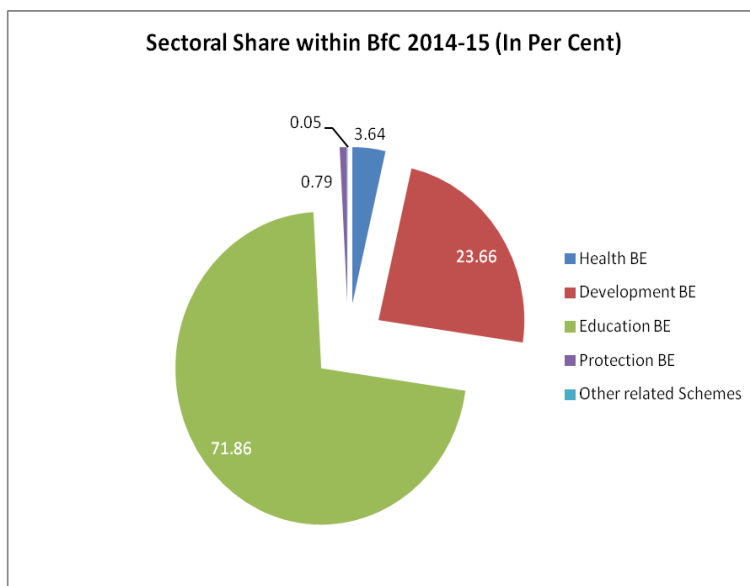
child health and child protection remain exactly the same as it was in the previous year’s budget.

- In fact, the shares of child education and child development have observed a decrease in 2014-15 budget. The table below describes the sectoral share in Union Budget 2014-15.

Sectoral Share in Union Budget						
Year	Health BE	Development BE	Education BE	Protection BE	Other BfC Schemes ¹	Other than BfC
2012-2013	0.18	1.10	3.44	0.04	0.0028	95.24
2013-2014	0.16	1.10	3.34	0.03	0.0027	95.36
2014-2015	0.16	1.06	3.20	0.04	1.10	94.44

Sectoral Share within BfC 2014-15

- Within BfC education sector has been given the maximum share of 71.86 per cent. However, what is more important is there is a 0.24 per cent decrease in comparison to the share it received in the 2013-14 BfC.
- Child development too observed a decrease of 0.50 percentage points in the share of allocations
- Child health and protection saw a nominal increase in the share within BfC and.



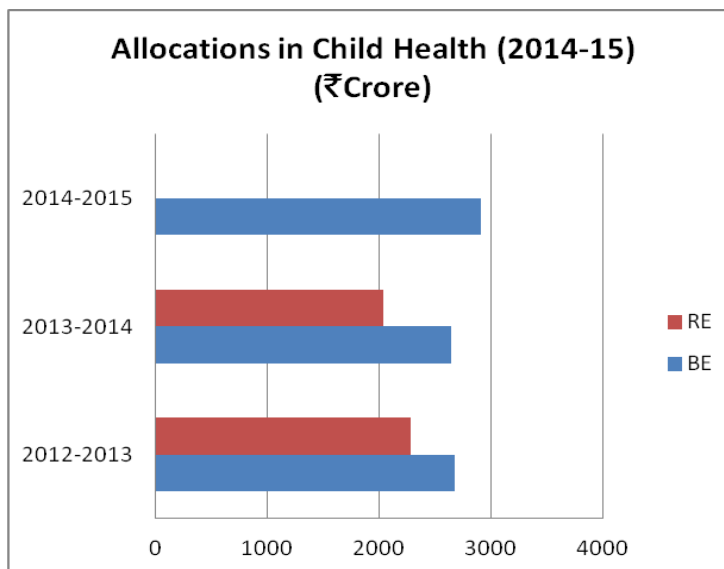
Sectoral Share within BfC					
Year	Health BE	Development BE	Education BE	Protection BE	Other related Schemes
2012-2013	3.76	23.14	72.18	0.85	0.06
2013-2014	3.41	23.78	72.03	0.72	0.06
2014-2015	3.64	23.66	71.86	0.79	0.05

¹ These are the schemes which do not fall categorically in either of the sectors mentioned above. But, these schemes do find mention in the Statement 22. For details of these schemes, please see Annexure.

Sectoral Allocations for Children- In Detail

Child Health

- With a **10.38 per cent increase in allocation against last year's allocations**, child health received a total sum of Rs. 2914.44 Crore in the 2014-15 budget. **Yet as a share of total allocation it remains very small.**
- There is a **noteworthy increase of 11.10 per cent in the allocation of NRHM-RCH Flexi Pool** with allocations going from 2360.11 Crore in 2013-14 to 2622.10 Crore in 2014-15.



- This year too, in Statement 22 of the Budget Document, the allocations for Routine Immunization and Pulse polio Immunization remains ZERO as they have become the components of the Flexi Pool.
- As the Flexi Pool is not just child specific, but it covers the general health too, monitoring of Flexi Pool is a much needed task. Also, there is no clarity on how much will be spent on immunization programmes.

As per SRS Bulletin September 2013, the IMR in India has been noted as 42 per 1000 children, which is way far to reach the Millennium Development Goal, which has been set as 28. With such allocation under Flexi Pool, this target seems to be a farfetched possibility.

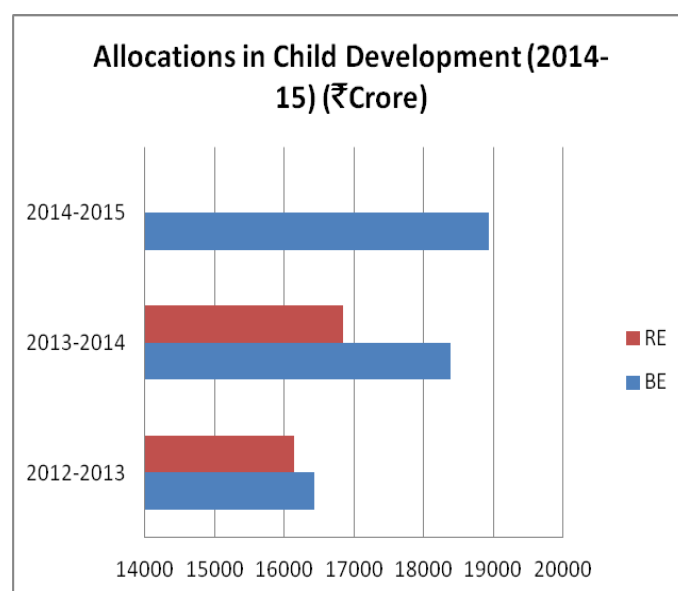
To achieve the MDG and NRHM Goals, the RCH programme is being implemented with flexible programming approach by allowing the states to develop need based annual plans known as State Programme Implementation Plan. The RCH programme PIPs of all the 35States/UTs for the year 2012-13 have been appraised and approved by the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) for a total amount of ₹8314.14 Crores (including supplementary PIPs).

Source: Review of Performance, Ch IV, Outcome Budget 2013-14, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

- *'Manufacture of Sera & Vaccine'* has observed a drastic decrease of 20.98 per cent against the previous year's allocations.
- *'Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital'* received a total allocation of ₹67 Crore in the Union Budget 2014-15.
- *"Procurement of Supplies and Materials"* is a new programme featuring in the Statement 22 this year with a total allocation of ₹50 Crore.

Child Development

- With a minimal increase child development received a total allocation of Rs. 18940.72 Crore in the Union Budget 2014-15.
- The much talked about flagship scheme for child development, *Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)* received the maximum share of allocations.
- The total allocation for ICDS in 2014-15 Union Budget has been earmarked as a total sum of Rs. 18195 Crore, which is a 2.79 per cent increase with respect to the previous year's allocation.



As per 12th Five Year Plan, a proposal for strengthening and restructuring of the ICDS scheme with an overall budget allocation of ₹123580 Crore has been approved². The ICDS in mission mode has taken the plan outlays and also mentioned the year-wise break up for ICDS, which proposes a need of ₹26533 Crore in 2014-15 for proper implementation of the scheme. Given the current allocation for ICDS in 2014-15, it yields a shortfall of ₹8338 Crore. How the new government, which has been talking of welfare and inclusion, will implement an umbrella scheme like ICDS with such heavy shortfall?

² Economic Survey of India 2012-13

As per the ICDS Mission document, there is a clear mention of constructing 20000 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in year III, which is 2014-15 and the cost of construction of one Anganwadi Centre has been kept as ₹4.5 lakh³. The allocated sum of 18195 Crore is insufficient to construct the required AWCs. Apart from the construction, there are other needs also, which need to be addressed such as Honorarium to Anganwadis, rent of AWCs etc.

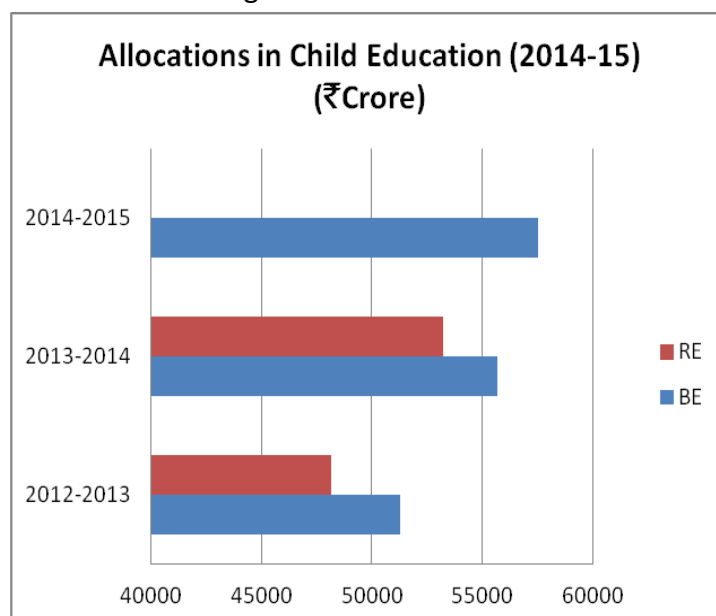
As per the Annual report of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, there are a total 23785 functional Crèches.					
Status of Functional Crèches and No. of Beneficiaries					
Sl.No.	Name of agency	Number of crèches	Year	Sanctioned (₹Crore)	No. of Beneficiaries
1	CSWB	16,075	2010-11	69.36	5,64,975
2	BAJSS (Temporarily transferred to CSWB)	2,519	2011-12	73.84	5,94,625
3	ICCW	5,191	2012-13	93.68*	5,94,625
Total		23,785			

Till 28.02.2013 Source: Annual report 2012-13; Ministry of women and Child Development

- **'Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme'** received increased allocations with a total allocation of Rs. 125 Crore, which is a 13.64 per cent increase against the last year.
- In the current budget, **National Nutrition Mission** saw no change in allocation as it remained as Rs. 300 Crore this year. This has to be seen against the fact that half of the children in country are chronically malnourished and around 43 per cent of children under 5 years are under weight for their age⁴.

Education

- In the Union Budget 2014-15, child education received a total sum of Rs. 57524.7 Crore, which is a mere increase of 3.27 per cent against previous year's allocation.



³ "ICDS Mission: The Broad Framework of Implementation"; http://wcd.nic.in/icdsimg/icds_english_03-12-2013.pdf accessed on 10-07-2014

⁴ "Children in India 2012: A Statistical Appraisal"; http://mospi.nic.in/mospi_new/upload/Children_in_India_2012.pdf accessed on 10-07-2014

- The allocations for 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan' (SSA) was **increased by only 1.83** per cent (from Rs. 27258 Crore in 2013-14 to Rs. 27758 Crore in 2014-15).

The cumulative achievements under SSA till September, 2012 include:

- Opening of 3,52,816 new primary and upper primary schools (upto Dec, 2012)
- Construction of 2,84,032 new school buildings
- Construction of 16,42,867 additional classrooms
- Provision of 2,17,820 drinking water facilities
- Construction of 6,18,089 toilets
- Appointment of 12.48 lakh teachers
- In-service training imparted to 18.64 lakh teachers
- Supply of free textbooks to 8.32 crore children

Source: Outcome Budget 2013-2014 (MHRD) Department of School Education and Literacy.

- The allocations for '**Mid Day Meal Scheme**' observed **no change in the allocations with a total allocation** (Rs 13215 Crore). However, in 2013-14, only Rs. 10927 Crore was finally released towards the scheme.

This highlights the gap between allocations and release which ultimately will hamper the implementation of the scheme (see table below).

Year Wise Outlay under Mid Day Meal Scheme (Rs. in Crores)			
Year	BE	RE	Releases
2012-13	11937.00	11500.00	10867.90
2013-14	13215.00	12189.16	10927.21

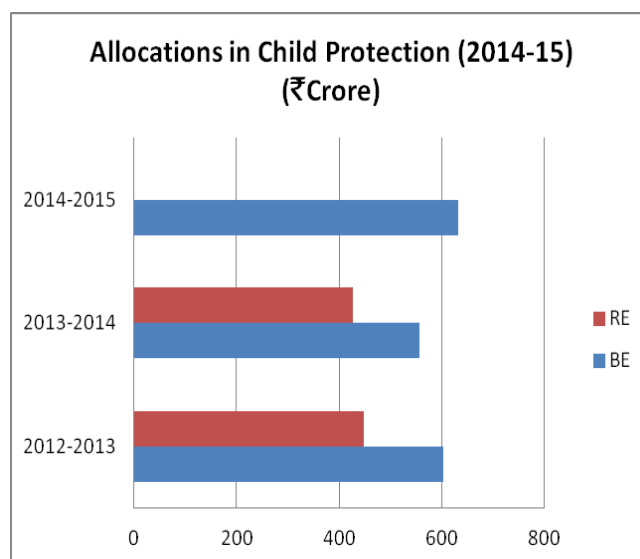
Source: <http://mdm.nic.in/Union%20Budgetary.html>

- '**Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan**' (RMSA) received a substantial increase 25.53 per cent in 2014-15 (Rs. 5000 Crore in 2014-15 from Rs. 3983 Crore in 2013-14).
- '**Vocationalisation of Education**' has witnessed a constant cutting down over the years and this year, there is no allocation towards this scheme. However, the Finance Minister in his speech did mention about launching a new scheme called 'Skill India', which finds no mention in Statement 22.

- **'Pre and Post Matric Scholarship for Minorities'** have seen a welcome increased **allocations** with 15.79 per cent and 9.12 per cent increase respectively.
- On the other hand, **the allocations for 'Post Matric Scholarship for SC'** have remained **unchanged** against last year with a total allocation of ₹147 Crore in 2014-15.
- This year, **'Free Bicycle to girl students'** has been **discontinued** and henceforth no allocation has been made towards this scheme.
- **'Girls hostel for SC'** and **'Boys Hostel for SC'** have same **allocations** as last year with a total allocation of ₹4.90 Crore and ₹2.45 Crore respectively .
- This year, a **new scheme called 'Umbrella Scheme for Education of ST Children'** has been **introduced** with an earmarked budget of ₹1019.20 Crore at BE stage.

Child Protection

- There is a welcome increase of **13.76 per cent towards the allocation for child protection** with allocations going from Rs. 556.28 Crore in 2013-14 to Rs. 632.84 Crore in 2014-15. However this **still translates into a very small increase in the share of protection both within the total budget as well as within total BfC.**
- The major allocation under this head has been made towards the flagship scheme **'Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)'**. **There is welcome 33.33 per cent increase in the allocation for ICPS** (Rs. 400 Crore in 2014-15 and Rs. 300 Crore in 2013-14). However the adequacy of this increase needs to be measured against the shortfall in infrastructure and human resources available for implementing this scheme and addressing the needs of vulnerable children.



The major component-wise achievements made up to 30th November, 2013 under the ICPS	
Component	Cumulative Achievement upto 30 th November, 2013
Setting up of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs)	Established in 608 districts.
Setting up of Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)	Established in 619 districts.
Setting up of State Child Protection Society (SCPS)	Established in 33 States.
Setting up of State Project Support Units (SPSU)	Established in 24 States.
Setting up of State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)	Established in 26 States.
Setting up of District Child Protection Units (DCPU)	Established in 589 districts.
Expansion of Childline Service	Functioning in 280 cities/districts.
Setting up and maintenance of Open Shelters	172 Open Shelters are being provided financial support.
Setting up and maintenance of various types of Homes	1210 various types of Homes are being provided financial support.
Setting up and maintenance of Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs)	234 SAAs are being provided financial support
Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=101786	

- India still has a large number of working children. **And yet, the only national scheme for addressing child labour ‘Improvement in working Condition of Child Labor/Women labor’ witnessed a decrease of 12.5 per cent at allocation stage.** This year a total sum of Rs. 175 Crore has been allocated towards this scheme. **Such dip cannot be justified in the light of the fact that about 49.84 lakh children are still engaged in exploitative occupations⁵.**
- ‘Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care and Protection’ observed no change in the allocations against last year’s allocation with the total allocation of Rs. 10 Crore in 2014-15 budget.
- ‘National Commission for Protection of Children’ (NCPCR) witnessed a welcome increase of 15.38 per cent against previous year’s allocations. A total sum of Rs.15 Crore has been diverted towards NCPCR, which was Rs. 13 Crore in previous year’s budget.

Conclusion

Clearly, the NAMO Budget has failed to address the children on this country. Given that this is the first budget of the new government this is very disappointing. Let us not forget that the children of today are the adults of tomorrow and what we invest in them today will be what the adult nation will be.

⁵ http://www.unicef.org/india/child_protection_2900.htm