

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1659
ANSWERED ON- 13/03/2025

FUNDING BY USAID TO INDIA

1659. DR. JOHN BRITTAS

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government has taken note of recent reports suggesting the utilization of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funds to increase voter turnout in Indian elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto;

(c) the quantum and details of funds contributed by USAID to India over last five years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the names and details of beneficiaries, including NGOs and individuals, who have received USAID funds during last five years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to d) The Ministry of External Affairs is aware of the information that has been put out by the U.S. Administration regarding the activities and funding by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). On 20th January 2025, the U.S. President signed an Executive Order (EO) initiating a review of all U.S. foreign assistance programs to ensure that they are efficient and consistent with the U.S. foreign policy. Under this Executive Order, all U.S. foreign assistance funded by or through the U.S. State Department as well as the USAID have been paused and are subject of an ongoing investigation by the U.S. Government's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

On 10th March 2025, after a six-week review by DOGE, the U.S. Secretary of State in a post on X platform announced that the U.S. Government is officially cancelling 83% of the programs of USAID or about 5,200 contracts that spent billions of dollars in ways that did not serve, and in some cases harmed, the core national interests of the United States. In consultation with the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Government intends to continue about 1,000 of the remaining programs to be now administered more effectively under the U.S. State Department.

In view of the recent reports regards USAID funding in India, the Ministry of External Affairs has formally asked the U.S. Embassy to urgently furnish details of expenditure incurred on all USAID assisted / funded projects in India over the last ten years. We have also sought information about NGOs through whom various initiatives may have been

executed. However, such details are yet to be provided by the U.S. side. While there is some open-source information available on this matter, the Government of India understandably expects an official response from the U.S. Government on this matter.

Publicly available information about beneficiary individuals / organizations has also been redacted in certain cases apparently in line with the exceptions outlined in the U.S. Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016. As per that legislation, the exceptional redactions include information that would jeopardise the health or security of an implementing partner or program beneficiary. Another justification is a determination that the information online would be detrimental to the national interests of the United States.
