

Tracing the Budgetary Allocation for Disability Sector in India

Budgetary Trends over the years upto 2024-25

DePWD* Budget

as a Proportion of the Total Budget

**National budget outlay for
Person with Disabilities
(PwD) remains consistently
low in India**

0.027%

2023-2024

0.025%

2024-2025

* DePWD (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities)

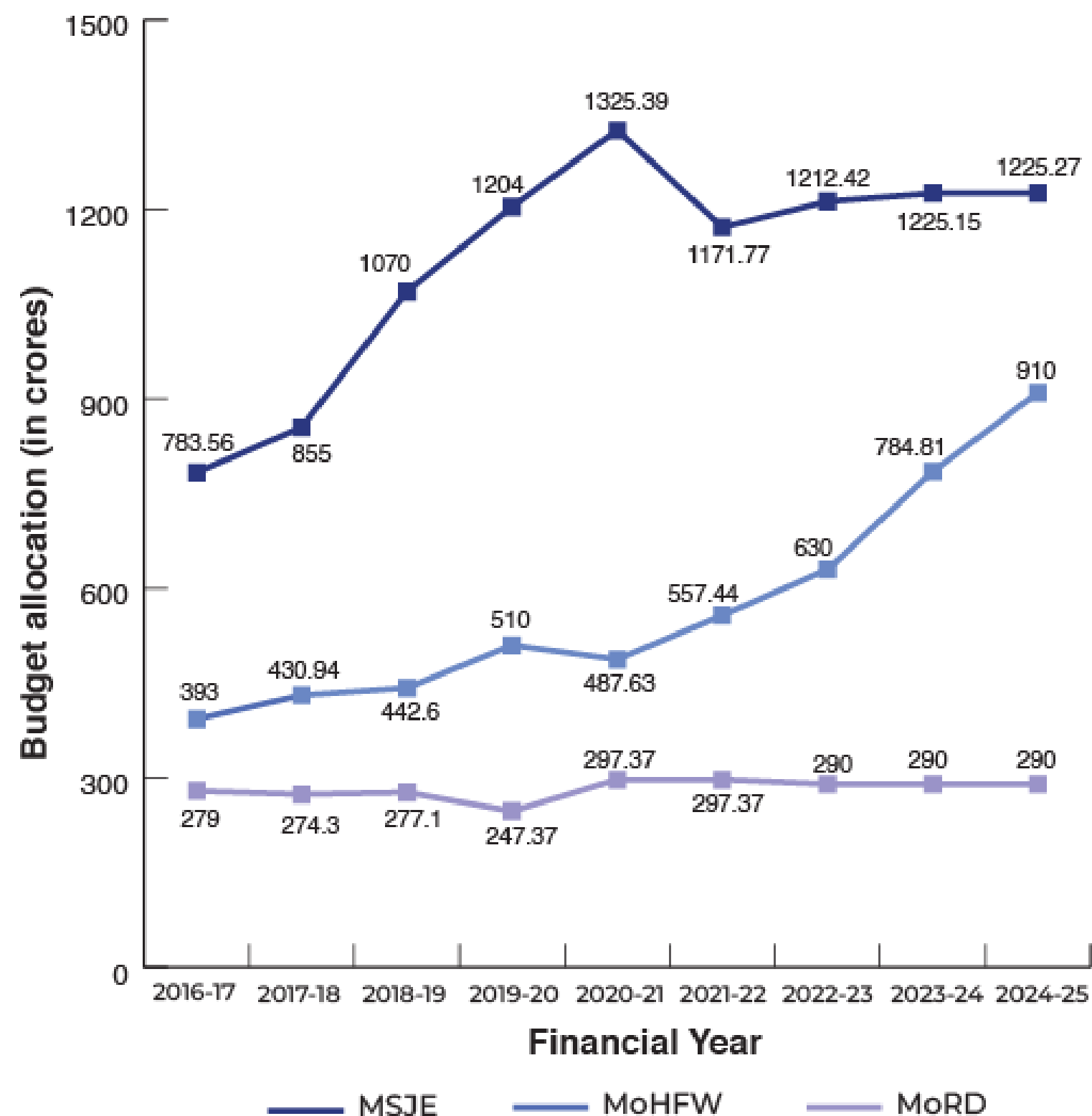
Ministries that have Allocations Specific

to Person with Disabilities

Ministries	Schemes
<p>MSJE</p> <p>DePWD (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances • Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme • Support of National Trust • Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disability Act (SIPDA) • Scholarship for Students with Disabilities
<p>MoRD</p> <p>Ministry of Rural Development</p>	<p>Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)</p>
<p>MoHFW</p> <p>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation to National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) • Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health

DePWD, MoHFW and MoRD Budget

Estimates for Disability Sector (2016-17 to 2024-25)



Budgetary allocation to DePWD rose steadily until FY 2020-21, it subsequently declined and stagnated.

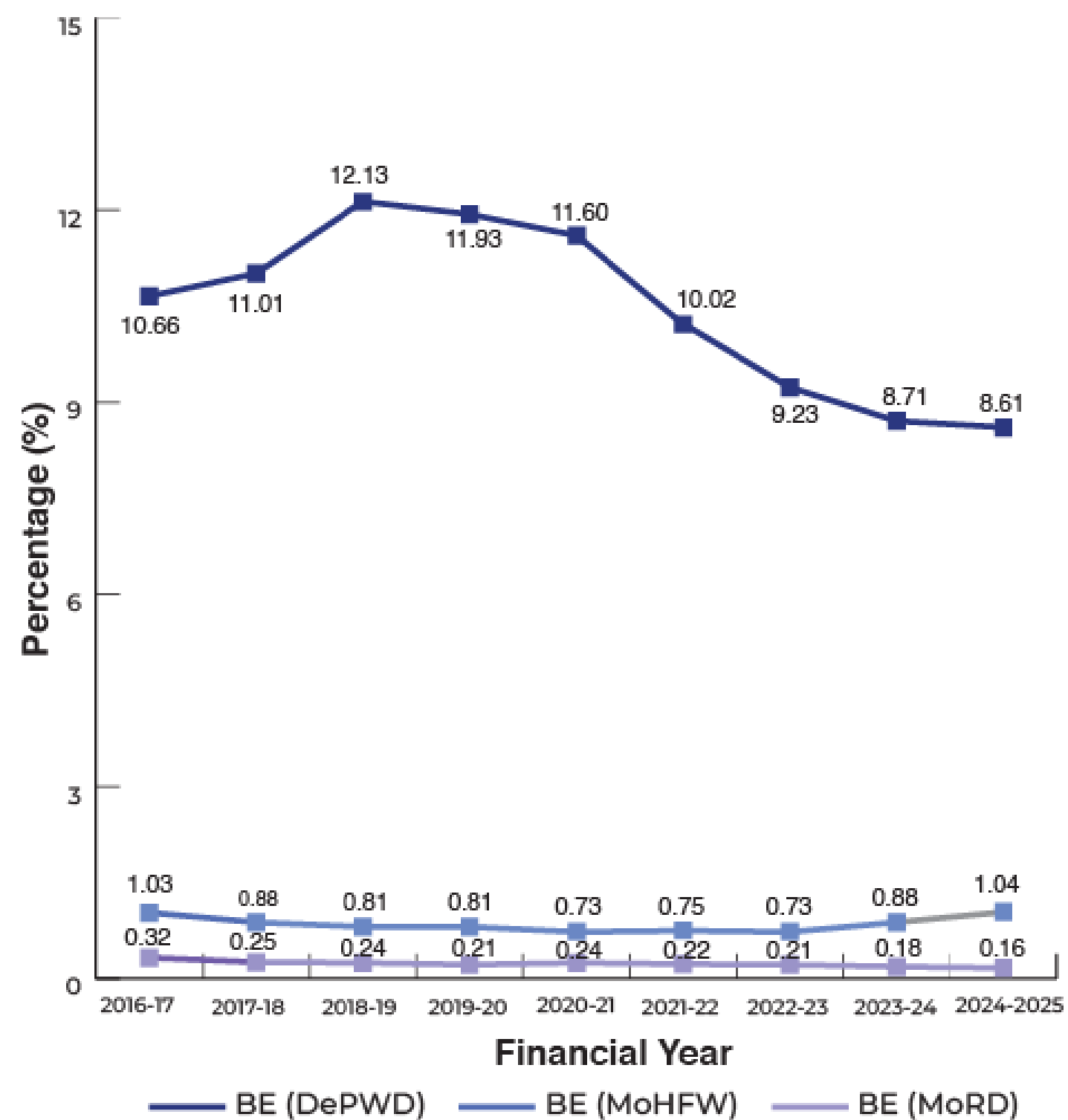
From 2023-24 to 2024-25, the allocation to DePWD saw a negligible increase of ~0.01%, while the total budget for MSJE increased by a nominal 1.09%.

The MoRD's spending on disability through Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme has been stagnant since 2016-17, despite continuously rising total outlay for MoRD.

The budgets for disability under the MoHFW have seen an increase of ~16 percent from FY 2023-24 to FY 2024-25.

Disability-Specific Allocation

as a Percentage of Total Allocation to Respective Ministry



The disability budget allocated by MoRD and MoHFW is negligible compared to the total allocations to the ministries.

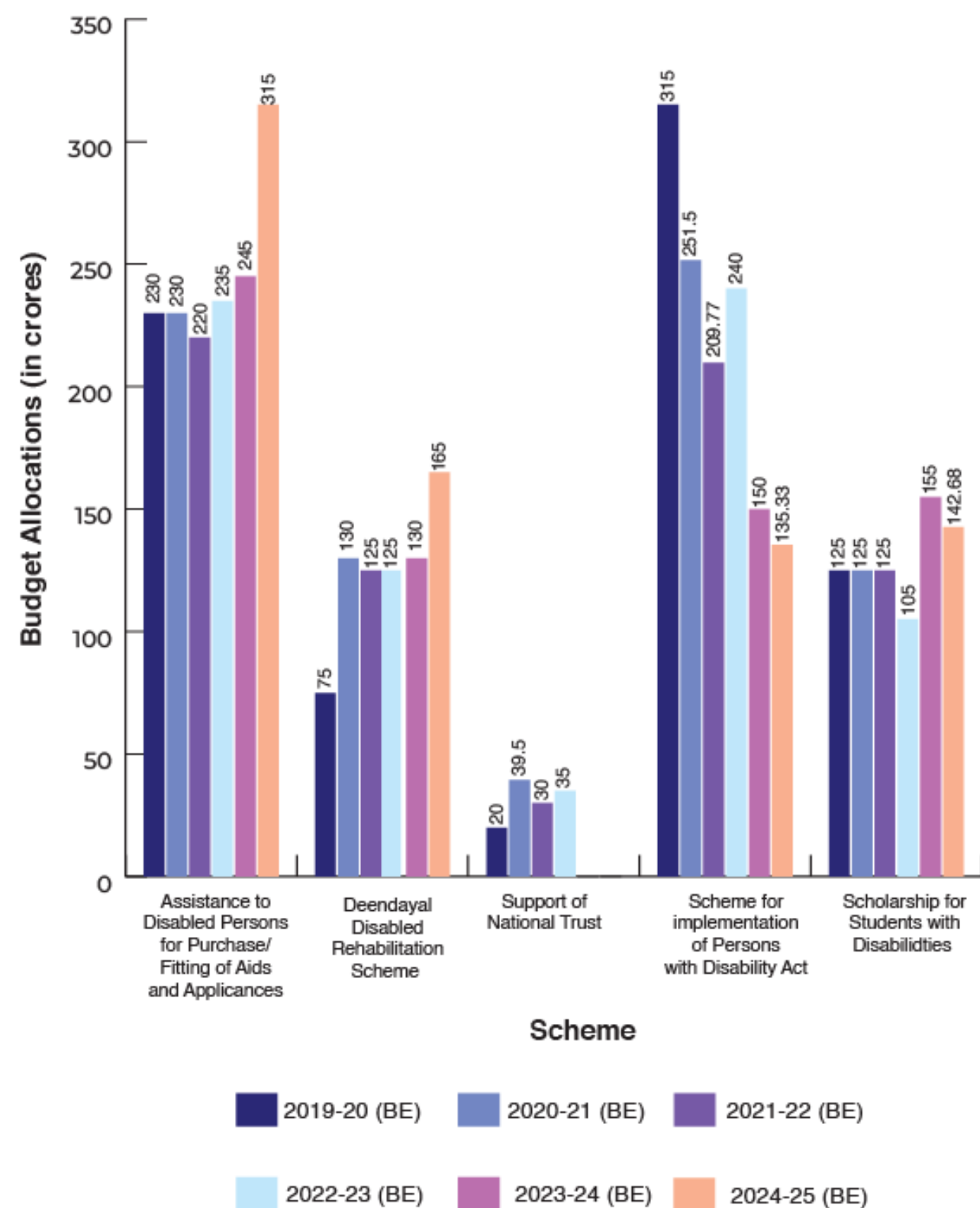
For DePWD, the average allocation as a percentage of MSJE allocations between 2016-2025 is ~10%.

Schemes for PwD under DePwD

Budgetary Trends over the years upto 2024-25

Budget Allocations to Schemes

under DePWD (2019-20 to 2024-25)

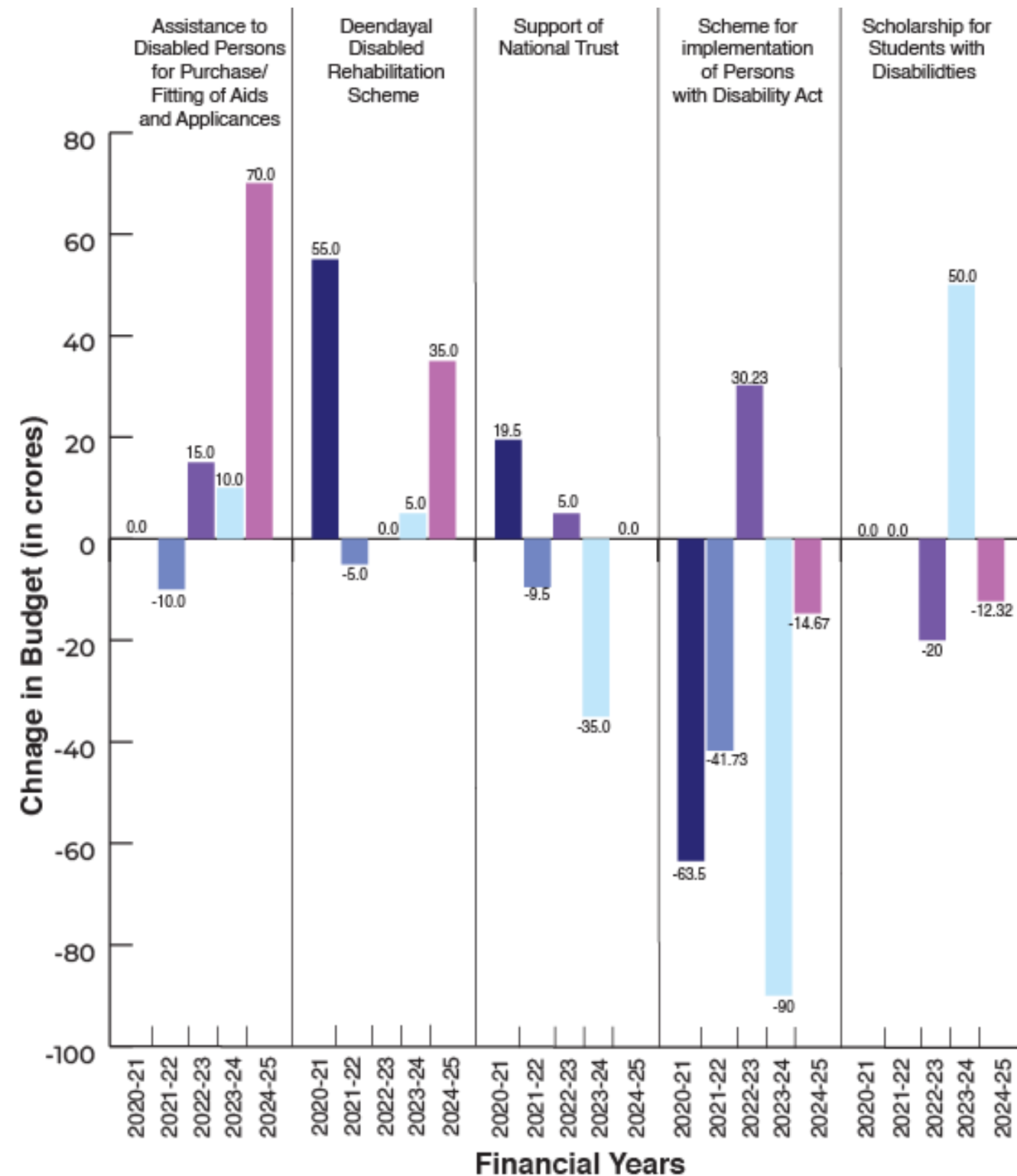


Some schemes under the DePWD saw stagnation until 2023-24, followed by a rise in 2024-25 budget.

For the other schemes, there has only been a gradual decrease in allocations.

Changes in Scheme Budgets

in Consecutive Years (2020-21 to 2024-25)



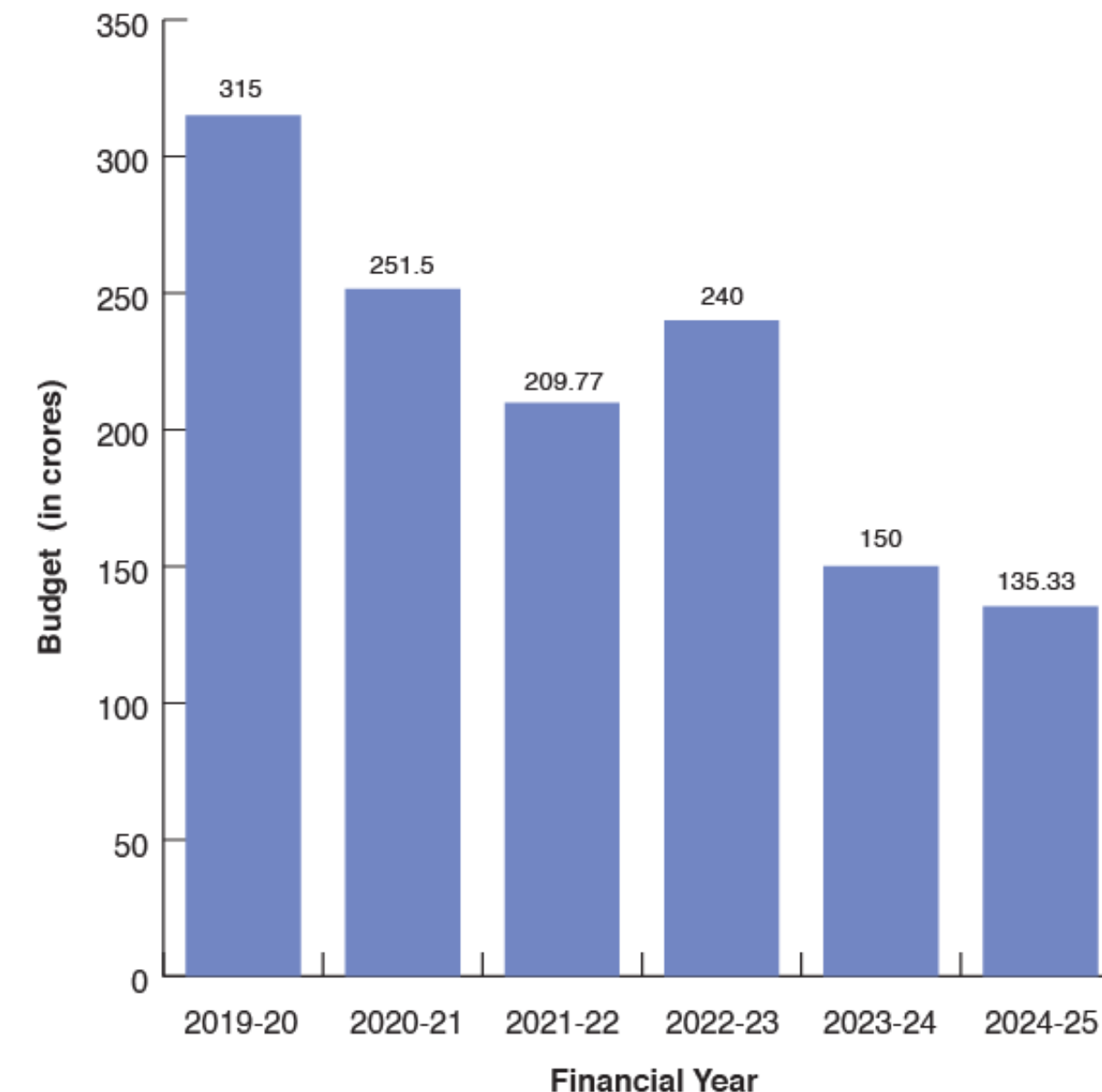
Tracking change in budgets over the years for specific schemes highlights the extent to which the allocation for SIPDA has declined. Between 2020 and 2025, only in 2022-23, there has been an increase from previous year in the budget.

Budget Allocation to SIPDA

(2019-20 to 2024-25)

SIPDA is an Umbrella scheme which includes several critical sub-schemes like:

- Creation of Barrier Free Environment
- Accessible India Campaign (AIC)
- National Action Plan for Skill development of PwDs
- Unique Disability Identification (UDID) Project
 - a.Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP) & In Service Training
 - b.Research on Disability Related Technology Product and Issues & Development
 - c.Financial Assistance to Spinal Injuries Centers (ASIC Scheme)
 - d.Cross-Disability Early Intervention Centers
 - e.Projects under SIPDA
 - f.Other projects
- Research on Disability Related Technology
- Spinal Injury Center (SSIC) and Indian Spinal Injury Center (ISIC)



WHY IS THE SIPDA BUDGET CONTINUOUSLY DECLINING



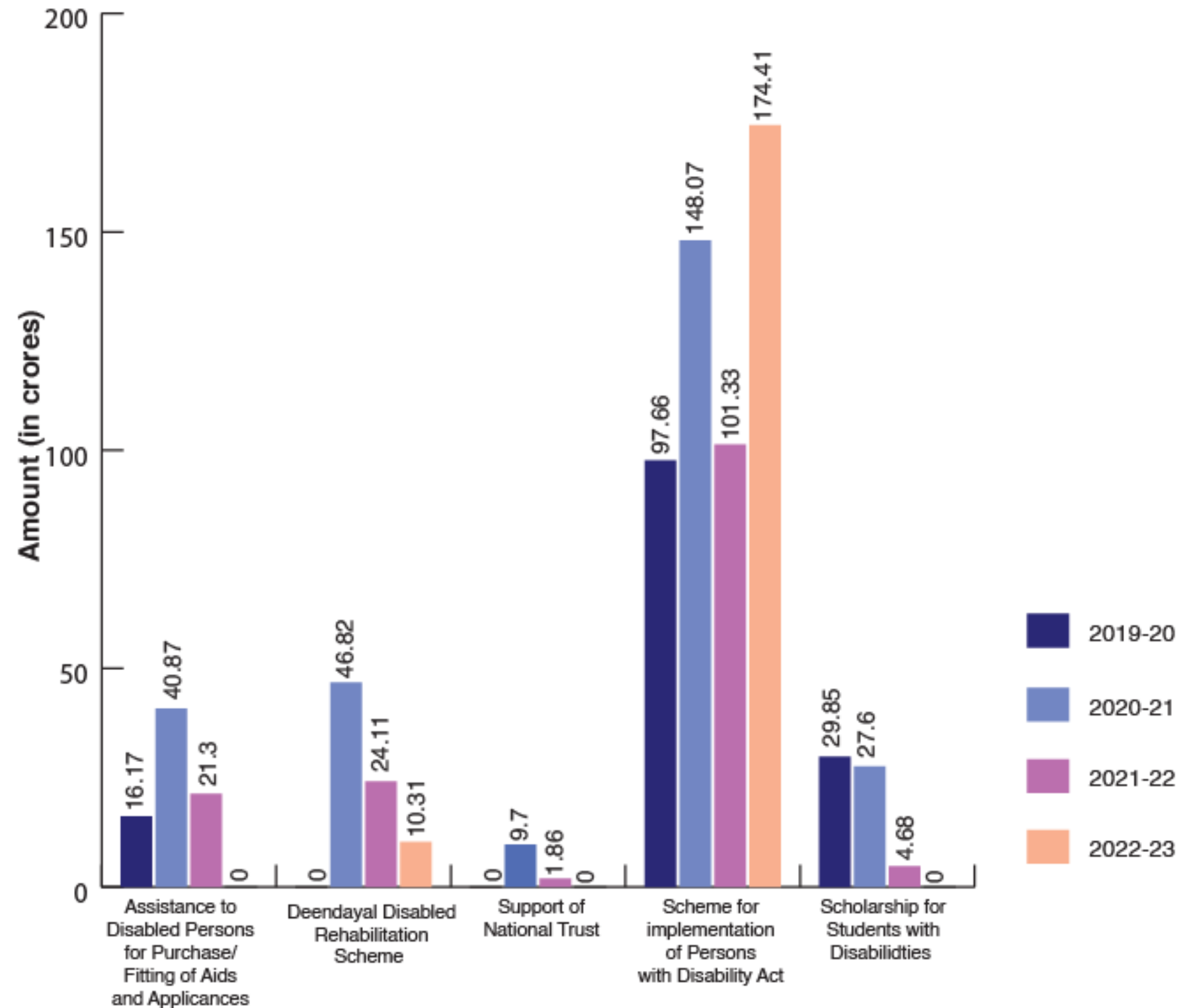
Despite the contribution of SIPDA, its budget has declined over the past few years—falling from INR 315 crore in FY 2019-20 to INR 135 crore in FY 2024-25.

Trends in the Utilization of Disability Budgets

Can the drop in SIPDA budget be linked to the lower spending under the scheme?

Unspent Budget for Schemes

under DePWD (2019-20 to 2022-23)

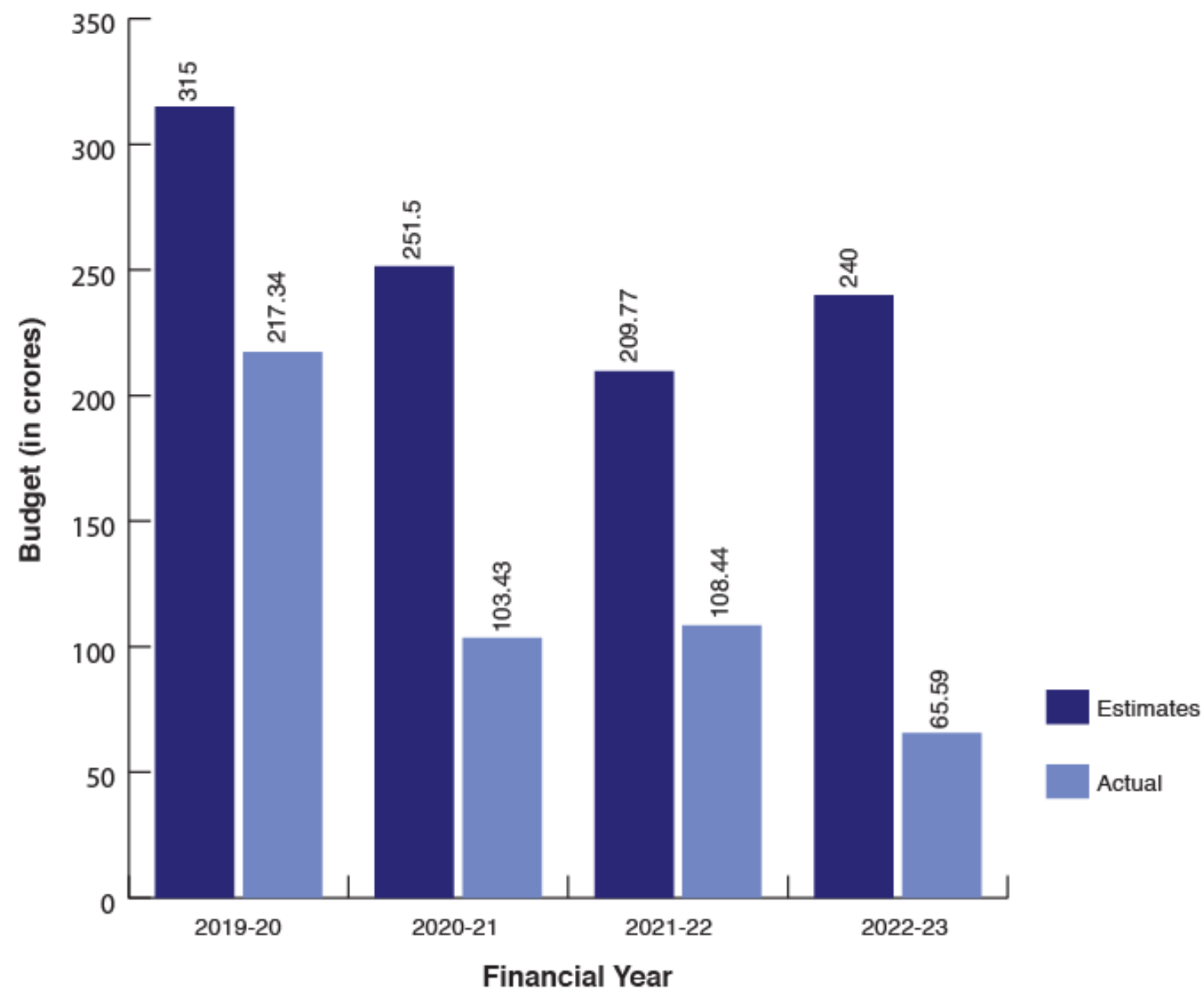


There is almost complete utilization of allocated budgets in some schemes, while there is consistent under-utilization in others.

The magnitude of unspent funds is higher in the case of SIPDA.

Budget Estimates and Actual Spends

for SIPDA (2021-22 to 2022-23)



In FY 2021-22 only 51.7 percent and in FY 2022-23, only 27.3 percent of the funds allocated to SIPDA were utilised.

The drop in the SIPDA allocations seems to be responding to the reduction in the utilization of the allocated budget.

But, why is there a high amount of unspent budget under SIPDA?

Why SIPDA Budget might be going unspent?

01

When the scheme's low expenditure was questioned by a parliamentary standing committee, the department cited an insufficient number of proposals for the sub-schemes under SIPDA from the states and UTs, and the COVID-19 pandemic as the leading causes.

02

This means that the central and state government agencies lack the capacity to develop programmes that effectively utilise allocated budgets—beyond providing aid, disability pensions, and cash transfers. They are stuck in a vicious cycle, where ineffective implementation leads to low expenditure, which then creates a cash-strapped ministry.

Conclusions and Way Forward

While there are several issues around the current state of disability budgets in India, the overarching matters are:

01 The low/stagnating budget allocations

02 The high amount of unspent budget

Since the above concerns are most stark in the case of SIPDA, it is a critical starting point into the disability budget space.

**WHAT ARE THE REASONS
BEHIND THE NON-UTILIZATION
OF THE SIPDA BUDGET?**

