

## **AIDSO on Central Budget - 2016**

**6<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

“Education is again deprived in the Central Budget for the 2016-17 financial year. Though the total fund allocation for education is little increased from Rs. 68,306 crore to Rs. 73,943 crore, but it is far less from the amount required to provide education for all. The overall allocation for education is less than 4% of GDP, whereas similar developing nations have allocated at least 6% of GDP for education. Since long back AIDSO is demanding that at least 10% of the Central Budget must be allotted for education. The Union Budget 2016 will provide fund to 10 private institutions to emerge as world-class teaching and research institutions. This will nothing but encourage the privatisation of education. The Central Budget – 2016 has added a fillip to the vocationalization of education which is contrary to the concept of ‘man-making character-building education’. The Finance Minister has announced that Rs. 1000 crore will be given to set up ‘Higher Education Financing Agency’, but its purpose is not mentioned. Our apprehension is that this agency will work to privatise and commercialise higher education as proposed by RUSA. We also think that the reduction of state allocation from Rs. 36,842 crore to Rs. 35,987 crore will really affect education.”

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