



# drishti

## Unutilised Budgetary Funds in Education

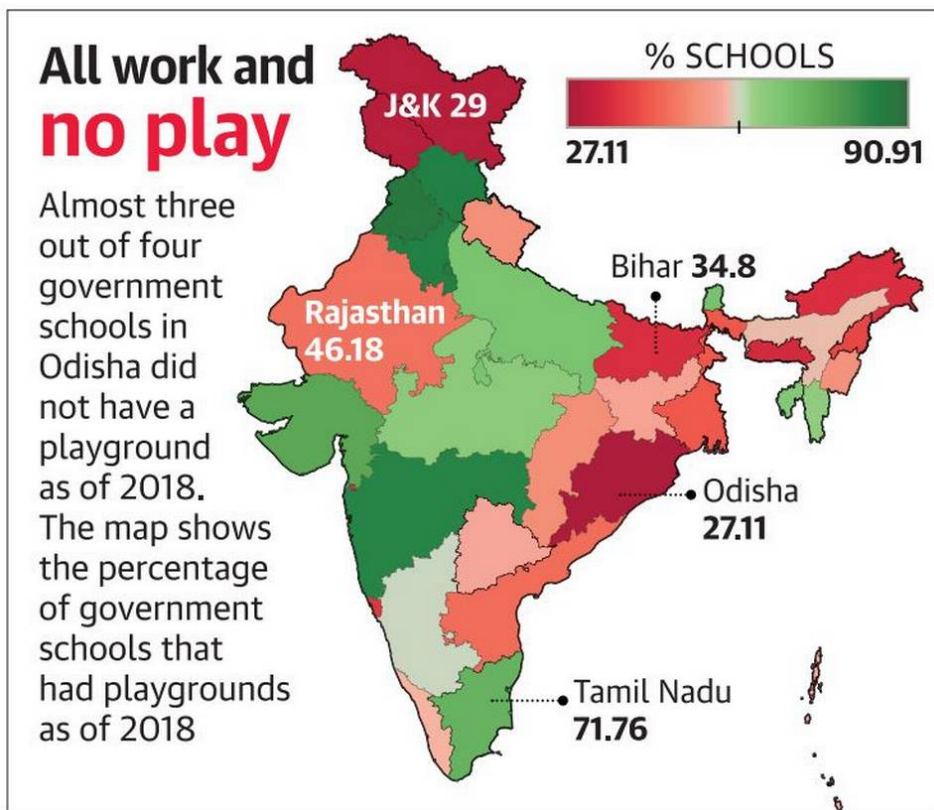
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### Why in News

Recently, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) has presented a report on the **2020-2021 demand for grants for school education** in the Rajya Sabha.

The report identifies **shortfalls in budgetary funding and utilisation**, resulting in **critical infrastructure gaps** in the government schools in India.

### Key Points



- **Reduction in Finance:**
  - The budgetary allocations experienced a **27% cut from proposals** made by the School Education department.
  - Similarly, **27% of reductions** have been observed in the fund needed for the **implementation of Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes**.
  - Also, the government has spent only 71% of allotted funds for the core Samagra Shiksha Scheme until December 31, 2019.
- **Access to Electricity and Playground:**
  - Almost **half of the government schools** in the country **do not have any electricity or playgrounds**.
  - **Only 56% of schools have electricity**, with the lowest rates in Manipur and Madhya Pradesh, where less than 20% have access to power.
  - **Less than 57% of schools have playgrounds**, including less than 30% of schools in Odisha and Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Overall Infrastructure:**
  - A **dismal rate of progress has been observed in building classrooms, labs and libraries** to strengthen government higher secondary schools.
  - **Almost 40% of schools did not have a boundary wall**, endangering the safety of students and school property.
  - The **higher secondary schools experienced greater infrastructural gaps** compared to secondary schools and primary schools.
  - Also, **less than 5% of proposed infrastructure** facilities such as ramps and special toilets **for differently-abled students** have been completed in the government schools.

## Recommendations

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- **Additional funds for implementation of the core schemes** such as Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
- **Collaboration of HRD Ministry with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** to construct boundary walls and other infrastructure facilities.
- **Collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** to provide solar energy and other renewable energy sources so that schools have access to power.

**Source: TH**