

India boosts aid to other countries

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New Delhi: The ministry of external affairs is smarting under a Rs 500-crore cut in its budgetary allocation, but the government has actually hiked the assistance budget to several countries.

The Forum for Indian Development Cooperation, functioning within MEA's economic thinktank RIS, parsed through the budget to find that the 2016-17 budget has seen the sharpest hike in development assistance for Myanmar, the budgetary allocation jumping from Rs 165 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 400 crore in 2016-17.

In the region, Bhutan continues to get the maximum amount in Indian assistance, taking about 70% of total Indian development assistance this year, getting Rs 5,490 crore, followed by Afghanistan at Rs 520 crore.