Defence University: One Answer to Five Questions, Rs 176 Crore of Preliminary Work and What Was Not Printed

Ministry of Defence | Source: Lok Sabha question, printed date 31 July 2026 | UPSC / PCS Mains: GS-III (defence, security), GS-II (governance, parliamentary answers and accountability), GS-II (educational institutions) | Prelims: Institution of Excellence, Tri-Service institutions, DPR

Background and Context

When a Member of Parliament asks about a project's funds, DPR, timeline, delay, impact, and steps to speed up the work all at once, the ministry often gives one shared answer. In such an answer, finding the reply to each part becomes the reader's task. In this article, one such answer about the Defence University has been read: what it printed, and on which of the five parts it printed nothing.

What Is the News?

The printed date on Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 2102 is 31 July 2026 ("TO BE ANSWERED ON"). Shri Deepender Singh Hooda had asked for the "Indian National Defence University (INDU), Gurugram": the year-wise funds allocated, used and unutilised, the approval of the DPR, the original and revised timelines, the reasons for delay, the impact of the delay, and the steps to speed up the work. The shared answer of Minister of State Shri Sanjay Seth mentions the concept of an "Indian Defence University", a two-member committee constituted to prepare its proposal, and preliminary work completed at a cost of Rs 176 crore. The details asked for in all five parts are not printed in the answer.

Six Cautions for Reading the Answer

(1) The question has "INDU" and "Gurugram", the answer has "Indian Defence University" and does not have "INDU" or "Gurugram"; we have kept both names as printed. (2) Rs 176 crore in the answer is the cost of "preliminary work ... completed" (land acquisition, boundary wall, perimeter road, guard rooms and watch towers); it is not an allocation, year-wise use, or the cost of the whole project. (3) The two-member committee is stated to have been constituted to prepare the "proposal"; this is not an approval or a cleared DPR. (4) The question presumes a delay ("whether there has been a delay"); the answer neither accepts nor denies a delay. (5) The DPR's status, the timeline, the reasons for delay, the assessment of impact, and the steps to speed up are not printed in the answer; this is not "does not exist" or "refused". (6) The date "TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2026" is printed; we have kept it as is; everything is the state of this one-page answer.

Key Facts and Figures

The question and the answer	**Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 2102 ("Funds for Indian National Defence University"), Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence; printed date "TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2026"; the answer is of Minister of State Shri Sanjay Seth. Questioner: Shri Deepender Singh Hooda. One shared answer, "(a) to (e)", has been given for all five parts.**
The difference of names	The question writes "Indian National Defence University (INDU), Gurugram"; the answer writes "Indian Defence University". Both names have been kept as printed, wherever each appears; the answer says nothing about this difference, and the words "INDU" or "Gurugram" are not in it.

The question's five parts (the question's language)	**(a) whether funds were allocated and the amount "allocated, utilised and remaining unutilised" "year-wise" from the project's start; (b) whether the "Detailed Project Report (DPR)" was approved, the project's current status and its "original and revised timelines" for completion; (c) whether there was a "delay" and its reasons; (d) whether the delay's impact on defence education, strategic research and training was assessed; (e) whether steps were taken to speed up the work and the "revised timeline". In (c) and (d) the delay is presumed in advance in the question; the answer neither accepts nor denies it.**
The concept	Answer: "The concept of Indian Defence University is to have an Institution of Excellence to study modern warfare, our neighbourhood environment, Space, Seas, Cyber and other areas of emerging challenges."

The committee	**Answer: "In this regard, a two member Committee have been constituted to evolve the proposal in consultation with stakeholders." The answer does not give the committee members' names, the date of constitution, or a timeline for a report.**

The preliminary work	Answer: "The preliminary work relating to acquisition of land, construction of boundary wall, perimeter road, guard rooms and watch towers has been completed at a cost of Rs. 176 crore." This one amount is printed as the cost of the whole described preliminary work; separate costs per item are not printed.

The existing arrangement	**Answer: "The needs of Professional Military Education, Strategic Research and Capacity Building continue to be met through the existing network of Services Training Establishments and Tri-Service institutions."**
What is not printed in the answer	The year-wise allocation, use and unutilised amount; in which years the Rs 176 crore was spent; the DPR's status; the original or revised timeline; whether a delay happened and its reasons; an assessment of the delay's impact; steps to speed up the work; the committee's composition and timeline; confirmation of the university's location. "Not printed" does not mean "does not exist" or "was refused".

Our Calculation

In this article we have drawn no sum, percentage or ratio. Reason: the answer has only one amount, Rs 176 crore, against which no allocation, total cost or year-wise figure is printed, so there is no basis for any share. We have also added no timeline or date of our own.

Analysis: Five Questions, One Paragraph

First, the answer's construction. The answer is one paragraph for "(a) to (e)", with four statements in it: the concept, the two-member committee, the preliminary work of Rs 176 crore, and needs being met through existing institutions. No part of the question has been taken up separately in the answer.

Second, the question of funds. In (a), the allocated, utilised and unutilised amounts had been asked year-wise. The answer has only one amount, Rs 176 crore, presented as the cost of "preliminary work". The answer neither says that this is an allocation, nor that the whole project's cost is this much. No year-wise table is printed in the answer; it cannot be read as "zero".

Third, the preliminary work. The work stated as "completed" is the acquisition of land and the construction of the boundary wall, perimeter road, guard rooms and watch towers. This has not been stated to be work on the university's academic or administrative

buildings; there is no mention of them in the answer. So no conclusion such as "the university is built" or "is partly operational" follows from the answer.

Fourth, the committee and the DPR. According to the answer, a two-member committee has been constituted to prepare a "proposal" in consultation with stakeholders. In (b), the DPR's approval and status were asked; the answer prints nothing on the DPR's status. We can only say that the DPR's status is not in the answer; this does not mean there is no DPR, nor that it has not been approved.

Fifth, the questions of delay, impact and speed. In (c) it was asked whether there was a delay, in (d) the delay's impact, and in (e) the steps to increase speed. The question's language presumes the delay in advance, but the answer neither accepts nor denies a delay, and states no reason, assessment or step. These parts can be written as "unanswered", not as "denied" or "accepted".

Sixth, the statement of the existing arrangement. The answer says the needs of Professional Military Education, Strategic Research and Capacity Building are being met ("continue to be met") through the "existing network of Services Training Establishments and Tri-Service institutions". This is the answer's own statement; no figure or assessment in its support is in the answer, and it is not the reply to the impact assessment of part (d).

Way Forward: Unanswered Questions

- What is the year-wise allocation, use and unutilised amount, and in which years was the Rs 176 crore spent.
- What is the DPR's status.
- What are the original and revised timelines for completion.
- Who is in the two-member committee, when was it constituted, and by when will it give the proposal.
- Whether a delay happened or not, and if so, its reasons and the assessment of impact on defence education, research and training.
- What the steps to speed up the work are.

Exam-Useful Points

Prelims: According to the answer, the university's concept is of an "Institution of Excellence" (modern warfare, the neighbourhood environment, space, seas, cyber and emerging challenges); Detailed Project Report (DPR); Services Training Establishments and Tri-Service institutions; Professional Military Education. **Mains:** the institutional arrangement of defence education and strategic research; the stages of a project (concept, proposal, DPR, preliminary work) and the differences among them; identifying the reply to each part in a shared parliamentary answer; the difference between the "cost of preliminary work" and an "allocation" or "total cost". Do not turn what is not in the answer into the answer's claim.

UPSC CSE Mains Practice Question

A parliamentary answer on a large institutional project may mention the concept, a committee and the cost of preliminary work, but not the DPR, the timeline and the year-wise funds. On the basis of one such answer about the Defence University, state what can and cannot be drawn from these statements, and what additional information will be needed to assess the project's progress. (10 marks, word limit 150)

Answer Outline

Introduction: The shared answer of printed date 31 July 2026; five parts, one paragraph.

Main Body: What the answer contains (the concept; a two-member committee for the proposal; preliminary work - land, boundary wall, perimeter road, guard rooms, watch towers - costing 176 crore; needs met through existing institutions); what cannot be drawn (176 crore is not an allocation or the total cost; the committee is not an approval; the answer is silent on the DPR's status and delay); the additional information needed (year-wise funds, DPR status, timeline, delay assessment).

Conclusion: Read each statement tied to its stage; add no timeline or ratio of your own.

Source and Related Article

- Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 2102, printed date 31 July 2026 (Ministry of Defence)

All facts are from this one-page answer. No related-article link has been given with this article.

Remember: Rs 176 crore is the cost of completed preliminary work, not an allocation or the cost of the whole project. The two-member committee is for preparing the proposal, not an approval. The DPR, timeline, delay, impact and steps for speed are not printed in the answer. The question has "Indian National Defence University (INDU), Gurugram" and the answer has "Indian Defence University".