

Expectations and Demands from the State Government

STATE BUDGET 2017-2018



**Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre (BARC), Jaipur
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Introduction

Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre, Jaipur organized four workshops at the state level and one in Ajmer city to know and articulate the expectations and the demands of people and civil society organizations from the upcoming budget (2017-18) of the State Government. These workshops are as follows:

- a. State- Level Pre-Budget Consultation held on November 07-08, 2016, in Jaipur, in which, 85 people from various organizations from all over Rajasthan participated.
- b. Consultation on the implementation of TSP and SCSP in the State held on December 13, 2016. In this workshop 29 representatives from various organizations working on the issues of the SC and ST communities participated.
- c. State-Level Pre-Budget workshop on Health and Nutrition held on December 22, 2016. In this workshop, 37 representatives of the various organizations most of them working on health and nutrition participated.
- d. Pre-Budget Consultation workshop on the Budget for the Municipal Corporation of Ajmer was organized in Ajmer on December 23, 2016. In this workshop 62 people participated including the Mayor, corporators and some member of the NGOs from Ajmer city.
- e. State- Level consultation on the issues and budget for the differently abled persons in Rajasthan held by BARC and other NGOs in association with office of the Commissioner, Differently Abled people, GoR on December 29, 2016. In this workshop 34 people participated from various organizations across the State.

The objective of these workshops was to bring people in academia, government and civil society organizations together and prepare a comprehensive demand note for Rajasthan government's upcoming budget. In these workshops issues related to socio-economic development, along with concerns and various other aspects of state and district financing and budgeting were discussed with the NGOs, corporators and self-help groups. During these workshops, many demands concerning issues related to different sectors such as education, health, children, women, SC, STs and nomadic tribes, minorities, water, agriculture and livestock, food security and pension, labour, district finance, participation of people, were highlighted. Some of the demands highlighted during the workshop are presented below:

A. General Issues

- Increased share in central taxes under 14th Finance Commission recommendations should be utilized to increase allocations for social development, including recently adopted SDGs, either by increasing state's share in CSSs or launching new state level schemes for various social sectors.

- The State Government should make efforts to maintain the allocations to those CSSs for which the union government has decreased the allocations after implementing the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.
- Government of Rajasthan should fully utilize the allocated fund and ask for increased allocation to the state under MGNREGA and NFSA as it will bring additional resources to the state and also benefit the poor people of the state.
- Budget should be specific towards the regional requirements and necessities. In Rajasthan there are regional and cultural diversities and therefore budget should be formulated considering separate requirements of the regions.

B. Transparency

- Chief Minister Information System (CMIS) should be opened for common public to provide information on financial and physical progress vs a vs the declarations made in the budget related to all the departments of the government.
- The pre-budget consultation meeting with citizens should be organized in the month of October/ November every year. This consultation should be organised at the state level and as well as at the regional and district levels to make the process more participatory.
- Information about the allocated money to local bodies, like Zila Parishad, Panchayat samitis, Village panchayat, Municipal Corporation, Municipal Councils and Municipalities should be made available separately for each unit.
- The details of budgetary allocations and expenditure of all departments at the district level must be made available. This can be presented as “District Budget” of each district.
- Details of expenditure against annual budget allocated to local bodies must be made available at the district level.
- The District Development Plan must be prepared and made available for the public perusal.
- The progress report of budgetary declarations providing information on the status of implementation of last year’s budget announcement should be published every year.
- The government must ensure the making of 'performance and outcome budget' for all departments, and the departments must make them available on their website.

C. Social Sector

I. Education

Infrastructural Facilities:

- For basic infrastructural development, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan must be funded adequately so that schools with less or no facilities can get better. Therefore, allotment towards capital expenditure for education needs to be increased. The component of teacher’s salary should be removed from SSA budget.

- According to Shahla Darpan, a web portal of Rajasthan Government, a large number of schools do not have qualified teachers. Hence, more qualified teachers especially for Science, English and Mathematics need to be hired.
- Separate staff needs to be provided to look after mid-day meal arrangements so that teacher could focus on their educational responsibilities.
- Increase budget of Mid-Day Meal and worker salary (Ensure minimum wages for MDM workers).
- Residential schools should be opened for children of women working in prostitution so that their children could get proper education and the vicious circle can be broken. Develop ICTs in every school.
- Ensure electricity and computer availability in every schools.
- Establish teacher's colony in their working area with sufficient facilities.

Access to Education:

- To make education accessible to all children, adequate roads, bridges and transportation facilities need to be strengthened.
- Approachable and neighborhood Schools (Qualitative and functional, through Geographical Mapping). Residential schools should be opened in tribal areas so that students from distant areas could get consistent education instead of being deprived of education.
- In villages of tribal and Western Rajasthan, children are deprived as the distance from schools has further increased due to the mergers of schools. Therefore, there should be a review of such mergers.
- Budget for inclusive education under SSA is quite low and should be increased to ensure inclusion of differently abled children in mainstream education.

Quality of Education and Capacity Building:

- Ensure full uniform and study material on free of cost.
- Increase scholarship amount.
- Increase budget of SMCs and SMDCs trainings.
- Establish remedial classes for weaker students.

II. Health

- Total budget for health should be substantially increased (increase in 2016-17 compared to 2015-16 was merely by Rs. 100 crores). Infact, it declined as percentge of total budget by 1% in 2016-17.
- Strengthen Chief Minister Free Medicine and Free Diagnostic Scheme-
 - By increasing the budget for both the schemes
 - By providing real time data on availability & disbursal of medicines under the free medicine scheme

- Preventive health care measures i.e. proper vaccination, proper drinking water, sanitation, Public Distribution System (PDS) etc should be focused.
- Allocation to NHM should be increased as the Union Government has slashed allocation to all CSS including NHM, therefore the State Govt. should increase its share to NHM.
- It has been observed that budget meant for community monitoring and decentralized health planning remains unspent, hence the Govt. must ensure implementation of community monitoring and decentralized health planning.
- There are many vacancies of doctors, nurses and others categories in the state's health services which lead to negative impact on the state's health services. To address this problem and enhance the level of health services in the state, the government must give more emphasis to fulfill the lack of human resources in this area.
- Regularize the employment of ASHA workers with proper salary.
- Allocation should be made towards infrastructural development of PHCs and CHCs as many hospitals are still running on rented buildings and lack proper equipments. This will also require an increase in capital expenditure on health which will also lead to much needed increase in rural health budget.
- Lack of awareness and education is also a major issue. Therefore, the government should make efforts increase awareness towards health and nutrition and also to uplift the educational facilities available in all regions.
- IEC materials, especially on schemes like free medicines and free diagnostics as well as Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Janani Shishu Yojana (JSY) and Family Planning Indemnity Scheme (FPIS) must be prepared in local languages its distribution among the common people must be ensured.
- Ensure proper implementation of *Kaleva* and *Yashoda* scheme
- Restart Udaan and improve its implementation, with a special emphasis on counseling and of girls and women on menstruation and menstrual hygiene.
- The reimbursement rate per kilometer for rented transportation, provided by the government, for women in labor is inadequate. This rate should be increased.
- The state government should ask the union government that the essential medicines should not be out of the Drugs price control order for controlling the prices of essential medicines.
- Central government should be demanded not to do away with the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.
- The State must introduce an efficient monitoring mechanism and improve transparency through making the e-aushadhi portal accessible for the public; making the information on medical equipments and their functioning publically available; community monitoring of health services must be started and budget available for the same must be utilized.

III. National Food Security Act (NFSA)

- State government should ensure the proper implementation of NFSA and to check that the needy and real beneficiaries are not excluded.
- The state governments saving on subsidy (because of fully subsidized wheat being provided from the centre) should be used to provide subsidized pulses in the state.
- The procurement, storage and distribution of food grains must be organized at the local level.
- The provision of maternity benefits given under the NFSA should be implemented in the state.
- If the union government does not implement the maternity benefit in all the districts, the state government should announce a state level maternity benefit scheme for the state of Rajasthan.
- Minimum support prices for not only wheat but also for pulses and other food grains need to be implemented properly and budget allocation needs to be done for it.

D. Economic Sector

I. Agriculture

- Keeping in mind the “Feminization of Agriculture”, budgetary provisions should be made for proper training should be provided to females who work in the fields to ensure maximum output.
- Genetically Modified Seeds (GMSs) are big issue since they are purchased and sold through private companies, therefore the selling price is high. The government should ensure that the farmers are not exploited by these companies and maximum selling prices of seeds should be decided by the government for GMSs. Also there should be a mechanism of compensation by the companies in case of crop failure when their seeds are used.
- Provisions should be made to ensure proper warehousing facilities are available so that the produce does not go to waste.
- A commission must be established to make sure that farmers get better price (at least the Minimum Support Price) for their agricultural products.

II. Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

- State government should remove all the hindrance and bottlenecks for the panchayats so that they can properly utilize the funds provided under the recommendations of the 5th SFC and the 14th Finance Commission.
- Budgetary provisions should be made for protection of animals during drought and famine situations.
- Socio-economic and geographical mapping of traditional professions/works should be done. Budgetary provision/schemes should be made for promoting various traditional professions in the state.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- MGNREGA should be made more accessible to people as not all families are able to get 100 days employment under the scheme.
- Increased budgetary provisions should be demanded from the union government for the scheme so that more people in the state are benefited under the scheme.
- Minimum wage under MGNREGA should be increased to the level of the state's minimum wage.

E. Marginalized Sections of the society

I. Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes

- Government's announcement to protect TSP and SCSP expenditure even after the merging of plan and non-plan expenditure is appreciable but there is a need to pass the TSP and SC-SP Bill with proper amendments.
- The state government should start providing a statement on allocations towards the weaker sections of the society like the statements 21 or 21A of Union Government for allocation/expenditure under TSP and SCSP.
- It has been observed by many past studies that up till now, the direct beneficiary schemes for tribal and dalit communities are run only by the Social Justice and Empowerment Department and the Tribal Area Development Department of the State government.
- Therefore, we demand other departments like education, health, agriculture, industry, labour and employment, drinking water, irrigation, women and child development etc. must also run schemes specific to the development of the tribal and dalit communities under TSP and SCSP respectively.
- Proper facilities should be provided to the students in hostels which are specifically for SC/ST. There is a need to adequately increase the per student allocations in these hostels.
- More hostels (especially for girls) must be opened for students of SCs and STs.
- Funds allocated towards the development of tribal regions should be used for specific purposes.
- SCSP-TSP budget should have an increased proportion in the economic sector such as entrepreneurship, employment & Skill development and participation related schemes.
- There should be special mechanism to prioritise women beneficiaries especially in agriculture, land and livelihood, entrepreneurship, employment & Skill development, higher and professional education, social protection, housing and participation related schemes.
- The implementation and monitoring regarding the TSP and SCSP expenditure should be enforced.
- With regard to Tribal development, we recommend special funds must be allocated for effective implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA) and Panchayat Extension in Scheduled Areas (PESA).

II. Minorities

- Total budget of Department of Minority Affairs is extremely low. The government should make efforts to increase the allocations for 15 point programme and multi-sectoral development plan and also focus on better implementation of the same.
- Government schemes should be more inclusive. In many schemes, conditions are put forth which excludes a large number of the people of the community from getting the benefits provided. For this proper implementations of 15 point programme and multi-sectoral programmes is important.
- There should be increase in capital expenditure of Department of Minority Affairs so that proper facilities like schools, hostels etc. can be provided.
- Allocation towards madrasa schools should be increased, which previously has been declined.
- A committee should be established at the state level in order to ensure the monitoring of the implementation of schemes of minorities Department.

III. Women

- Rehabilitation centers should be opened for the survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and other atrocities.
- The budget allocated for running Mahila Salah evam Suraksha Samitis must be increased.
- There must be one mahila thana in each district.
- The women desk at police station must be activated again and their smooth functioning must be guaranteed along with better budget provision.
- Budget provision must be made for women of minority communities and the implementation of 15 point program. A monitoring committees should work at all levels and reports be produced annually.
- Rehabilitation and employment opportunities should be provided to women who have previously been involved in prostitution.
- "Maternity Benefit Entitlement" provisioned by the government should be provided in the districts without any conditions and proper allocations should be made towards it.
- Honorary workers working in places such as anganwadis are mostly women and their minimum should be increased to at least 15,000 per month.

IV. Children

- The budget allocation concerning the protection of children is meager and so must be increased. For example, budget needed for proper implementation of Juvenile Justice Act should be assessed and provided adequately.
- The budget allocation along with the unit cost for Integrated Child Development Schemes (ICDS) must be raised.

- Under the juvenile justice act children of all ages are kept together in the same reform houses. Arrangements must be made to keep children of different ages in different spaces.

V. Differently Abled People

- In the budget 2016-17, the GoR allocated a sum of Rs.280.5 cr for various schemes and programmes for the differently abled people in Rajasthan. Out this, Rs. 228.1 cr has been allocated for disability pension alone and only Rs. 52.5 cr has been provided for other schemes for the differently abled people. Therefore, we demand for a substantial increase in allocation on the welfare schemes for the differently abled people along with the increase in the pension.
- The GoR must allocate at least 1% of its total budget on the welfare of the differently abled people and all the departments must make efforts for increasing the inclusion of differently abled people in their schemes.
- There must be an increase in the amount given as pension to the differently abled people.
- All the schemes and programmes run by the State Government must set and achieve targets for the differently abled beneficiaries.

VI. Nomadic Tribes

- Specifically targeted schemes should be designed in the line of sub-plans to help the nomadic tribes.
- There should be efforts to identify and enlist the nomadic communities and denotified tribes so that the government schemes are better targeted to these communities.
- Hostels and schools specifically for nomadic tribes should be opened so that the children can receive proper education.
- Mini-Aganwadis should be opened in the hamlets where the nomadic tribes are staying.
- Employment has become a big issue since many of nomadic communities are used to earn livelihood by providing entertainment using various animals, which is banned now. Government should provide proper employment opportunities to the ones whose income has been affected by the Animal Protection Act.

VII. Refugees

- The state government must formulate a policy and design schemes to provide necessary services to people from neighboring countries seeking refuge in the State.
- Government schemes should be inclusive of the refugees.
- The “Right to Citizenship” should be provided to the refugees with affordable fees.

VIII. Homeless and Destitute People

- The shelters for homeless people must be increased in numbers and must be enhanced in capacity as the present shelters are not adequate enough.
- The shelters for homeless must have child care facilities where women can keep their children safe. These shelters must also provide the facilities of borrowing beddings and quilts when needed and can return afterwards.
- Separate Shelters for sick homeless people should be opened where long term care can be provided to those in need.
- A “Street Medicine Program” should be started where doctors and nurses go to homeless people and provide them with the basic medical requirements.
- A policy should be drafted for the homeless people and should provide them legal rights to essential needs. The focus should be on rehabilitation of these people.

IX. Unorganized Labour and Urban Poor

- Budgetary provisions need to be made for the training of existing staff of the labour department for better implementation of labour laws.
- The currently vacant posts in the labour department must be filled and number of personnel should be increased as per the increased number of workers.
- The expenditure trends need to change as a high expenditure is done on advertising.
- Better implementation of “Intra-State Migration Worker Act” needs to be ensured.
- A proper channel should be designed to ensure maximum registration of labour under the social security acts for the labourers so that they can take benefits provided under these acts.
- Budgetary provisions need to be made in order to increase employment and create more job opportunities for both skilled and unskilled labour.
- Government should ensure that the people having employment are provided with job security, medical benefits, educational benefits etc.
- Proper rehabilitation provisions should be ensured by the government if they are displaced due to government projects (like smart city in Jaipur).
- Construction Worker Board should be asked to design proper schemes to ensure the proper utilization of the budget allocated for the board.

F. Gender Budget

- Gender budget should be made available department-wise and/or major head-wise and not just BFCs wise, so that the gender budget can become more comprehensive and all departments could make their activities more gender sensitive.
- Categorization (A, B, C and D) needs to be given to entire scheme/programme, not to only the plan and non-plan expenditure components.

- Sex- segregated data of the beneficiaries should be collected and made available.
- Every department should add a chapter on gender/women issues in their annual report.

G. Urban Local Bodies

- Municipal Corporation must be given more autonomy in making plans for the city and in taking financial decisions. The interference from the state should be less.
- In order to increase its income, the municipalities must be empowered in exercising their financial powers. Currently, the municipalities, though they are self-governing bodies, are mostly governed by the State.
- Most of the time, the central and state government schemes are expected to be implemented with some targets set by the state/ central government without considering the differences in demographic, geographic, social and economic characteristics of different cities. The targets and the rules of implementation under the government schemes must be set by the Municipalities because what maybe efficiently applicable in some cities may not be applicable in others.