

Upcoming Budget (2015-16): Expectations and Demands from the State Government

Budget Analysis Rajasthan Centre, Jaipur organized two workshops- at state level and at regional level to know and articulate expectations and demands of people, self-help institutions, and civil society organizations from the government's upcoming budget. The state-level workshop was organized in Jaipur on 29-30 Oct 2014 with the participation of members of nearly 45 people's organizations and self-help groups. Likewise, the regional level workshop took place on 19-20 Dec, 2014 in Jodhpur wherein also representatives of roughly 45 people's organizations and self-help groups (mainly from Western Rajasthan) participated. In both workshops, issues related with various concerns and aspects of state were discussed with the self-help groups who are working in respective fields, in which many demands concerning various issues were highlighted. Some of these are given below.

Transparency in Budget

1. Transparency:

- Chief Minister Information System (CMIS) should be opened for common public to give information on financial and material progress after budgetary declarations.
- The progress report of budgetary declarations of every previous year should be published every year.
- The government must guarantee the making of 'performance and outcome budget' for all departments, and the departments must make them available on their website.
- The details of budgetary allocations and expenditure of all departments must be made available at the district level too.
- Details of expenditure against annual budget allocated to local bodies must be made available at the district level.

- Information about the allocated money from budget allotted to different local bodies, like block, village panchayat, Municipal Corporation and city councils should be made available separately.

2. Gender Budget:

- Gender budget should be made available department-wise and/or main head-wise, so that all departments could make their activities more gender sensitive.
- In present gender budget too all BFC details can be put together and this could be done department wise.
- Categorization needs to be given to entire policy/programme, not to only their three components.
- The collection of the data of beneficiaries should be on the basis of sex which should be made the basis of gender budgeting.

Education

1. Infrastructural Facilities:

- For basic infrastructure, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan must be funded adequately so that wobbly and facility- less schools can get the construction completed.
- Adequate staff and facilities need to be provided to block and district education offices so that works on that level could be completed on time.
- Separate staff needs to be provided to look after mid-day meal arrangements so that teacher could complete their educational responsibilities.

2. Access to education:

- To make education accessible to children, adequate and necessary roads, bridges and transportation facilities need to be arranged.
- Residential schools should be opened in tribal areas so that students from distant areas could get consistent education.
- Many children are deprived from education after new settlement in Indira

Gandhi canal region, and there should be special efforts to connect these children with schools.

- In tribal and Western Rajasthan villages children are deprived as distance got increased after schools mergers, so there should be a review of such mergers.

3. Quality of Education:

- Government schools must be governed at par with Kendriya Vidyalayas where facilities and quality is concerned. This will lead to people having confidence in them.
- Consistent evaluation needs to be institutionalized in all schools and there should be special arrangement for this in the budget.

4. Transparency and Accountability:

- For better implementation of Right to Education bill, there should be a process of social audit every six months.
- To ensure transparency there should be some information on the walls of school buildings, for example, number of children in that area, total number enrolled children, number of children deprived from education, total number of posts for teachers and vacant posts, their monthly salary, list of MMC members and education rights of children.

Health and nutrition

1. Infrastructural and Human Facilities:

- Many of the Aanganvadi centres in the state do not have their own buildings and they are being run from rented places. Additionally, the condition of various facilities and services is very poor. So, all Aanganvadi centres must be provided their own buildings with corresponding facilities.
- 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 fulfil the lack of human resources in this area.

- In all Primary and Community health centres (PHCs and CHCs) drinking water, toilets and sanitation facilities need to be concretely ensured.
- In government health centres especially in PHCs and CHCs there should be residential facilities for doctors and nurses.

2. Access to health:

- The reimbursement rate per kilometer for rented transportation, provided by the government, for women in labor is inadequate. This rate should be enhanced.

3. Quality, Over-sight, Accountability and Others:

- There should be an arrangement for community watch along with strengthening and activating village health and sanitation committees (VHSCs).
- Under the national health insurance mission, free checkup, medicine and health insurance should be provided for.
- The schemes for free checkup and free medicines should be kept universal and not be targeted.
- The private health system in state must be regulated and for this purpose 'Clinical establishment, registration and regulation act 2010' must be implemented.

Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

- The state government should open climate change hubs across the state, where information regarding the environment and agriculture must be provided.
- Agriculture research centres, agriculture universities and other local laboratories and research centres must be strengthen to make the state self-reliant in seeds production.
- A commission must be established to make sure that farmers get better price for their agricultural products.
- The process of licensing for organic agriculture must be simplified in order to promote it in the state.
- The subsidy for agricultural tools, machines and instruments must be increased.

- The gram panchayat (GP), instead of tehsil/block, should be the unit for compensation under agricultural insurance.
- The bonus being given by the state government along with the minimum support price for agricultural production must be continued.
- More space should be made available for agricultural products in *mandees*. The management of these *mandees* must be strengthened and their finances be socially audited.
- Government Seed distribution agencies must be revived.
- During famine and harsh summer, fodder must be provided at government fodder depots for goats and sheep.

Food Security

- The food security law 2013 must be implemented in the state with more rigour.
- In contravention with the central food security law the state government has prepared two priority lists (primary and secondary) for the eligibility of beneficiaries, which has resulted in confusion. The state government must prepare a clear list of beneficiaries along with adding many more names into it.
- Every pregnant woman should be provided with maternity benefits.
- The procurement, storage and distribution of food grains must be organized at the local level.

Homeless and helpless People

- There should be a policy for homeless and helpless people in the state.
- An urban shelter scheme must be introduced for homeless and helpless people.
- Shelter homes must be providing separate facilities for women, children, differently abled persons and the elderly.
- The number of shelter homes in the state is inadequate. Therefore, there is a need to increase the number of shelter homes in all cities of the state.

Labour

1. Minimum Wages:

- The calculation of minimum wages in the state must be in accordance with a life of dignity and inflation index must be added to it.
- The minimum wages under NREGA must be calibrated to that of other states.
- At least 150 days of work in a year must be ensured under NREGA.

2. Social Security:

- The process of registration of workers employed in the unorganized sector must be started at the level of labour department.
- The construction workers board still has around seven hundred crore rupees unused. Therefore, this should be reviewed and the use of this allocation must be ensured.

Women

- The implementation of 'Protection from domestic violence bill 2005:- for the proper implementation of the bill the state budget must have the following provisions-

1. An independent protection official must be appointed in every block and office and administrative arrangement must be made.

2. Coordinators must be appointed at both at district and tehsil level.

3. Provisions must be made in the state budget for the training of all components working for the implementation of this law. These components include women officers, police, judges, protection officers, service providers, doctors, defense lawyers and legal aid authority.

- The budget allocated for the running women's protection and assistance centres must be enhanced.

- The implementation of Prevention of Sexual Violence Act 2013 must be effectively ensured.
- 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. There are many other issues related with the lives of women that must be in listed, analyzed for changes in budget provisions.
- Special attention must be given to the enrollment of women in skill development program.

Children

- The budget allocation concerning the security of children is meagre and so must be increased.
- The budget allocation along with the unit cost for integrated child development schemes 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.

Differently abled Persons

- Primary and secondary health centres must be enabled to provide the proofs of identity for differently able people.
- Under the chief minister self-employment scheme differently able people have been provided with a loan of 1-5 lakh rupees. This scheme must be simplified and its targets must be set higher.
- Special provision must be made, in all kinds of BPL schemes, for differently able people.

Schedule Caste and schedule Tribe

- For the better implementation of SC and ST policy of the state and to ensure budget allocation and expenditure according to the ratio of these communities as enumerated in 2011 census, the formulated draft ordinance for these policies must be given a legal form with appropriate reforms.
- An institutionalized planning process must be constituted at every level for the implementation of SC and ST policy.
- Training must be provided to officers and staff at district, block and GP level for the better implementation of both policies.
- Both these policies of the state must also be implemented in the budget of the panchayats (rural and urban local units).
- All departments must institute new schemes under the two policies to directly benefit dalits and tribals.
- Development works must be undertaken under NREGA in the bastees of SC, ST and other deprived sections.
- The boards created for the development of nomadic tribes must be strengthened and appropriate budget allocation must be made.
- The budget for Self- Reliant Village Scheme must be spent in accordance with well-established standards.
- More hostels (especially for girls) must be opened for students of SCs and STs.

Development of Minorities

- Awareness campaign must be initiated for the schemes and programs being run by the minorities department, so as their benefit can reach more and more people.
- Special efforts must be made for the development of essential amenities like education, health, sanitation and drinking water in minority concentrated areas.
- The scholarship scheme for enabling the provision of quality education to

minority students must be hassle free and the number of beneficiaries must be raised.

- There must be an overall increase in the budget of the minority affairs department.

Migrants:

- There is no policy or program for migrant labour. Therefore, a migration policy must be formulated to ensure the livelihood and other rights of migrants.
- The state government must formulate a policy and scheme to provide essential services to migrant labours along with providing for their rehabilitation.

Social Security

- The pension amount under various pension schemes must be raised from Rs 500 per month to Rs 1000 per month. Also, the pension amount must accommodate inflation and be raised accordingly.

Road, Electricity and Water

1. Roads:

- The contractor must be made responsible for the upkeep of the roads of the PWD for a minimum period of five years.
- The Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojna should be made universal to every baste and hamlet, irrespective of their population.

2. Electricity:

- The budget for the Kuteer Jyoti scheme under the Rajiv Gandhi Electrification scheme must be increased to improve its implementation.
- The availability of solar energy plates in the market must be ensured to encourage the usage of solar energy.

3. Water:

- The installation of water harvesting system must be made mandatory for the



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panchayats during the construction of community buildings.

- Arrangements for water purification must be made in villages falling in the Indira Gandhi Canal areas.
- Schemes related to supply of drinking water from dams and canals must receive timely budget allocations.
- Budgetary allocations must be made to the panchayats to revive tube wells and wells.
- Community participation must be ensured in the drinking water RO plant.
- Schemes must be formulated around community participation rather than including private companies for the development of drinking water facilities.
- Community participation schemes like 'Apni Yojna' and 'Janta Jal Yojna' must be developed.

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