

Suggestion and Demands for State Budget 2014-15

Transparency Related:

- Beside the major head wise detailed budget as presented now, the government should also present the State budget department wise.
- Government should also start presenting district wise budget.
- Government should ensure that all departments present the performance and outcome budget in timely manner.
- Government should provide documents containing information on revenue forgone and loans from foreign agencies with the annual budget documents.
- Chief Minister Information system should be opened for all citizens.
- Progress of budget announcements should be included in annual reports of all departments.

Revenue Related:

- Share of direct taxes in State's revenue is much less ranging between 10 to 12% only, while the share of Indirect taxes is very high between 88 to 90% of state' revenue. There government should efforts towards increasing of direct taxes to minimize the burdens on common man.
- The share of sale tax in total state's own revenue is about 52 to 60% and it is increasing more than per capita income of the state. Therefore, government should decrease sale tax on essential commodities of daily uses.
- In total revenue receipts of the government, share of royalty from petroleum is highly increasing over the last 5-6 years, while the share of mining is stagnant. Therefore, the government should take measures to decrease the royalty on petroleum and to increase it from mining.

Expenditure Related:

SCSP and TSP

- Government should issue separate statements regarding total allocation under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan in the according to statement 21 for SCSP and 21A for TSP of Union Budget.
- Budget allocation under SCSP and TSP should be ensured at least in proportion of Dalit and Tribal population in the state.
- Govt. should adopt Population criteria for both the Sub Plans according to census 2011 (Dalits are 17.8% and Tribals are 13.5% in the total population) in the place older population percentage.
- Budgetary allocations under both the sub plan should be focused on specific schemes meant for socio-economic development of dalits and tribals.
- Gender budgeting should be adopted within the TSP and SCSP.
- Government should adopt separate planning for SCSP and TSP.

Education:

- Budgetary allocation should be increased for development of physical and human infrastructure especially for elementary education in the state.
- Budgetary allocation should be increased under capital budget head with provisioning of infrastructure development in school as per the right to education.
- Budgetary allocation should be made for betterment of right to education in terms of quality education and monitoring the RTE.
- Government should initiate special programme with proper budget for capacity building and strengthening of school management committees (SMCs).

Agriculture Sector:

- Government should focus in the budget to promote organic farming in arid and semi arid areas of the state.
- There should be a subsidy for organic farming certification for small and marginal farmer can also take advantage of organic farming.
- In view of growing risk and uncertainty in the agriculture, a '**risk fund**' should be constituted to help farmers in the times of distress.
- Allocation should be made for the development for the crops of low water requirement in the state.

- Agro-ecological based vulnerability should be assessed in the entire state as a strategy to cope up with climate change.

Minorities

- The government should make regular appointment of District Minorities Officers.
- The State Government should ensure that every department must spend 15% of its total budget amount for the welfare and development of minorities.
- There should be an overall increase in the budget of Minorities Affair Department as it is even less than Rs. 100 crore now.
- In the areas with concentration of minority groups, the basic facilities like schools, hospitals, ICDS centers etc should be increased.
- The State Minority committee should be made financially stronger.
- Madarsas in the state should be modernized.

Social Security

- The pension amount of widows, elderly and differently abled people must be at least Rs. 2000 per month and must be linked with inflation.
- Under the Chief Minister's specially abled people self-employment scheme, the loan approval should be undertaken by the social welfare department instead of the bank.
- There should be enough budget allocation in Specially Abled Motorized Cycle Scheme.
- State government must ensure employment opportunities after providing job oriented trainings.
- Specialized teachers must be appointed for visually challenged, deaf and mentally challenged students.
- Differently Abled Health Insurance Schemes should be started in the state.
- There should be an increase in the number of Old Age Homes and Day Care Centers in the state.

Women

- In the upcoming full budget of the state government, information in the Gender Budget Statement must be provided Major Head wise and/or Department wise and not BFC wise.
- The categories in the Gender Budget Statement should be given to a scheme as whole and not to the non- plan expenditure, plan expenditure and Centre Sponsored plan expenditure under the scheme.
- Paralegals must be appointed at gram or panchayat level.
- There must be permanent appointment of Protection officers for the protection of women under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
- There must be enough arrangements of diagnostic centers for helping the victims of sexual violence.

Local Self Governance

- The final report of fourth state finance commission should come as early as possible.
- Information about money allocated for Gram Panchayats, Panchyat Samities, Municipalities and Municipal Councils must be provided district wise and also local body wise.
- Along with information of allocated amount to the local bodies, information about the expenditure made by the local units in the previous years should also be provided.
- There should be increase in the amount allocated per person in grants-in-aid given to the local bodies.
- There should be a provision of giving incentive funds to the local bodies on the basis of performance.
- The appointment of staff in the various local bodies must be done according to the population.
- Government should include panchayat plans in its state plan.
- Local bodies (rural and urban), who have their websites, should provide information about budget allocation and policy documents on their website.

Rural Development

- Number of working days under government's employment guarantee scheme (MGNREGA) should be increased.
- The amount of minimum wage should be linked with inflation.
- Under the Indra Awas Yojna and other such schemes, the material costs should be increased according to the increase in rate of inflation.
- In the budget for rural development, there should an increase in the amount for rural drinking water and there should be proper allocation for land development.
- There should be proper budgetary allocation for 'Desert Development Programmes.