

Madhya Pradesh Budget 2016-17



**An Accelerated Commentary on
Education, Health, Nutrition,
Agriculture, Social Justice and
Revenue in State Budget**

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- Title** - **Madhya Pradesh: Budget 2016-17**
- Content** - **An Accelerated Commentary on Education, Health, Nutrition, Agriculture, Social Justice and Revenue in State Budget**
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Central Plank of the Budget 2016-17

Madhya Pradesh Budget for year 2016-17 has been presented to the State Legislature on 26th February 2016. While presenting the budget, the State Government has claimed that the ensuing year would bring in an estimated revenue surplus of Rs. 3509.81 Crores, more than 7 times of that in the preceding year. On the face of it, the estimates elicit kudos from the people for the State Government for portraying continued surplus since 2004-05. The State Government also claims that it has sought to scrupulously adhere to the limits enshrined under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM Act) 2005. However, one needs to read between the lines!

The Adverse Impact of the Managed Financial Discipline!

It's agreed that the State Government realised a revenue surplus of Rs. 437.27 Crores whilst limiting to the proportion of fiscal deficit to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) to 3.5% in year 2015-16. However, these achievements have extracted a price that cannot be glossed over. The preceding year 2015-16 has virtually witnessed across the board cuts. Cuts were ordered across as many as 74 schemes of 19 departments. These schemes had the allocation of Rs. 23, 023 Crores which was scaled down to an allotment of Rs. 12, 242 Crores (a decrease by 47%). Departments including health, school education, Panchayat, tribal welfare, scheduled caste welfare, minorities and other backward classes, social justice, women and child development and rural development have been affected most with this action of budgetary cuts in the midst of the year. And all of this was done on the plea that revenue collection was lower, that there were droughts and decline in central grants was anticipated! When such cuts are exercised in a discrete manner without relating to the impact in terms of compromised outcomes, the so called claim of being inclusive in social development is reduced just to lip service. After all, when budgetary allocations are made to the items under the social sectors, the State Government earns a huge applause for having addressed the much-needed priorities!

Budget as an Instrument of Change?

The State Budget appears to be directionless in regard to the following:

- Making agriculture a gainful profession
- Being sensitive to the call for action on climate change
- Having a roadmap for organic farming
- Agricultural marketing support to the farmers, particularly the small and marginal ones
- Breakthrough in public health indicators resting on evidence-based planning
- Holistic and integrated planning for school education, nutrition, water and sanitation.

Some Highlights

- ▶ Department of Women and Child Development face **decrease** in allocation of Rs. 561.4 Crore (12.52%). Earlier It was Rs. 4483.86 Crore, which is brought down to 3922.46 Crore.
- ▶ **Highest increase** for Energy Department – from Rs. 9704.08 Crore to Rs. 19976.7 Crore (105.86%).
- ▶ Department of Health and Family Welfare fortunate to have an **upward allocation** from Rs. 4740.39 Crore to Rs. 5643.86 Crore (19.06%).
- ▶ Significant **increase** in allocation for Department of School Education – from Rs. 15749.5 Crore to 20939.5 Crore (32.95 Crore).
- ▶ Department of Urban Administration and Development receives Rs. 4118.48 Crore more for the year 2016-17. Last year's allocation was 6550.95 Crore, which **goes up** to 10669.4 Crore.
- ▶ Allocation for the Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture gets Rs. 2949.82 Crore, which is 5.93% (Rs. 165.03 Crore) **more from last year's** allocation of Rs. 2784.79 Crore.

Madhya Pradesh Budget 2016-17

Allocated Budget for Key Sectors			
Department	Sector Allocation Rs. In Crores	State's Total Budget	% of State Budget
School Education (Elementary Education all related with education)	27885	158594.5	17.58
Public Health & Family Welfare (Public Relations, Ayush, Tribal Areas, Women & child Development, Scheduled Caste, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief & rehabilitation, Medical Education and Family Welfare)	7153	158594.5	4.51
Water Supply and Sanitation (Scheduled Caste and Tribes, Panchayati raj Institutions, Public Health Engineering, Rural and Urban Development, Public Relations etc.)	3508	158594.5	2.21
Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes (Public Relations, Tribal Welfare, Tribal Area Sub Plan, Scheduled Caste Welfare, Three-Tier Panchayati Raj, Minorities, Backward Classes and De-Notified Roving Classes Welfare)	4363	158594.5	2.75
Social Security and Welfare (Women & Child Development, Social Justice, General Administration, Public Relations, Tribal Areas, Urban Bodies and others.)	4088	158594.5	2.58
Nutrition (Women & Child Development, Tribal Areas etc.)	1383	158594.5	0.87
Rural Development (Scheduled Tribe Welfare, Panchayat, Public Relations, District Project, Three-tier Panchayat)	11416	158594.5	7.20
Agricultural Sector	26050.4	158594.5	16.42

The Truth of Revenue Surplus

The State Government has allocated Rs. 58.97 Thousand Crores for the social sector for the ensuing year. However, whilst it accounts for 37.18% of State's total expenditure, it cannot be entirely trusted. This is because the budgetary cuts that are done during the course of the year impact more on the departments like education, health, rural development, given the recent experiences.

The Madhya Pradesh Budget presented for the Financial Year 2016-17 seeks to address a tall order. It is full of rhetoric of financial management and maze of promises and expectations. To begin with, it claims that this year's budget of Rs. 1.585 lakh Crores will surpass that for the preceding year which was pegged at Rs. 1.324 Lakh Crores. In other words, this mammoth expenditure will be made by the Government of Madhya Pradesh over the next year. One would thus expect that an outlay of this magnitude will go a long way in addressing issues of inequality, indifference and deprivation whilst ensuring that we conserve our resources such that the posterity too will be healthy and have a reason to smile. Strangely, the budget is not accompanied by the Outcome Budget which would correlate the budgeted outlays with the planned achievements and outcomes. Needless to state that it is the Outcome Budget that can trigger the implementation of planned and prioritized perspective linked activities and interventions. Further, in order to make sense out of the fresh budget proposals, it is also good enough for us for the time to have a look at the budgets of the previous one or two years.

In this inquisition, an important question is that the budget for the year 2015-16 was 1.311 lakh Crores, which has ostensibly risen to Rs. 1.324 Lakh Crores as per the Revised Estimates. It means that for the current year, additional Rs. 1300 Crores have become available. If it is right, then how come that the budget allotments to the social sectors have been slashed? Has it to do only with the relief for the farmers?

The other side of Revenue Surplus

Generally, when it comes to budget, expenditure draws more of our attention. However, we need to keep a close watch at the revenue receipts (comprising tax receipts from the State and the Centre and grants under the schemes of the central government). The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been maintaining its claim over the last decade that it is in a state of revenue surplus. Revenue surpluses at Rs. 5879 Crores for the year 2013-14, 6268 Crores for the year 2014-15 (estimates) and Rs. 5588 Crores for the year 2015-16 have been cited. Not only this, following the recommendations of the 14th Financial Commission, an additional allocation of Rs. 13, 226 Crores was also received in the financial year 2015-16. Thus, the state

exchequer was equipped with an additional amount of Rs. 18, 814 Crores and that the State Government was free to use it in accordance with its requirements. However, it was not to be. Instead, it chose to make huge cuts in the social sector allotments in the year 2015-16 on the plea of cutting expenditure.

How Reliable is the Budgetary Allocation?

Cuts were ordered across as many as 74 schemes of 19 departments. These schemes had the allocation of Rs. 23, 023 Crores which was scaled down to an allotment of Rs. 12, 242 Crores (a decrease by 47%). One may infer that the claims of making highest allocations to the social sectors in the budget are actually proving to be false. Departments including health, school education, Panchayat, tribal welfare, scheduled caste welfare, minorities and other backward classes, social justice, women and child development and rural development have been affected most with this action of budgetary cuts.

Who is the Most Deprived in Economy?

Essentially speaking, determining the appropriate and correct estimates of revenue receipts is an outcome of farsightedness and proper planning on the part of the state government. It is rather evident that the government's job is to manage the economy but it appears to be endeavoring to be in a fire-fighting mode. It was on 19th October 2015 that the Finance Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh issued an executive order citing the rationale for the budgetary cuts in the social sectors on a set of grounds, namely, fall in its receipts due to low activity in the construction sector in year 2013-14 resulting in reduced tax collections, possibility of decline in the central grants by 30% and that the farmers need to be given heightened reliefs in the wake of poor monsoon. Whilst it may be appreciated that the government has little control over the poor monsoon, the other two points present a lack of clarity in the management of economy. Driven by these 'rationales', the budgetary cuts effected during the midst of the Financial Year 2015-16 have had a deep impact on the State in terms of direct and adverse effect on the common people, women, elderly persons and the children, to a large extent.

Some pointer examples in budgetary contrivance pertaining to 2015-16 are as follows:

1. Department of Forests had been allocated an amount of Rs. 245 Crores towards rehabilitation of villages. The amount was scaled down to Rs. 205 Crores.
2. Rajeev Awas Yojana had an allocation of Rs. 200 Crores. It was slashed to Rs. 50 Crores.

3. Allocations for the additional Sub Health Centres were reduced by Rs. 20 Crores. Subsequently, another cut of Rs. 25 Crores was also affected.
4. National Campaign for Middle Education had an allocation of Rs. 1000 Crores. It was brought down to Rs. 323 Crores.
5. Local development provision of Rs. 306 Crores under the Integrated Tribal Development Plan was cut down to Rs. 37 Crores.
6. Budget allotment was limited to Rs. 31.3 Crores under the Tribal Sub Plan activities, though the allocation stood at Rs. 173.13 Crores.
7. Why are the children not receiving the post-matric scholarships under the Tribal Development Department? The reason is that only Rs. 44 Crores are permitted for being spent on this count though the allocation was for Rs. 200.9 Crores. Likewise, amounts for primary schools were limited to Rs. 462 Crores against the allotted outlay of Rs. 604 Crores.
8. During the midst of the financial year, the Integrated Child Development Services scheme had a cut of the order of Rs. 211 Crores and that for supplementary nutrition was slashed by Rs. 163 Crores.
9. Blatant and wide-ranging cuts were affected in the schemes of department of social justice affecting the beneficiary population comprising elderly persons, persons with special needs, widows and the deprived. The allocation of Rs. 315.50 Crores was down to Rs. 127.50 Crores.
10. Allocations for drinking water schemes in the state were reduced from Rs. 661 Crores to Rs. 347 Crores.
11. Budget for hostels/Ashrams for the Scheduled Caste children was virtually made insignificant, slashing it by a whopping 92%!
12. Budgetary allocation in respect of scholarships for children of minority and backward communities was cut from Rs. 680 Crores to Rs. 325 Crores!

The manner in which budget cuts were affected in year 2015-16 in the name of revised estimates goes to show that these have had maximum impact on nutrition, health, social security pension, drinking water and education of tribal-dalit children. These evidences inform us that we need to be vigilant with regard to changes effected to the budget during the midst of the financial year. Time and again, we are told that that the Government of Madhya Pradesh is working in conformity with the Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management (FRBM) Act 2005.

This Act requires the State to limit its fiscal deficit and therefore it needs to control its expenditures, both plan and non-plan ones. The FRBM Note for year 2016-17 presented to the State Legislature along with the budget spells out the fiscal policy stating that the State shall address an important objective of increasing the capital expenditure so that investment can be expanded in the social development and physical infrastructure. At the same time, it also affirms that there is need to increase the revenue expenditure in the social sector, like health and education so as to address the concept of inclusive development. However, the aforesaid cuts in the form of caps to the allocations of development departments go against the spirit of this affirmation. Clearly, the urge to keep the fiscal deficit within the targeted limit has sought to arrest the pace of development.

Is Something Amiss in Planning?

A lot of exercise is done in trying to keep the fiscal deficit (as per cent of Gross Domestic State Product- GSDP-) under a limit. However, the state government believes that the existing limit of 3% of the fiscal deficit under the FRBM Act is rather too low and that it wants the same to be pegged at 3.5%. In seeking to adhere to the limit, the State goes about compromising with manning the government hospitals, grant of bonus to the farmers, construction of school buildings, providing school management including full complement of teachers and the remittances under the social security pension scheme.

The State Government had indicated the revenue surplus at Rs. 5587.97 Crores for the year 2015-16 whilst presenting the economic survey to the State Legislature on 25th February 2016. However, rather strangely, the budget presented on the very next day on 26th February 2016 shows this amount to be just Rs. 437.27 Crores! For the ensuing year, the Finance Department has estimated the surplus to be of Rs. 3509.81 Crores. At this time when the markets are appearing to be laid back and the state and central governments are formulating the development schemes without according due attention to the needs of the social sector, it appears highly unlikely that the State Government will be able to prove its estimates right for the year 2016-17.

They hope that they will make big earnings from taxations from sales and trade. This is expected to net Rs. 22, 000/- Crores. State Excise Duty is expected to bring in Rs. 9, 000/- Crores. Stamps and Registrations are to bring in Rs. 4, 500/- Crores. Some important sectors which not only help in meeting the economic needs of certain groups but also strengthen sectors like tourism have been grossly neglected. Cottage industries are being extremely less importance in the realm of development. During the year 2015-16, financial assistance of just Rs. 11 Crores was provided for the weavers. The State Government needs to see as to how to

safeguard the handicraft artisan and handloom from the attack of the power loom. Now, one can find the imitation Chanderi and Maheshwari sarees from the market.

Lack of Responsible Attention in Financial Management

A mere glance at the Economic Survey 2015-16 shows that it is only a formal document for the State Government. Across 3-fourths of the document, just the numbers are changed. There is no analysis from the standpoint of a perspective. Here is a specimen. The government has been making claims of investment. Would an investor believe in the negligent system? In fact, as compared to year 2004-05, contribution of industries to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has come down from 27.15 per cent to 25.90 per cent in year 2013-14 and that advanced estimates peg it at 24.55 per cent for the year 2014-15. However, the Economic Survey claims an increase in its Economic Survey of 2015-16 (page 89)!

Status of Social Sectors

Agriculture

Agriculture Related Data of Madhya Pradesh

Number of Farmers ⁱ						
Total Number of Farmers		Male Farmers		%	Female Farmers	%
98, 44 439		65, 91, 064		66.95	32, 53, 375	33.04
Debt per Person and Total Debt on Farmers ⁱⁱ						
Debt per Person: Rs. 48723			Total Debt on Farmers: Rs. 48, 000 Crores			
Total Number of Insured Farmers under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme ⁱⁱⁱ						
Total Number of Farmers in Madhya Pradesh: 98, 44, 439 (98.44 lakh)			Total Number of Insured Farmers in Madhya Pradesh (From 1999-2000 to 2013-14): 3, 13, 61, 654 (3.14 Crores)			
Land holding in Madhya Pradesh (Number per 1000, Area per 1000 Ha) ^{iv}						
2010-11		2005-06		Per Cent change		
Number	Area	Number	Area	Number	Area	
8872	15836	7908	15994	12.19	- 0.99	

1. There are 98, 44, 439 farmers in Madhya Pradesh. Female Farmers account for 33.04%.
2. According to the NSSO Report, Debt per Person in Madhya Pradesh is Rs. 48, 723/-. If multiplied by the number of farmers in the State, farmers of the State share a total debt of a whopping Rs. 48, 000 Crores!
3. Census 2011 places the number of farmers in Madhya Pradesh at 98, 44, 439.

The Dichotomy of Krishi Karaman Award

It was quite natural to expect the Finance Minister to begin his budget speech with agriculture given the conferment of Krishi Karman Award to the State for the fourth consecutive year. At present, the agricultural growth rate of Madhya Pradesh is above 20 per cent. We are ranked at number 1 in respect of food grains production. However, the other side of coin presents a grim situation. In the last one year, more than 60 farmers have committed suicides in the State. The State is reeling under drought with 35 of the 51 districts being the drought-affected. Therefore, many are taken aback by this dichotomy. Notwithstanding the record-breaking production of food grains, hundreds of private godowns are reported to be empty, albeit not being so, in reality. With tax holiday period being over, the owners of these godowns (including both politicians and bureaucrats) keep complaining about continued losses.

Through this budget, the State Government is readying to fill these godowns with the products of horticulture. Towards this end, these private godowns will be transformed in to cold storage godowns. The budget speaks of increasing this capacity from 9.50 Lakh MT to 15 Lakh MT. The question is about the need for such a vast storage of horticulture produce. Hope that the government is not contemplating to make profit from hoarding in these cold storage godowns. It is pertinent to mention here that the capacity utilization of godowns of 281 branches of Madhya Pradesh Warehousing Corporation is not more than 79 per cent at this time.

Readiness for Climate Change Not Reflected

It was hoped that the Finance Minister will come up with certain announcements in the 2015-16 budget seeking to motivate the farmers to adopt some dry farming crops' cultivation instead of just the regular production of wheat and paddy, keeping in view the challenges of Climate Change. However, it was not to be. The government has raised the allocation for agriculture Rs. 165 Crores, whilst seeking to enhance the expenditure on expanding the irrigation facilities by Rs. 1239 Crores over the budget of the preceding year. This goes to show that the government's focus continues to be on maximizing the production of these two crops. Of course, this year there is a pronounced impetus on making water available to the farmers for irrigation. Another point to be noted is that the maize production has declined by as much as 37 per cent over the preceding year. Likewise, production of Split Red Gram (Tuvar dal) has also declined by 9 per cent. The Finance Minister's budget does not appear to be concerned about the drop in production of these vital crops.

Organic Farming Policy without a Roadmap

The State Government has been talking about organic farming since last few years. Although, chemical fertilizers continue to be promoted from the back door. Barring a little drop in the consumption of nitrogen, phosphate and potash have not witnessed much decline in consumption. Even this decline has actually occurred because of the continued losses borne by the farmers leading them to adopt organic manure as an alternative. At present, consumption of fertilizer in Madhya Pradesh is 82 Kg per hectare, being about half of that in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh. In its budget, the State Government has announced Traditional Agricultural Development Scheme so as to encourage organic farming. However, it has no robust roadmap with regard to measures to be undertaken for production and marketing of organic fertilizer except for organising certain fairs and conferences. Of course, the State Government has announced increase in incentive amount for the cultivation of agricultural forestry.

Indications on Decreased Buying by the State!

The Finance Minister has also announced to realise the vision of Modi Government with regard to National Agricultural Marketing. Towards this end, 50 agri-mandis of the State will be linked online with the mandis across the country. It means that the bids may be offered for state's products from anywhere in the country. It also emerges thus that the State will gradually limit itself to buying its needs

whilst leaving bulk of the sale of produce to the market linkages, albeit forces. Subsequently, market will determine the price of the product based upon its quality.

Taking Recourse to 'Advance Remittance for Building Confidence

The budget provides for remittance of 25% of claimed amount in 'advance' immediately to the farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme. The question as to when and how much of the balance amount will be remitted has become a matter of political sympathy. However, during this year, claims amounting to Rs. 4300 Crores have been lodged thus far. As many as 48 lakh farmers are suffering from the impact of drought. As regards the departmental assistance, at places cheques of even Rs. 3/- or Rs. 4/- have been issued!

Public Health & Family Welfare

Results of Annual Health Survey (2012-13) and those from the recent National Health & Family Survey -4 (NFHS-4) raise some hope with regard to the status of child and maternal health. However, looking at the ground situation betrays the veracity of the data. If we consider the Neo Natal Mortality Rate (NNMR), it has come down from 62 per live births to 54. The NFHS-4 results place it at 51. However, the same indicator stands at 59 per 1000 live births for the rural areas. Now, institutional births have touched the figure of 86 per cent. Despite this, expected reduction in neonatal mortality (births occurring within 28 days of birth) is not in the sight, given the delivery related complications and shortage of specialist doctors.

Status of Posts in Health and Medical Institutions of the State									
Institution	Gynaecologist			Pediatrician			Anaesthetist		
	Sanctioned Posts	Total Posted	Vacant Posts	Sanctioned Posts	Total Posted	Vacant Posts	Sanctioned Posts	Total Posted	Vacant Posts
District Hospital	173	142	31	323	164	159	115	85	30
Civil Hospital	62	42	20	62	28	34	50	18	32
Community Health Centres	334	52	282	78	59	19	78	11	67
CM&HO Office	-	-	-	50	24	26	-	1	-1
Medical Colleges	57	49	8	49	37	16	56	41	15
Total	626	285	341	562	312	228	299	156	144
Status of Sub Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and Hospitals by Number of Beds									
PHC/Beds	CHC/Beds			SHC/Beds			District Hospital/Beds		Civil Hospital/Beds
1157/798	334/9992			8754/None			51/13700		64/3447
Situation of Various Diseases in the State (2015)									

Status of Posts in Health and Medical Institutions of the State									
Institution	Gynaecologist			Pediatrician			Anaesthetist		
	Sanctioned Posts	Total Posted	Vacant Posts	Sanctioned Posts	Total Posted	Vacant Posts	Sanctioned Posts	Total Posted	Vacant Posts
	TB			Malaria			Dengue		
131- Annual Total Case Notification Rate				94936			2080		

1. There are 626 sanctioned posts of gynecologists out of which 54 per cent are vacant.
2. There are 562 sanctioned posts of pediatricians out of which 40 per cent are vacant.
3. Likewise, 48 per cent posts of Anaesthetists are also vacant.
4. There are 1157 Primary Health Centres (PHC), albeit with only 798 beds, whilst as per Indian Public Health Standards, each PHC should have 4 to 6 beds.
5. During year 2015, as many as 95, 000 cases were found to be malaria positive.

The Finance Minister has increased the allocation for the department of Public Health & Family Welfare by more than Rs. 903 Crores. Alongside, budget for AYUSH and Medical Education has been increased by Rs. 22 Crores and Rs. 196 Crores respectively. Budget does appear to give complete emphasis upon the upgradation of health facilities in the rural areas. It seeks to open 2000 new Sub Health Centres and strengthening of tertiary care infrastructure. The previous year's budget had provisioned for Rs. 320 Crores for this which was revised down to Rs. 275 Crores. This time, this allocation is little more than Rs. 310 Crores. Of course, the same question stares us as to what we will achieve by opening new health institutions and upgradation of the infrastructure. The problem will persist until timely availability of doctor, treatment facilities and medicines are ensured. The budget provides for an increased allocation of Rs. 488 Crores. However, barring a paltry increase in State Illness Assistance Fund, items like strengthening of hospitals, cancer, diabetes, cardiac disease control programme and geriatric health have been devoid of any budgetary allocation. The Finance Minister stated in his budget speech that the State Government will make the recruitment rules of doctors attractive. However, it is not clear whether the doctors will be positively aligned with the State's Health System or not. The State Government has initiated the process of partial privatization based on the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) Model in 27 districts. The Finance Minister did not clarify whether the state Government has determined to go ahead with the privatization of health services. It needs to be seen that if the doctors remain disinclined despite the attractiveness of recruitment rules and service conditions, whether the remaining districts will also go the privatization mode. However, the budget states that facilities like CT Scan and MRI will be made available in the PPP mode.

Notwithstanding the yawning gap between the demand and supply of doctors, setting up of 7 new medical colleges has been announced. Towards this, an allocation of more than Rs. 326 Crores has been made which is seven times that for the purpose with regard to the preceding year.

School Education Department

Education

Enrolment Rate	Status of Enrolment in Schools											
	Primary School			Middle School			School up to 10 th			School up to 12 th		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
All	4564385	4115300	8679685	2469105	2353679	4822784	1360520	1183627	2544147	709226	567033	1276259
SC	17.08	16.96	17.02	17.71	17.68	17.70	17.74	16.97	17.38	Q5.64	14.24	15.02
ST	25.65	25.76	25.70	22.38	22.88	22.62	17.05	19.46	18.17	12.58	14.06	13.23
Muslim	5.28	5.41	5.34	4.44	4.72	4.57	3.19	3.67	3.41	2.92	3.84	3.33
Average Drop Out Rate 2013-14												
	Primary School			Middle School			School up to 10 th			School up to 12 th		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
	9.91	10.40	10.14	9.88	13.57	11.70	25.21	27.91	26.47	0.52	2.83	1.55
Number of Teachers by Level of School												
Total	Primary School			Middle School			School up to 10 th			School up to 12 th		
122025	84202			30307			3465			4051		
Teacher-Pupil Ratio 2014-15												
MP	Primary School			Middle School			School up to 10 th			School up to 12 th		
	22			19			40			40		
Student – Classroom Ratio												
MP	Primary School			Middle School			School up to 12 th					
	22			51			41					
Literates and Literacy Rate												
	Number of Literates						Literacy Rate					
MP	Total		Rural	Urban		Total	Rural		Urban			
	42851169		28281	14569183		69.3	63.9		82.8			

1. According to District Information System for Education (DISE) - 2014-15, 86, 79, 685 children were enrolled in primary schools. These included 17.71 per cent Scheduled Caste, 22.38 per cent Scheduled Tribes and 4.44 per cent Muslim children.
2. During the year 2013.14, the Average Drop Out Rate was 10.14 per cent, 11.7 per cent, 26.47 per cent and 1.55 per cent in primary, middle, 10th and 12th schools respectively. In all these Drop Out Rates, girls' drop outs were higher.
3. There are a total of 1, 22, 025 teachers across 1, 22, 102 schools in the State.
4. State's Literacy rate is 69.3 per cent whilst that for the rural areas it is 63.9 per cent.

The Declining Budget for School Education

This year, the School Education Department has been allocated a budget of Rs. 20, 939 Crores. This is 46 per cent of the general education which stands at Rs. 44, 670 Crores. In year 2014-15, School Education

(Elementary Education) budget was 6.39 per cent of State's total budget which increased to 6.69 per cent as per the Revised Estimates. However, in this year's budget, the proportion has come down to 6.09 per cent. It means that this year, the allocation proportion is lesser as compared to the revised estimates of the preceding year.

Free and compulsory child education is the most important ingredient of this department which has been allocated a budget of Rs. 300 Crores whereas the allocation for the Middle School Campaign has been provisioned the budget of Rs. 495 Crores; which is lesser by Rs. 58 Crores allocated in the previous budget. If we consider public attracting schemes like distributing free laptops to meritorious students, allocation under this head has gone up by 25 times as compared to preceding revised estimates, whereas allocations for drinking water, electrification and free text books have been kept only at Rs. 15 Crores, Rs. 20 Crores and Rs. 31 Crores respectively. The allocation for free text books has remained unchanged from that in the preceding year.

The preceding year witnessed agitation by Samvida (Contract) teachers who have been demanding permanency in appointment and uniform pay scale. However, this year's budget allocation has provisioned for Rs. 517 Crores towards the honorarium of the Samvida teachers which is the same as was under the revised estimates for the preceding year. Likewise, this year allocation for establishing primary schools has also not been raised. The allocation under the free school uniforms for school education has been lowered from Rs. 107 Crores to Rs. 75 Crores. There is no increase in the budgetary allocation for distributing free cycles to the school going girls. However, allocation for the upgradation of higher secondary schools has been doubled and that for the construction of higher secondary school buildings increased, approximately to five-fold.

An increase of Rs. 1367 Crores has been made in the allocation of grant for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. With a view to eyeing the Dalit vote bank, Government of Madhya Pradesh had recently announced that it will make provision for free education of children belonging to the Scheduled Caste. However, the announcement does not find a place anywhere in the budget. Whilst there is no increase in the construction of hostel buildings, the Finance Minister has claimed that this year the government will open four new schools and that 120 hostels and Ashrams will be established under the Tribal Welfare Department.

Cut in the Budget of Children and Women

Recently, results of National Family Health Survey have been published. These results show that rate of reduction in malnutrition amongst the children is only 1.8 per cent per year. Whilst the State has endeavored to remove the blot of being the worst State in the country in respect child malnutrition, the situation has not become such as to warrant a reduction in the budget of the department mandated for taking care of the children. In the State budget presented on Friday in the State Legislature by Mr. Jayant Malaiya, the Department of Women and Child Development happens to be one of the four departments whose budget have been slashed. Last year, the department had an allocation of Rs. 4483 Crores. This

financial year, it has come down to Rs. 3922 Crores. A cut has thus been by Rs. 561 Crores when the new policies require improvement in the quality of Anganwadi services.

It needs to be seen that the State Government has proposed to set up 4305 Anganwadi Centres and 600 new Mini anganwadis. This will take the total number of Anganwadis to 84, 465 and mini Anganwadis to 12, 670. Likewise, there are 1.27 Crore habitations from the perspective of drinking water. It may be mentioned here that in accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court, every child up to the age 6 years has to be brought under the net of Anganwadi Centre. From this standpoint, increase in the number of Anganwadis is a better step, albeit at a very slow pace because out of the 1.10 Crore population of children from the age of 6 months to 6 years, only 81, 44, 591 children registered with the Anganwadi Centres in the State. Further, out of the registered children, only 64 lakh children are receiving the supplementary nutrition. Thus, more than 21.44 lakh children are deprived of the supplementary nutrition. Those children who need the supplementary nutrition most are the ones deprived of it. It may also be stated here that 34.6 per children amongst the 3 to 6 years old children do not receive Take Home Ration under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).

There are 15.67 lakh pregnant women and nursing mothers out of whom only 13.60 Lakh women are accessing the supplementary nutrition. Thus, more than 2 lakh pregnant women and nursing mother are deprived of the services. Likewise, more than 2.72 lakh adolescent girls are also out of the net of the Anganwadi services. The Sabla Scheme is also limited only to 15 districts. It has not been expanded since the year 2011.

The moot question is whether the situation of children improves with the perspective of robust numbers. Viewed from the perspective of quality, the upgradation and improvement of the Anganwadi services is nowhere reflected in the budget. Another pertinent point is that when the governments from the Centre to States are talking about smart cities, Digital India, world class railway stations, bullet trains, is it not worthy enough to endeavour to set up a few model Anganwadi Centres in each district which can be replicated and adopted elsewhere too. What to speak of better services, here we are faced with the deprivation of even the basic services of the important institutions. More than 46, 000 Anganwadi Centres do not have toilets whilst 67, 196 Anganwadis do not have electricity. It is sad that such thoughts on the issues of children and women do not find priority attention with the State Government. If it were, it would have been reflected in the budget too!

Child Rights Protection Commission: There is a provision for setting up a Child Rights Protection Commission in the State for the surveillance of child rights. The post of its chairperson has been lying vacant for many months. Because of its non-functioning, issues related with violation of child rights are now reaching the Human Rights Commission. Issues like crimes towards the children, punishment of children in schools are coming up incessantly. Even issues of children committing suicides have also come up. The State Government has provisioned an allocation of about Rs. 1.75 Crores for the functioning of the Child Rights Protection Commission. What is important is that what is provisioned with a budgetary outlay, it is also reflected in strengthened implementation.

Chief Minister's Favorite Scheme Overtakes All: The Finance Minister has accorded attention to the ambitious Ladli Lakshmi Scheme of the State Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, whilst casting his budget. Under the scheme, a provision of Rs. 903 Crores has been made. This scheme has a hefty allocation in the budget for the entire department of women & Child Development. Whereas we have seen the status of Child Sex Ratio in the Census 2011 being down to 918 for children up to 6 years of age, Save Girl Child Campaign has a meagre allocation of Rs. 6 Crores.

The budget of the Department of Women & child Development also has a scheme with an allocation of just rupees one thousand. This pertains to Tanya Bheel School Uniforms. Likewise, similar provision has been made for the supervision and strengthening of Anganwadi Centres under the Tribal Sub Plan component.

MANREGA – Drought will keep the MANREGA Thirsty of Relief!

With a view to ensuring employment to rural areas, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MANREGA) Scheme was initiated a decade back. Primarily, it is funded by the central government. From time to time, its implementation is reviewed and improvements are effected. Towards the implementation of this scheme, a provision for Rs. 4005 Crores has been made, based on the estimated receipt from the Central Government. Though the Finance Minister mentioned about bringing improvements in the deliverance of the scheme from time to time, there are issues. The Opposition too has been seeking raise the matter with regard to questions on scheme's poor implementation. Further, the Finance Minister himself acknowledged that the State may witness crisis of drought in the year, given the scarcity of rains. This situation is bound to trigger the pitiable condition migration from the rural areas. Under these circumstances, shouldn't the Finance Minister have made concrete reference to the need for taking local steps for mitigating the plight of the rural population? People in the State have viewed the schemes for development and livelihood run in the name of Bapu with a sense of expectancy. These schemes not only provide employment but also render a support to the basic development at the local level. The impediments in implementation of the scheme have created a negative outlook towards the scheme. If the issue of delayed remittances of wages is picked up, the number is huge. Under these circumstances, when there is coordination between the Central and State Government after a long time, there is need for a framework whereby there is robust implementation of such schemes for rural development so that issues like securing employment, timely remittances of wages are addressed effectively. However, the budget fails to provide any such insight. It has to be seen as to how much the Central Government gives out to its favorite State out of its Rs. 33,000 Crores spend on MANREGA.

The Drinking Water Distress

Even a child understands that this year it is going to be calamity with regard to water. About a month back, a social and political activist Yogendra Yadav had presented the picture of about 33 villages of the Bundelkhand region which are confronting acute water distress. Evidently, this number will not confine only to the Bundelkhand region but will pervade in more areas. Under the circumstances, the State Government has stated that it will seek to upgrade and improve the surface water sources given the pitiable condition of underground water sources. It means that the society will now go back to wells, ponds and surface water reservoirs (Bawadis). With time, the society has virtually finished them. In urban areas, these are hardly there. Markets and big buildings have sprung up over these water bodies. It is good that the state Government is talking about the development of these mediums, though it would be a long-drawn process. Now that the impending calamity is knocking, the State Government has not taken any measures in its budget. Whilst the government may have increased the irrigated area multi-fold, the crisis of every drop of water is a formidable challenge. The State's vision to address it is not clearly perceived in the budget.

Irrigation: Now Lakes-Ponds Come to the Mind

The Finance minister claimed in his budget speech that the state government has registered an increase in the irrigation capacity of large water reservoirs. However, the data shows that at present, wells and tube wells account for 67% coverage of the net irrigated area and the contribution of lakes and ponds stands at 20%. As compared to year 2013-14, irrigated area has increased by only 30, 000 ha during the year 2014-15. Irregular rains and drought have lowered the underground water table. Being alarmed with this situation, the State Government has thought of the irrigation facilities which have been pending since last two decades. This year, the State has allocated 3.42% of its budget to irrigation which is in fact little less than 3.48% of that in the preceding year.

About 2609 ha area out of net irrigated area of 9454 ha is being irrigated through large, medium and small irrigation projects. Thus, only about 27% area is being supported by the large and medium projects. The Finance Minister has reiterated in this year's budget that the old lake schemes will be restored and that their lining work done. The State Government has restored 57 schemes in the last year. For the new financial year, 18 medium irrigation schemes have been announced out of which four will be in the tribal belt. Likewise, it has been announced that after completing the Narmada-Khshipra Link Project of Rs. 224 Crores, Narmada-Malwa Gambheer Link Project will be taken up which is expected to render irrigation facility for an area of 50, 000 ha of the Malwa region. In addition, other projects of more than Rs. 1500 Crores will be implemented, with Chhegaonmakhan Project being a significant one amongst them which will provide irrigation facility for an area of 35, 000 ha. It is hoped that with the increase in the coverage of irrigated area under the lakes and underground pipes, pressure on underground water sources will be lessened.

Some Major Departments

Department	Budget allocation 2014-15	Budget Allocation 2015-16	Difference	Budget Allocation 2015-16	Budget allocation 2016-17	Difference
Agriculture						
Agriculture	2768.58	2784.79	16.21	2784.79	2949.82	165.03
Cooperative	902.53	892.14	-10.39	892.14	1100.24	208.1
Irrigation	4062.17	5417.45	1355.28	6255.83	7494.92	1239.09
Animal Husbandry	861.58	864.78	3.2	864.78	938.54	73.76
Fisheries	88.62	81.35	-7.27	81.35	82.83	1.48
Horticulture and Food Processing	597.62	608.23	10.61	608.23	742.94	134.71
Food and Civil Supplies	1096.08	1314.88	218.8	1314.88	1330.26	15.38
Narmada Valley Dev.	1652.56	2045.69	393.13	2045.69	2095.31	49.62
Energy	7985.41	9704.08	1718.67	9704.08	19976.65	10272.57
Health						
Public Health and Family Welfare	4763.98	4740.39	-23.59	4740.39	5643.86	903.47
AYUSH	497.26	392.01	-105.25	392.01	414.56	22.55
Medical Education	582.45	649.23	66.78	649.23	845.39	196.16
WCD	4056.11	4483.86	427.75	4483.86	3922.46	-561.4
Rural Industries	293.08	316.88	23.8	316.88	359.7	42.82
Rural Development	11021.96	11070.58	48.62	11070.58	10732.35	-338.23
Panchayat Department	2923.03	3135.25	212.22	3135.87	4721.85	1585.98
School Education	14853.37	15749.49	896.12	15749.47	20939.54	5190.07
Higher Education	1318.8	2001.57	682.77	2001.57	2509.26	507.69
Technical Education & Manpower Planning	690.09	800.64	110.55	800.64	902.9	102.26
Dept. of ST Welfare	4868.21	5475.13	606.92	5475.13	5898.99	423.86
Dept. of SC Welfare	1337.12	1571.83	234.71	1571.83	1581.84	10.01
OBC and Minority	829.49	950.21	120.72	950.21	957.89	7.68
Science and Technology	34.42	218.24	183.82	218.24	178.29	-39.95
Commerce, Industry, Employment	1090.46	1781.42	690.96	1781.42	2584.19	802.77

Budget Allocation - Department wise for the Years 2015-16 and 2016-17

Department	Budget Estimates 2015-16 (in Crore Rs.)	%age of Total Budget of 2015-16 (in Crore Rs.)	Budget Estimates 2016-17 (in Crore Rs.)	%age of Total Budget of 2016-17 (in Crore Rs.)	Change in allocation from previous year (in Crore Rs.)	Change in %age
General Administration	494.14	0.38	502.71	0.32	8.57	1.73
Home	5383.49	4.10	5623.36	3.54	239.87	4.46
Jail	270.64	0.21	342.35	0.22	71.71	26.50
Commercial Taxes	2595.54	1.98	2634.49	1.66	38.95	1.50
Religious Trusts and Endowments	117.23	0.09	189.87	0.12	72.64	61.96
Revenue	3398.01	2.59	3821.79	2.41	423.78	12.47
Transport	140.63	0.11	132.44	0.08	-8.19	-5.82
Sports and Youth Welfare	199.63	0.15	216.76	0.14	17.13	8.58
Forest	2698.08	2.06	2526.88	1.59	-171.2	-6.35
Commerce, Industries & Employment	1781.42	1.36	2584.19	1.63	802.77	45.06
Energy	9704.08	7.40	19976.7	12.59	10272.57	105.86
Farmer Welfare & Agriculture Development	2784.79	2.12	2949.82	1.86	165.03	5.93
Cooperation	892.14	0.68	1100.24	0.69	208.1	23.33
Labour	182.26	0.14	169.41	0.11	-12.85	-7.05
Public Health and Family Welfare	4740.39	3.61	5643.86	3.56	903.47	19.06
Urban Administration and Development	6550.95	4.99	10669.4	6.72	4118.48	62.87
Public Works	5911.8	4.51	7124.58	4.49	1212.78	20.51
School Education	15749.5	12.00	20939.5	13.19	5190.07	32.95
Law and Legislative Affairs	842.66	0.64	1003.52	0.63	160.86	19.09
Panchayat	3135.87	2.39	4721.85	2.98	1585.98	50.58
Planning, Economic and Statistics	609.25	0.46	749.66	0.47	140.41	23.05
Public Relation	252.86	0.19	245.12	0.15	-7.74	-3.06
Tribal Welfare	5475.13	4.17	5898.99	3.72	423.86	7.74
Social Justice	1359.38	1.04	1598.08	1.01	238.7	17.56
Narmada Valley Development	2045.69	1.56	2095.31	1.32	49.62	2.43

Food and Civil Supplies	1314.88	1.00	1330.26	0.84	15.38	1.17
Culture	142.94	0.11	197.18	0.12	54.24	37.95
Water Resources	5417.45	4.13	6775.65	4.27	1358.2	25.07
Tourism	134.24	0.10	254.06	0.16	119.82	89.26
Public Health Engineering	2242.43	1.71	2599.47	1.64	357.04	15.92
Veterinary	864.78	0.66	938.54	0.59	73.76	8.53
Fisheries	81.35	0.06	82.83	0.05	1.48	1.82
Higher Education	2001.57	1.53	2509.26	1.58	507.69	25.36
Science and Technology	218.24	0.17	178.29	0.11	-39.95	-18.31
Manpower Planning	800.64	0.61	902.92	0.57	102.28	12.77
Public Service Management	107.5	0.08	132.62	0.08	25.12	23.37
Aviation	22.34	0.02	22.27	0.01	-0.07	-0.31
Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Relief and Rehabilitation	97.8	0.07	110.77	0.07	12.97	13.26
Legislative Affairs	72.76	0.06	81.3	0.05	8.54	11.74
Women and Child Welfare	4483.86	3.42	3922.46	2.47	-561.4	-12.52
Rural Industries	316.88	0.24	359.7	0.23	42.82	13.51
Medical Education	649.23	0.49	845.39	0.53	196.16	30.21
Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare	950.21	0.72	957.89	0.60	7.68	0.81
Schedule Caste Welfare	1571.83	1.20	1581.84	1.00	10.01	0.64
Rural Development	11070.6	8.44	10732.4	6.76	-338.23	-3.06
Horticulture and Food Processing	608.23	0.46	742.94	0.47	134.71	22.15
Aayush	392.01	0.30	414.56	0.26	22.55	5.75
New & Renewable Energy	54.64	0.04	184	0.12	129.36	236.75
Vimukt, Ghumakkad & Ardha Ghumakkad Welfare	34.14	0.03	44.49	0.03	10.35	30.32

ⁱ Census 2011 India

ⁱⁱ NSSO Report on India

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://agricoop.nic.in/Annualreport2014-15/HindiAR270315.pdf>

^{iv} <http://agcensus.nic.in/document/agcensus2010/agcen2010rep.htm>