

Maharashtra Drought – Free Movement 2017

A Fortnightly Bulletin

(16 April – 30 April)



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Preface

The second fortnight of the Maharashtra Drought Free Movement 2017 was as anticipated full of action. The actual machine work – its speed and scale; and more importantly Shramadaan and competition spirit was progressing steeply upward on the graph.

Policy decisions, Plans, Operational Guidelines, Data Management system were all under peak-time stress test based on the first fortnight ground zero experience. Two review meetings of the Taluka Supervisors' work in 30 talukas conducted on 13th and 14th April in Pune and Amaravati offered insight towards project – primarily, Shramadaan Status, Machine Requirement and Machine Availability. These Taluka Supervisors had visited around 1306 villages in the first fortnight based on which they narrated field stories and reported field facts.

Most critical point that was to take our major attention was the availability of machines versus the demand from villagers. But the need of machine versus the hesitance of villages to demand the machine unearthed as a problem too. As a priority their diesel expense reimbursement concern was required to be addressed.

In an extremely fruitful meeting with Honorable Chief Minister Sh. Devendra Phadnis, where he communicated with collectors of all districts through video-conference, the district administration was asked to and agreed to support villages for machine availability and diesel expenses reimbursement. Also, a GR was initiated on 28th April to this effect for all collectors to support villages with the funds for diesel.

Towards the end of the month BJS supported 155 villages with 115 JCB and 40 Poklen. In this fortnight the Mahashramadaan was organized by BJS in Latur district where hundreds of 1993 earthquake survivors and their families participated in Shramaddan giving a message of hope for sustenance against all odds. The event geared up shramadaan work in many of the surrounding villages.

On completion of the first of the two months, it is a pleasure to present this fortnight bulletin. I take this opportunity to salute the hard work in the field and express my sincere thanks to all supporters.

-Shantilal Muttha

Founder, BJS



Focus Carried Forward from the First Fortnight

After completing primary visits to 1306 villages during the first fortnight, a team of Taluka Supervisors spent a well-deserved break of 2 days with their families. Of course, before that Taluka Supervisors elaborated their 2 week experience in person in review meetings with Sh. Shantilal Muttha:

1. 13th April 2014 - Pune: Marathwada and Wester Maharashtra Regions
2. 14th April 2014 - Amaravati: Vidarbha Region

Highlights of review findings can be summarized as:

- The overwhelming first had experience of the consistent drought situation affecting village life
- Around 1300 villages initiating Sharamdaan but progressing with a varying degree of participation strength
- Out of 755 villages from whom the machine requirement related data was gathered 725 said that they need machine support – together demanding around 735 JCBs and 207 Poklen.
- Many of the other villages from 1306 were asking for the guaranteed diesel expense reimbursement.
- Only around 150 JCBs were identified with the preliminary acceptance of machine owners to rent the machines during the competition time
- In regions like Vidarbha, and in Paranada, Kalamb (Osmanabad) talukas, Kaij, Dharur and Ambejogai talukas of Beed, the machine scarcity was far more.
- Paani Foundation field workers were taking relentless efforts to motivate villagers for Shramadaan and competition and a good cooperative working alliance was established between them and BJS teams at the field level

To summarize the machine availability problems, where in Western Maharashtra there were comparatively little less difficulties to get machine, in Marathwada, there was a huge problem, where as in Vidarbha the problem was most severe. In Vidarbha, the machines were brought in from other areas and especially Melghat – Dharani where only one machine was operating, a responsibility to get machines from Madhya Pradesh was given to Sh. Prafulla Parakh.

A major policy decision was changed to ease the machine scarcity problem. Instead of 1 month MoU and shifting machine from one village to another, an MoU for one machine per village was more acceptable to machine owners. Also, it was decided that if villages identify machines with their own arrangements and rates, BJS will go ahead with the MoU providing for standardized rates across all districts for JCBs and Poklen. In this case, villagers can opt to pay for the higher rates if any. Because of these two changes, the availability of machines increased to good extent.

Maha Shramadaan Making the Waves

Latur earthquake of 30th September 1993 was a disastrous natural calamity that orphaned thousands of children of the region. It was a beginning of BJS work in disaster response of support for immediate relief. More importantly, BJS took over the responsibility of rehabilitating 1200 orphans for their education in Pune. These students formed the alumni association of BJS Wagholi Educational Rehabilitation Centre (WERC) and are a force to reckon as they form a back bone of BJS teams to support subsequent disaster affected regions. In this situation of drought they decided to come together once again with their families to participate in Shramadaan.

A village named Ashiv in Ausa taluka of Latur was selected for the second MahaShramadaan organized by BJS because around 100s of BJS WERC Alumni happened to be from the same village and around 40 are still residing in the same village with their families. Though Ashiv was not doing very well in the Water Cup Competition compared to many other villages, BJS decided to motivate this village and the surrounding villages through this event. A week before the Mahashramadaan event a team of senior BJS office bearers led by Sh. Prafulla Parakh and accompanied by Smt. Kanchanmala Sangve, Sh. Ketan Shah, Sh. Deepak Chopda, Sh. Kantilala Shrishrimal, Sh. Sham Patil, Sh. Anand Balai and others along with Sh. Amar Birajdar, President of WERC Alumni Association , Sh. Dhanraj, Lead Alumni from Ashiv, the senior most BJS Associate and BJS Disaster Management Committee member – Sh. Ashok Pawar and BJS HO team took over the planning and organizing part. More importantly they conducted gramsabhas, rallies, in Ashiv as well as surrounding 17 villages to motivate villagers not only for participation in Mahashramadaan event but even to initiate shramadaan in their own villages for water work.

On 23rd April, early morning around 4000 people – BJS alumni from surrounding 30 villages, their family members and other villagers started Shamadaan giving message that “..difficult times come and go but we can stand up against all odds. More importantly, it’s up to us to take opportunity as there are organizations like BJS, Paani Foundation and others who are doing their best to support us..” They demonstrated their will and awakened villages to strive through Shramadaan to participate in Water Cup competition.



This successful MahaShramdaan took place with a musical backdrop of bhajans and bhakti sangit and was supported by school children in their own capacity. This mega event was witnessed by Sh. Atul Kulkarni a very accomplished theatre and film actor, a social activists and a known mentor of drought related work. He along with Sh. Satyaajeet Bhatkal, CEO, Paani Foundation, Sh. Ravindra Gaikwad, MP, Sh. Basavraj Patil, MLA, Sh. Dinkar Mane, Ex-MLA , Sh. Pasha Patel, Ex-MLA, Sh. Pandurang Pole, Collector, Latur, Sh. Anand Rayate, CEO, Osmanabad and Sh. Shantilal Muttha who participated in Sharmadaan encouraging all villagers.

Looking at flawless execution of such huge Mahashramdaan events, Paani Foundation requested BJS to support their 1st May Shramadaan events at 5 locations in Indapur taluka of Pune. These Shramadaan event were specially announced by Paani Foundation on 1st May – Maharashtra Day appealing all urban and metro citizens to visit villages and experience shramdaan to share the feelings of their fellow-citizens from drought – affected villages. BJS team (Volunteers and HO) took over entire planning and organizing in Takrarwadi, Ghorpadi, Gotandi, Nirgudi, and Shetphalgade locations from Indapur Taluka.

BJS' 3rd Mahashramadan is planned at Dharani, Sadrabadi on 7th May with 800 students from tribal families where around 5000 people will participate in the presence of Sh. Satyajit Bhatkal and Sh. Shantilal Muttha.



Machine Work – Marching towards 200 Village Mark

In the first, fortnight by 15th April only 9 villages had started machine work as the competition had begun only on 8th April. But by the end of the month, just in 15 days, BJS deployed machines in 155 villages.

Machine Work in Villages - Taluka-wise Count (30 April 2017)							
BJS Work in 155 Villages							
District	Taluka	No of Villages Machine Work Started	With JCB	With Pokland	No of Villages Machine Work Completed	Completed with JCB	Completed with Pokland
	Total	139	111	28	16	4	12
Akola	Akot	6	5	1	0	0	0
	Barshitakli	2	2	0	0	0	0
	Patur	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amaravati	Dharani	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Warud	5	5	0	0	0	0
Aurangabad	Khuldabad	3	2	1	3	1	2
	Phulambri	6	5	1	0	0	0
Beed	Ambajogai	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Dharur	6	2	4	1	0	1
	Kaij	6	5	1	0	0	0
Latur	Ausa	8	7	1	1	1	0
	Nilanga	3	3	0	2	1	1
Osmanabad	Bhum	4	3	1	0	0	0
	Kalamb(Osm)	3	2	1	0	0	0
	Paranda	1	1	0	0	0	0
Pune	Indapur	7	6	1	1	0	1
	Purandar	5	4	1	0	0	0
Sangli	Atpadi	4	3	1	2	0	2
	Jat	8	7	1	0	0	0
	Khanapur	5	4	1	0	0	0
Satara	Khatav	14	13	1	0	0	0
	Koregaon	14	12	2	0	0	0
	Maan	15	9	6	2	1	1
Solapur	Sangole	3	2	1	1	0	1
	Uttar Solapur	4	4	0	2	0	2
Washim	Karanja	2	2	0	0	0	0
Yavatmal	Kalamb(Yav)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ralegav	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Umerkhed	4	3	1	0	0	0



Government Support

Having visibility to progress of Shramadaan and Machine Deployment in villages, the concern of diesel funds availability took a priority. Entire government machinery at different levels is sensitive to the cause, gave patient hearing to the situation and field reports and expressed their willingness to support.

Video Conference – Chief Minister and all District Collectors

On 19th April, in the video-conference with Collectors from all districts of Maharashtra, Honorable Chief Minister Sh. Devendra Phadanvis took a review of the situation where Sh. Shantilal Muttha presented:

- the status of machine requirement by villages,
- availability of machines and
- concern of villagers about diesel expense reimbursements.

The Chief Minister discussed the matter and all collectors confirmed that they will extend their support to make JCBs available where possible. About Diesel expenses they agreed to support village sarpanch by instructing taluka offices accordingly.

Government issued a GR on 28th April, to reserve funds from Jalayukta Shivar Nidhi for villages if they are to get machine support from other agencies.

Meetings with Taluka and Panchayat Samiti Offices

To percolate the message and mobilize all efforts towards machine availability and resolving villages' concern of diesel expenses, Sh. Shantilal Muttha decided to tour all districts where the machine requirement was sizable but machine availability and machine demand was a concerns.

Date	Time	Taluka	Venue
29-04-2017	7:30 AM	Akot - Akola	Panchayat Samiti, Akot
	9:30 AM	Patur & Barshitakali - Akola	Kamala Square, Akola
	1:30 PM	Karanja - Washim	Tehasil Office, Karanja
	7:00 PM	Umerkhed - Yavatmal	
30-04-2017	9:30 AM	Kalamb and Ralegaon - Yavatmal	
Planned:			
4-05-2017	9:30 AM	Kaij, Dharur, Ambejogai - Beed	Panchayat Samiti, Ambejogai
	12:00 noon	Kalamb - Osmanabad	Panchayat Samiti, Kalamb
	4:00 PM	Bhum, Paranda - Osmanabad	Panchayat Samiti, Bhum

Sh. Muttha, BJS Office Bearers and District Committee members, BJS Taluka Supervisors and Village Sarpanch shared the field realities and problems with the taluka level officers. All tehsildars, sub-divisional officers, Krishi Adhikari and concerned officials appreciated project efforts and whole-heartedly agreed to support villagers. In Ralegaon meeting, Prof. Dr. Sh. Ashok Uike, MLA-Yavatmal also participated in the discussion and extended all support to this project.

Next Fortnight – Machine Work Peak Time

Looking at the last 20 odd days of the competition, mostly Shramadaan will be getting over and machine demand is going to be in peak. BJS team is all prepared to move and deploy machines. Taluka Supervisors and District Coordinators are in touch with every Sarpanch. The places where BJS has already completed Machine Work, villages are demanding for more machine time. Wherever Sh. Shantilal Muttha has been visiting, machine support is being demanded by the villagers. BJS will provide additional machine hours to villages based on Paani Foundation's recommendation.



Media Coverage

Print and television media covered most of the fortnight activities in all talukas. On Marathi National Private TV Channels in "Tufaan Alaya.." weekly series that covers extraordinary efforts in Water Cup Competition from all regions, BJS MahaShramadaan in Aurangabad and Latur was covered in two subsequent episodes and Sh. Shantilal Muttha was invited to present the rationale behind machine need and the progress on field through machines.



दिनांक - १७ एप्रिल २०१७, पेज नंबर - २

लोकमत समाचार

किसान के बेटे हैं, भागीरथी निकालेंगे

पहल • भारतीय जैन संगठन जुटा २००० गांवों को सूखामुक्त बनाने, मदद कर रहे आत्महत्या करने वाले किसानों के बच्चे

मुख्यमंत्री करंगे टार संवाय नावने

मुख्यमंत्र्यांच्या 'मन की बात' मध्ये सहभागी व्हा : प्रवीणसिंह परदेशी

गाव पाणीदार होण्यासाठी लोकांचा सहभाग आवश्यक : पारे

भारतीय जैन संघटनेकडून टुफ्फाळमुक्त अभियान