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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2022-23)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

[Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Fifty-Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation']

SIXTY-FIFTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

July, 2023 / Ashadha, 1945 (Saka)

SIXTY-FIFTH REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2022-2023)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

[Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Fifty-Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation']

Presented to Lok Sabha on 27.07.2023

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 27.07.2023



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

July, 2023 / Ashadha, 1945 (Saka)

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* Not appended in the cyclostyled copy

COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (2022-23)

Shri Jayant Sinha - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
3. Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal
4. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
5. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
6. Smt. Sunita Duggal
7. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
8. Shri Sudheer Gupta
9. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
10. Shri Pinaki Misra
11. Shri Hemant Shriram Patil
12. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
13. Shri Nama Nageshwara Rao
14. Prof. Sougata Ray
15. Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy
16. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
17. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh
18. Dr. (Prof) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki
19. Shri Manish Tewari
20. Shri Balashowry Vallabbhaneni
21. Shri Rajesh Verma

RAJYA SABHA

22. Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agarwal
23. Shri Raghav Chadha
24. Shri P. Chidambaram
25. Shri Damodar Rao Divakonda
26. Shri Ryaga Krishnaiah
27. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi
28. Dr. Amar Patnaik
29. Dr. C.M. Ramesh
30. Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao
31. Shri Pramod Tiwari*

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Siddharth Mahajan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan - Director
3. Shri Puneet Bhatia - Deputy Secretary
4. Ms. Abhiruchi Srivastava - Ass. stant Committee Officer

* Vide Rajya Sabha Bulletin Part-II no. 63014 dated 13.03.2023, Shri Pramod Tiwari was nominated to the Standing Committee on Finance (2022-23) on 13th March, 2023 in place of Dr. Manmohan Singh, who resigned from the Committee w.e.f. 9th February, 2023.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorized by the Committee, present this Sixty-Fifth Report on action taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifty-Eighth Report of the Committee (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

2. The Fifty-Eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha / laid on the table of Rajya Sabha on 23 March, 2023. The Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations were received from the Government *vide* their communication dated 22 June, 2023.

3. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 20 July, 2023.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Fifty-Eighth Report of the Committee is given in the Appendix.

5. For facility of reference, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

New Delhi
20 July, 2023
29 Ashadha, 1945(Saka)

Shri Jayant Sinha
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Finance

REPORT CHAPTER – I

This Report of the Standing Committee on Finance deals with action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their 58th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation which was presented to Lok Sabha / Laid in Rajya Sabha on 23rd March, 2023.

2. The Action Taken Notes were received from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 22nd June, 2023. The Action Taken Notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the 9 recommendations contained in the Report. The replies have been analyzed and categorized as follows:

- (i) Recommendations/Observations that have been accepted by the Government:

Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9

(Total – 8)
(Chapter- II)

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:

Recommendation Nos. Nil

(Total - Nil)
(Chapter- III)

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee: 7

(Total -1)
(Chapter- IV)

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies by the Government are still awaited: Nil

(Total - Nil)
(Chapter- V)

3. The Committee will now deal with and comment upon the action taken by the Government on some of their recommendations.

Recommendation (Serial No. 4)

Shortage of Manpower

4. The Committee have noted with concern the shortage of manpower in the Ministry, especially in the senior and junior statistical office cadre; on 30th November 2022, 266 vacancies exist which is roughly 33% of the total sanctioned strength. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to pursue the matter of recruitment with Staff Selection Commission (SSC) vigorously so that the vacancies can be filled within this financial year. With regard to shortage of manpower in Field Operation Division in NSSO, the Committee would recommend for recruiting more field based staff on a mission mode basis for accurate and reliable data collection.

5. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has furnished the following written submission:

“As regard to shortage of manpower in ISS, this Ministry has already initiated the process to fill up these vacancies at various grades of ISS through promotion and direct recruitment of ISS through ISS Exam, 2023. All the promotion proposals are in the process and hence, the corresponding vacancies are likely to be filled up shortly. Further, a proposal for amendment to ISS Rules is under process and Cadre review proposal of ISS has already been submitted to Department of Personnel & Training.

So far as the shortage of manpower in respect of Senior Statistical officers (SSOs) and Junior Statistical officers (JSOs) is concerned, following action has been taken to fill up the vacancies of JSO:

- i. ‘265’ Junior Statistical Officers (JSOs) have been recruited through CGLE-2019 in July, 2022;*
- ii. ‘401’ Junior Statistical Officers have been recruited through CGLE-2020 in January, 2023;*

- iii. Issuance of Offer of appointments of '110' Candidates selected through CGLE-2021 is under process;
- iv. '38' Vacancies of JSO had been reported to SSC for CGLE-2022 and Final result for CGLE-2022 is awaited; and
- v. For CGLE-2023 '108' vacancies have already been reported to SSC in February, 2023.

Further, in respect of higher number of vacancies in SSS Cadre, it is submitted that unfortunately, the Subordinate Statistical Service has been facing high attrition, at annual average of 42% during the last 5 years. Due to the significantly high attrition, the vacancy at the level of JSO as on 01.12.2022 is 654 which are about 30% of the sanctioned posts. It is further informed that as on 23.05.2023, 248 Offer of Appointments to willing candidates have been issued w.r.t. candidates selected through CGLE-2019 and 376 Offer of Appointments to willing candidates have been issued w.r.t. candidates selected through CGLE-2020 which has reduced the vacancies from 654 to 30 at the level of JSO. Furthermore, Document Verification and Pre-Appointment Formalities have been done w.r.t. candidates selected through CGLE-2021 and Offers of Appointments to 84 candidates have been issued.

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation O.M. No. H- 11011/03/2021- Parl. Cell dated 21-06-2023]

6. The Committee had expressed their concern about the shortage of manpower in the Ministry, specially in the Senior and Junior Statistical Officer cadre and recommended the Ministry to pursue the matter of recruitment with Staff Selection Commission.

The Ministry in its reply has stated that recruitment efforts through promotions and direct recruitment of the Indian Statistical Service (ISS) Cadre have been initiated. The reply also indicate that vacancies for Junior Statistical Officers (JSOs) have been filled through CGLE and offers of appointments are

being processed. Vacancies reported for CGLE-2022 and CGLE-2023 also highlight the ongoing recruitment efforts by the Ministry.

The Committee acknowledge the efforts made by the Ministry to address the shortage of manpower. However, the Ministry should also furnish the details regarding the manpower requirement in the Field Operation Division of the NSSO. The Ministry must ensure a robust and adequately staffed work force for the effective implementation of its programmes and initiatives.

Recommendation (Serial No. 7)

Economic Census

7. The Committee understand that Economic Census (EC) provides valuable insights into spread / clusters of economic activities, ownership patterns, source of finance etc. of all establishments in the country. Regarding the 7th EC, which was launched in 2019, the Ministry informed that using advanced ICT tools, 7th EC was completed in March 2021. The Ministry further informed that 7th Economic Census data collection and supervision were affected due to several operational challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic. 7th EC results are yet to be finalized as approval of provisional results is yet to be obtained from various state level coordination committees. The Committee note that the release of the 7th Economic Census has been delayed. The Committee thus recommend that the Ministry take a proactive approach to expedite the process of data collection at state level and work closely with the states to overcome any obstacles they may be facing in providing the required data. The Ministry should also provide additional resources to the states that are facing statistical capacity constraints in terms of providing data.

8. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has furnished the following written submission:

“7th EC data quality concerns raised by State/UTs have been shared with the implementing agency (Common Service Centres-CSC) for their appropriate and earliest redressal. Rigorous coordination is being done with CSC and State/UTs for early approval of 7th EC provisional results by their respective State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC).

As on 30th April, 2023, 13 States/UTs SLCCs have communicated the approval on 7th EC provisional result.”

*[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M. No. H- 11011/03/2021- Parl. Cell dated 21-06-2023]*

9. The Committee had expressed their concern about the delay caused in the release of 7th Economic Census and recommended that Ministry take a proactive approach to expedite the process of data collection at state level. The Committee further recommended that the Ministry also provide additional resources to the states that are facing capacity constraints in term of providing data.

The Ministry’s response falls short in providing proactive approach to address the delays in releasing the 7th Economic census. Moreover, the response highlights that as of April 30, 2023 only 13 states / UTs have communicated their approval on the 7th Economic Census provisional results indicating lack of progress in obtaining approvals from the State Level Coordination Committees. The response of the Government also does not provide clear information on how it plans to implement these recommendations.

The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation and desire that the Ministry accelerate data collection, foster close collaboration with states and ensure timely approval of the provisional results by the State Level Coordination Committee. The Committee should also be apprised about the details related to the states that are facing statistical capacity constraints in terms of providing data.

NEW DELHI
20 July, 2023
29 Ashadha, 1945 (Saka)

JAYANT SINHA,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Finance

Minutes of the Twenty-first sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2022-23) The Committee sat on Thursday, the 20th July, 2023 from 1500hrs. to 1700 hrs. in Committee Room '2', Parliament House Annexe Extension Block A, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Jayant Sinha – Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri S.S Ahluwalia
3. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
4. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
5. Smt. Sunita Duggal
6. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
7. Shri Sudheer Gupta
8. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
9. Shri Hemant Shriram Patil
10. Shri Nama Nageswara Rao
11. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
12. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh
13. Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki
14. Shri Manish Tewari
15. Shri Balashowry Vallabbhaneni

RAJYA SABHA

16. Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agarwal
17. Shri Ryaga Krishnaiah
18. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi
19. Dr. Amar Patnaik
20. Shri G.V.L Narasimha Rao
21. Shri Pramod Tiwari

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Siddharth Mahajan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Puneet Bhatia | - | Deputy Secretary |

PART I

2. XX XX XX XX XX XX
 XX XX XX XX XX XX.

(The witnesses then withdrew)

PART II

3. XX XX XX XX XX XX
 XX XX XX XX XX XX.

(The witnesses then withdrew)

4. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following draft reports for consideration and adoption:

- (i) Draft Report on the subject 'Cyber security and rising incidence of cyber/white collar crimes' of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (ii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-Third Report on the subject 'Anti-Competitive Practices by Big-Tech Companies' of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (iii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services, Investment & Public Asset Management and Public Enterprises).
- (iv) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

- (v) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (vi) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Planning.
- (vii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the above draft Reports and authorised the Chairperson to finalise them and present the Reports to the Parliament. The Chairperson also appreciated the Committee Secretariat for putting their sincere efforts in drafting comprehensive reports within a short span of time. The Committee also decided to undertake a Study Tour during the third or fourth week of August, 2023.

The Committee then adjourned.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

APPENDIX

(Vide Para 4 of the Introduction)

ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIFTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2023-24) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

	Total	% of total
(i) Total number of Recommendations	9	
(ii) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government (vide Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9)	8	88.89%
(iii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	NIL	
(iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee (vide Recommendation No. 7)	1	11.11%
(v) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final reply of the Government are still awaited	NIL	--

