

**12**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
**(2024-25)**

**EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME  
IMPLEMENTATION**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**  
**2025-26**

**TWELFTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

***March, 2025/ Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)***

**TWELFTH REPORT**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
(2024-25)**

**(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2025-26)**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 19 March, 2025*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on 19 March, 2025*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*March, 2025 / Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)*

<b>CONTENT</b>		
<b>REPORT</b>		
Composition of the Committee		iv
Introduction		v
<b>PART-I NARRATION ANALYSIS</b>		
		<b>Page No.</b>
1.	<b>Introductory</b>	1
2.	<b>Implementation of Ministry's mandated objectives</b>	11
3.	<b>Budgetary Allocation</b>	18
4.	<b>MPLADS</b>	39
5	<b>Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)</b>	53
6.	<b>Infrastructure and Project Monitoring (IPMD)</b>	58
7.	<b>Shortage of manpower</b>	62
8.	<b>Eighth Economic Census</b>	66
<b>PART-II</b>		
	<b>OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>69-74</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>		
Appendix – I	Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 18.02.2025	75
Appendix – II	Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 18.03.2025	78

## **COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (2024-25)**

**Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson**

### **MEMBERS**

#### **LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Arun Bharti
3. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
4. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
5. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
6. Shri K. Gopinath
7. Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap
8. Shri Kishori Lal
9. Shri Harendra Singh Malik
10. Shri Chudasama Rajeshbhai Naranbhai
11. Thiru Arun Nehru
12. Shri N. K. Premachandran
13. Dr. C. M. Ramesh
14. Smt. Sandhya Ray
15. Prof. Sougata Ray
16. Shri P. V. Midhun Reddy
17. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
18. Dr. K. Sudhakar
19. Shri Manish Tewari
20. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni
21. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy

#### **RAJYA SABHA**

22. Shri P. Chidambaram
23. Shri Milind Murli Deora
24. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
25. Shri Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy
26. Shri S. Selvaganabathy
27. Shri Sanjay Seth
28. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
29. Smt. Darshana Singh
30. Dr. M. Thambidurai
31. Shri Pramod Tiwari

### **SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                          |                             |
|----|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Shri Gaurav Goyal        | Joint Secretary             |
| 2. | Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa | Director                    |
| 3. | Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana  | Deputy Secretary            |
| 4. | Smt. Mradula Dubey       | Assistant Executive Officer |

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorised by the Committee, present this Twelfth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

2. The Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation have been examined by the Committee under Rule Section 331E(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 18 February, 2025. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the material and information which the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants (2025-26).

4. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their Sitting held on 18 March, 2025.

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

6. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

**New Delhi;  
18 March, 2025  
27 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)**

**Bhartruhari Mahtab  
Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on Finance**

**REPORT**  
**PART- I**  
**CHAPTER - I**

**INTRODUCTORY**

**A. ORGANISATION AND ITS FUNCTIONS:**

1.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) came into existence as an independent Ministry on 15th October, 1999 after the merger of the Department of Statistics and the Department of Programme Implementation. The Ministry is the nodal agency for planning integrated development of the statistical system in the country and coordination of statistical activities among different stakeholders in Government of India, State Governments, Union Territories as well as meeting requirements of the International Agencies.

1.2 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation being the nodal Ministry of the Government of India for all statistical matters, attaches considerable importance to coverage and quality aspects of statistics released in the country. The statistics released by the Ministry are based on administrative sources, surveys and censuses conducted by the Central and State Governments, etc. The surveys conducted by the Ministry are based on scientific sampling methods. Data is collected through dedicated field staff who are regularly trained in the concepts and definitions of the items and the scope of the survey. In line with the emphasis on the quality of statistics released by the Ministry, the methodological issues of the statistical products of this Ministry are overseen by various committees viz, Advisory Committee on National Accounts, Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Price and Cost of Living (TAC on SPCL), Steering Committee for National Sample Surveys (NSS), etc. The Ministry compiles data-sets based on current data, after applying standard statistical techniques and extensive scrutiny and supervision.

1.3 The Ministry has two wings viz. the Statistics Wing and the Programme Implementation (PI) Wing. There is one Autonomous Body known as the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), which is an institute of national importance by an Act of Parliament, viz. The Indian Statistical Institute Act 1959, which is a renowned and premier institute in the field of Statistics in the country. In addition, there is a National Statistical Commission (NSC), which was created through a Resolution of Government of India with effect from 12th July, 2006 with a mandate to evolve policies, priorities and standards in statistical matters. The Ministry also functions as the cadre controlling authority for two services namely, Indian Statistical Service (ISS) (Group-A) and Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) (Group-B).

## **B. NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (NSO)**

1.4 National Statistics Office (NSO) coordinates the statistical activities in the country and is responsible for evolving and laying down statistical standards. Its activities inter alia include compilation of National Accounts, Index of Industrial Production, Consumer Price Indices for Urban/Rural/ Combined, Human Development Statistics including Gender Statistics and Economic Census and imparting training in Official Statistics and conduct of National Sample Survey. NSO also assists in development of statistics in the States and Union Territories and disseminates Energy Statistics, Social and Environmental Statistics and prepares the National Industrial Classification.

1.5 The NSO brings out important economic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) and other official statistics to support government decision making and framing of appropriate socio-economic policies/programmes. These statistical products/outcomes are consistent with the relevant international standards. The GDP estimates are released quarterly and annually as per an advance release calendar. The methodology used in the process is consistent with the United Nations guidelines contained in System of National Accounts-2008. The monthly Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is released with a lag of 42 days, as per the methodology adopted from international

standards. It is used as a short term indicator by planners and policy makers for assessing industrial growth. The monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) is released with a lag of 12 days on the 12<sup>th</sup> of every month (next working day if 12<sup>th</sup> is holiday) as per the methodology adopted from international standards/best practices. It is used as a short-term indicator by planners and policy makers for assessing levels of living. It is also used as a measure of retail inflation by the Reserve Bank of India in regulating its monetary policy.

1.6 The NSO also has a vast network of field offices spread across the length and breadth of the country for conducting nationwide large scale socio-economic surveys on a regular basis for providing insight into various facets of economy and society at large. Being the nodal agency in the country for official Statistics, the Ministry coordinates statistical activities amongst Ministries /Departments of the Government of India as well as with the State/UT Governments.

1.7 Broadly, the NSO is mandated with the following responsibilities:

- i. To act as the nodal agency for planning integrated development of the statistical system in the country.
- ii. To formulate and maintain norms and standards related to statistics.
- iii. To coordinate the statistical work in respect of the Central Ministries/Departments and State Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DESSs).
- iv. To prepare and publish National Accounts Statistics, namely, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE), Capital Formation, Savings, etc.
- v. To compile and release Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers and Annual Inflation rates based on these CPI numbers.
- vi. To compile and release the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) every month.
- vii. To conduct large scale all-India socio-economic sample surveys.
- viii. To conduct the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI).
- ix. To conduct Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).



- x. To conduct other surveys like price collection surveys, agriculture area enumeration and crop cutting experiments, urban frame surveys, etc.
- xi. To conduct periodic all-India Economic Censuses and related activities.
- xii. To maintain liaison with international Statistical Organizations, such as the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Labour Organization (ILO), etc.
- xiii. To bring out reports as per the international/regional commitments such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Country Report and SAARC Development Goals India Country Report.

## **National Accounts**

1.8 The National Statistics Office is responsible for preparation of national accounts, which include the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), National Income, Government/Private Final Consumption Expenditure, Capital Formation and Saving along with details of transactions of institutional sectors. The Ministry annually brings out a publication titled “National Accounts Statistics”, containing these statistics. The Ministry is also responsible for preparation and release of Supply-Use Tables (SUT) and Input-Output Transaction Tables (IOTT) from time to time. The Ministry maintains liaison with international organizations on matters related to estimation of national income.

1.9 The Ministry provides technical guidance and support to the State/ UT Directorates of Economics & Statistics (DESS) on compilation of estimates of State Income and related aggregates, including estimates of State Domestic Product. State level estimates of Gross Value Added (GVA) and Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in respect of supra-regional sectors, namely, Railways, Communication, Services related to broadcasting, Financial Services and Central Government Administration are furnished by the Ministry for the purpose.

1.10 In order to ensure comparability between the National and State level estimates, the Ministry compiles comparable estimates of Gross and Net State Domestic Product (GSDP/NSDP) by economic activity and Per Capita Income estimates, in consultation with the DESs.

1.11 In compliance with the Special Data Dissemination Standards of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and as per its own policy, the Ministry releases annual and quarterly estimates of GDP from time to time as per pre-specified schedule given in Advance Release Calendar. Schedule of release of various estimates by Ministry in year 2025 is given below:

Calendar for Quarterly Estimates of GDP

(i) Q3 of 2024-25	:	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
(ii) Q4 of 2024-25	:	30 <sup>th</sup> May, 2025
(iii) Q1 of 2025-26	:	29 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
(iv) Q2 of 2025-26	:	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2025

Q1: April-June, Q2: July-September, Q3: October-December, Q4: January-March

Calendar for Annual Estimates of GDP

(i) First Advance Estimates for 2024-25	:	07 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
(ii) First Revised Estimates for 2023-24	:	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
(iii) Second Advance Estimates for 2024-25	:	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
(iv) Provisional Estimates for 2024-25	:	30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025

1.12 In its presentation during the sitting held on 18 February, 2025, the Ministry informed the Committee that an Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS) was constituted in June 2024 to guide the base revision of GDP. Its major functions involves (i) revision of the base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23 (ii) to publish the revised estimates in Feb 2026 (iii) to capture structural changes in the economy and (iv) to improve data sources and the methodology.

1.13 During the presentation, the Ministry also apprised the Committee about steps taken by ACNAS to improve estimates. Some of them are as follows:

- Enhanced use of GST and other administrative data such as Vaahan
- Incorporation of estimates based on ASUSE, PLFS to improve estimates of household sector
- Rates/ratios used in estimates updated from various studies awarded (e.g. Construction Sector, Fisheries, PFCE)
- Dialogues with stakeholders such as Central Government Ministries, State/UT Governments, researches
  - to provide new/additional dataset
  - to help them in understanding the estimates.

### **Monitoring framework for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

1.14 The Ministry is entrusted with the development of monitoring framework for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India to facilitate monitoring of SDGs. The NSO, MoSPI developed a National Indicator Framework (NIF) for SDGs with identified data sources and periodicity for facilitating the monitoring of the SDGs at national level. The framework is dynamic in nature and is reviewed and refined every year. Presently, in SDG NIF 2024, there are 290 national indicators with identified data sources and periodicity. The Ministry also compiles Environment Accounts using United Nations System of Environmental Economic Accounting Framework (UN SEEA Framework). The set of accounts released in 2024 included new areas such as Ocean Accounts and provided updates for several accounts such as Soil Nutrient Index, Biodiversity and Energy Accounts. The publications brought out by the Ministry during 2024-25 include Sustainable Development Goals National Indicator Framework Progress Report 2024, Data Snapshot on Sustainable Development Goals National Indicator Framework Progress Report 2024, Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework 2024, EnviStats India 2024: Environment Statistics, EnviStats India 2024: Environment Accounts and Women and Men in India, 2023

1.15 The Ministry is also responsible for conducting large scale sample surveys in diverse fields on all India basis. Primary data is collected regularly through nation-wide household/enterprise surveys on various socio-economic subjects. Besides these surveys, the Ministry collects data on rural and urban prices and also plays a significant role in the improvement of crop statistics through supervision of the area enumeration and crop estimation surveys of the State agencies. It also maintains a frame of urban area units for drawing samples in urban areas.

1.16 In order to further streamline the functioning of the Ministry, some of the Divisions of MoSPI have been re-structured as follows:

- (i) In order to functionally re-organise National Sample Survey (NSS) from process based ecosystem to product-based ecosystem with the objective to ensure that survey methodologies are strengthened and NSS is able to release qualitative results/reports in shortest possible time, survey wise verticals/divisions, namely Household Survey Division (HSD) and Enterprise Survey Division (EnSD), have been created in NSS to provide turnkey services with respect to a particular product/survey.
- (ii) National Sample Survey (NSS) and its constituents *viz.* Coordination and Quality Control Division (C&QCD), Household Survey Division (HSD), Enterprise Survey Division (EnSD) and Field Operations Division (FOD) function as Subordinate Offices of the Ministry.
- (iii) The terms such as NSSO / CSO have been replaced with NSO for use among stakeholders and linking it with the MoSPI.
- (iv) The Computer Centre has been renamed as Data Informatics and Innovation Division (DIID) and designated as nodal division on IT related matters of the MoSPI.
- (v) The Intra, Inter and International Coordination Unit (IIICU) has been restructured into three Units (namely Coordination Unit, State Unit and International Cooperation Unit) and renamed as Coordination and International Cooperation Division (CICD). The works of ISI has been carved out from IIICU and a new ISI Unit has been created.

### **C. THE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (PI) WING**

1.17 The Programme Implementation Wing has the following responsibilities:

- i. Monitoring the performance of the country's eleven key infrastructure sectors, viz., Power, Coal, Steel, Railways, Telecommunications, Ports, Fertilizers, Cement, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Roads and Civil Aviation.
- ii. Monitoring of all Central Sector Projects costing ₹ 150 crore and above.
- iii. Implementation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

### **D. NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMISSION (NSC)**

1.18 The Government of India, through a MoSPI resolution dated 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2005, decided to set up the National Statistical Commission (NSC). The NSC is, *inter-alia*, mandated to evolve policies, priorities and standards in statistical matters and provides technical advice to monitor / enforce statistical priorities and standards pertaining to the national statistical system.

1.19 The NSC has four part-time Members besides a part-time Chairperson, each having specialization and experience in specified statistical fields. CEO, NITI Aayog is an ex-officio Member of the Commission. The Chief Statistician of India is the Secretary to NSC. NSC has a permanent secretariat headed by a SAG Level Officer, assisted by supporting staff, from MoSPI.

1.20 The main functions of the Commission are to evolve strategies for improving the statistical system of the country, besides serving as a nodal and empowered body for all core statistical activities of the country and evolving, monitoring and enforcing statistical priorities and standards.

1.21 When enquired about any new programmes being envisaged by the Ministry, MoSPI in a written reply stated as follows:

“NSO, MoSPI is undertaking the following surveys in addition to the various ongoing surveys viz., Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Annual Survey of Unincorporated Service Sector (ASUSE), Time Use Survey (TUS) and Annual Survey of Industries (ASI):

- (i) CAPEX Survey for 2023-24 is initiated from Q3 of 2024-25
- (ii) ASI 2023-24 is initiated from Q3 of 2024-25
- (iii) ASUSE 2024-25 is initiated from Q4 of 2024-25
- (iv) Health Survey is initiated from Q4 of 2024-25”

1.22 During the sitting held on 18.02.2025, when asked about new measures initiated towards leveraging new technologies to modernise and streamline the various processes and methodologies of data collection, aggregation and dissemination, making them more pin-pointed, relevant and reliable in the system of overall planning and good governance, the Ministry in its post-evidence reply furnished as below:

“The Ministry has taken the following Data Dissemination Initiatives:

- Ministry has developed an eSankhyiki portal (<https://esankhyiki.mospi.gov.in> ) to provide inputs for planners, policy-makers, researchers and the public at large. The objective of this portal is to establish a comprehensive data management and sharing system for ease of dissemination of official statistics in the country. The portal has been launched on 29th June 2024.
- Portal offers time series data of key macro indicators with features for filtering and visualizing, enabling ease of access for the users. It allows users to download custom datasets, through APIs, thereby increasing the re-usability of data. Presently hosts more than 134 million records.
- In addition, Ministry disseminates anonymous unit level data through its Micro Data portal. At present data of more than 170 surveys are available on this portal.
- A separate visualisation section with more than 1700 visualisation has been created on the website of the ministry for ease of understanding data.

In NSS, all surveys are conducted using the eSIGMA digital platform on tablets, eliminating the need for pen-and-paper schedules. The e-Sigma system features a built-in scrutiny mechanism that triggers a red alert for any abnormalities detected during data collection in the field. Once households are listed and selected for surveys, the schedules are dispatched in real-time to the supervisors for further scrutiny. Furthermore, in each scheme, the schedules are submitted in real time to supervisors and then to DS Users for acceptance. The main job of the DS Users i.e Data Supervisor of the respective Data Processing Centres is to check and scrutinised the data received from the respective Regional/Sub Regional Offices before acceptance of the same. An Artificial Intelligence-based chatbot has been integrated into the software to provide instant solutions and assist primary data collectors in resolving issues encountered in the field.

Further, it is also to mention that NSS is using separate Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) software for each of its surveys in the field. As a result of speedy processing of the field data, the reports of the NSS are being released within the period of 90 days from the completion of field work.”

## **CHAPTER – II**

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF MINISTRY’S MANDATED OBJECTIVES**

2.1 To implement the mandate given to the Ministry, and to fulfill its objectives, the Ministry has been operating two central sector schemes namely Capacity Development (CD) Scheme and Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

#### **I. Capacity Development (CD) Scheme:**

2.2 The CD Scheme is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The overall objective of this Scheme is to augment infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for making available credible and timely official statistics for policy-makers and public at large. The major ongoing activities under the Capacity Development Scheme, inter-alia, include augmenting resources for bringing out important statistical products, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates, Consumer Price Indices (CPI), Index of Industrial Production (IIP), Statistical classifications, etc.; conducting various socio-economic surveys, capacity building in official statistics, strengthening statistical coordination between MoSPI and other Ministries/ Departments as well as States/ UTs, and improving IT infrastructure. The major components of the Scheme are as under:

- I. Improvement of National Accounts Statistics.
- II. Improvements in Price Statistics and International Comparison Programme (ICP).
- III. Improvements in Social, Environment and Allied Statistics.
- IV. Improvements in Economic Sector Statistics.
- V. Training / Capacity Building of Statistical Personnel in Official Statistics and also to promote Official Statistics and research in Statistics through Internship Programme, Grant-in-Aid to Institutions, International/National Awards in Statistics, on the spot essay competition, etc.
- VI. Strengthening of Coordination with Central and State Statistical Organizations.
- VII. Strengthening of Computer Centre of MoSPI.



- VIII. Strengthening of Survey Capabilities of the NSO and undertaking new surveys.
- IX. To facilitate project monitoring of the projects under Infrastructure Project Monitoring Division of this Ministry.

2.3 When asked about efforts made by Ministry for Improvements in Social, Environment and Allied Statistics and strengthening of survey capabilities of NSO under Capacity Development Scheme, the Ministry in its written reply stated as under:

**“Improvements in Social, Environment and Allied Statistics**

MoSPI is coordinating for development of social, environment and multi-domain statistics. The ambit of social statistics includes population, human development, employment and social justice, while that of multi-domain statistics includes gender, persons with disabilities and indicators related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Ministry releases annual and ad-hoc publications on social, environment and the multi- domain statistics cited above. With the diverse spread of topics to be covered under each of the subjects for these publications, MoSPI also collates and compiles information sourced from national surveys, censuses, administrative data, economic statistics, remote sensing agencies and environmental monitoring systems. These datasets are then combined in standard frameworks prescribed for these statistics, after rigorous consultative process with stakeholders, thus providing data, comparable across time and space.

**Strengthening of Survey Capabilities of NSO and undertaking new surveys**

All efforts have been made to utilize the available budgetary resources for strengthening of IT resources and office infrastructure, undertaking publicity measures and engaging manpower resources and their training and other qualitative measures for undertaking surveys, namely, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) (from 2017), Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) (started with initial six-month round from October, 2019; currently second annual round, i.e. ASUSE 2022-23 is being undertaken from October, 2022), Time Use Survey (TUS) (first round undertaken from January 2019-December, 2019) and taking up price collection for Consumer Price Index (Rural) (from 2018). NSO is also undertaking new surveys like Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) survey, Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises (ASSSE) and is actively engaging with all Ministries/ Departments to come out with various data requirements. The time gap between the completion of survey and publication of results has been decreased significantly. For important surveys like PLFS, provisions for the publication of monthly estimates have already been incorporated. All the surveys are now being done through digital/ Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) mode in which technologies like geo-tagging is widely used for better data collection.

Sampling design has been modified from the month of January, 2025 with a provision for generating district level estimates with district as a basic stratum and generating the monthly estimates of labour force indicators at All-India level. Further, generation of quarterly estimates of PLFS will be extended to rural areas during the calendar year 2025.”

2.4 Further, the CD Scheme has two sub-schemes, viz., Economic Census and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS):

- (a) **Economic Census (EC):** EC is a sub-scheme under Capacity Development Scheme of MoSPI. EC is the complete count of all non-farm economic establishments located within the geographical boundary of India. It provides disaggregated information on various operational and structural variables of all such establishments of the country. Economic Census also provides valuable insight into geographical spread/clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern, persons engaged, etc. of all economic establishments in the country.
- (b) **Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) sub-scheme:** The sub-scheme aims to improve the statistical capacity and operations of State Statistical Systems for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics for policy planning at the State and Sub-State levels. It is a Central Sector sub-scheme with 100% funding from the Centre under the Umbrella Scheme ‘Capacity Development’ of the Ministry. It is being implemented through the State Directorates/ Bureau of Economics & Statistics, as per the approved activities detailed in Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) signed between Government of India and the respective States/UTs. It has been implemented/is being implemented in 29 States/UTs.

2.5 The Government of India, in January 2022, accorded the approval for continuation of the CD Scheme till 31-03-2026 or till further review, whichever is earlier, subject to the adherence to Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) recommendations and the financial ceilings, etc. The outlay approved for the Scheme for 15th Finance Commission cycle is ₹3179 crore.

## **II. Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme**

2.6 The Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme implemented by the MPLADS Division under Programme Implementation Wing of the MoSPI. The main objective of the MPLAD Scheme is to enable the Hon'ble Members of Parliament to recommend creation of durable community assets of national priorities viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc based on the locally felt needs of the people. Under the scheme, each MP is authorized with Rs 5.00 crore in the beginning of every Financial Year annually for the recommendation of permissible works under MPLADS Guidelines. The MPLADS has a yearly allocation of amount of ₹ 3940.00 crore as per the entitlement of ₹ 5.00 crore per MP (per annum) for 788 MPs of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. For the implementation of the Scheme through IT solution, currently eSAKSHI portal is a unique initiative that aims to enhance overall efficiency, accountability, and transparency in managing funds for various stakeholders involved in the MPLAD Scheme. In the portal, MP recommendations, District Authority sanctioning and Implementing Agency executions are all seamlessly integrated, contributing to a well-coordinated and efficient workflow.

2.7 The National Program for Improving Quality of Statistics in India (NPIQSI) is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation with World Bank assistance which was closed in February 2022 without achieving its objectives. When asked about the reasons for the non-functioning of the Scheme and hurdles that came during its implementation and its remarkable achievements during its entire tenure, the Ministry in its written reply have stated as below:

1. "The Project "National Program for Improving Quality of Statistics in India" (NPIQSI) with the objectives of Improving Survey Data Quality, Making Most of Existing Data and Enhanced User Relevance of Published Statistics was recommended by SFC on 29th January, 2020 and approved by Hon'ble Minister on 4th February, 2020. The total outlay of the Scheme was Rs.426 crores with 50% financial assistance from the World Bank [USD 30 million].

2. The loan agreement was yet to be signed with WB, when lockdown was enforced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Certain activities envisaged under NPIQSI viz. trainings, workshops, etc. had to be shifted to virtual platform due to pandemic resulting in reduction of funds requirement to the tune of about Rs. 150 crores.
3. As per DEA criteria, major tenders of the Project should have been awarded before loan agreement is signed. There were 2 major tenders under the project viz. Engagement of an HR firm and procurement of tablets for FOD. However, only single bid for HR firm tender received. In case of Tablet procurement, as IFD insisted use of GeM portal, therefore, FOD opted for procuring the tablets through CD scheme. This has led to further reduction of fund requirements in the project.
4. Accordingly in May, 2021, the Ministry requested DEA to allow MoSPI to opt out of the NPIQSI. DEA in February, 2022 informed MoSPI about World Bank's withdrawal of its offer of loan for NPIQSI as 18 months had passed after negotiations and loan agreement was not signed.
5. As adequate funds were made available under the CD scheme for the 5-year period 2021 – 2026) MoSPI Divisions advised to undertake activities for achieving Result Indicators of NPIQSI from CD scheme. Project was closed with the approval of Hon'ble Minister on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 and OM for closure was issued on 03.03.2022."

2.8 The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in India is a key measure of inflation that captures the price movement of a basket of goods and services across different sectors. When asked whether the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has comprehensively captured the current/prevaling trend of the cost of healthcare services, education etc., the Ministry in its written reply has mentioned as under:

"The CPI series for rural, urban, and combined sectors was initiated by M/o Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in 2011, using 2010 as the base year which was subsequently revised to 2012.

CPI for Rural, Urban and Combined sectors, All India Item Index for combined sector and All India and State wise Group/ Subgroup indices are released by MoSPI on 12th of every month at 4.00 pm. In case of holiday on 12th, it is released on the next working day. Compilation of CPI is done in adherence to International guidelines and best practices.

CPI of the country is divided into six major sectors, each with a specific weight based on its relative importance in household consumption Food & Beverages (45.86%), Pan, Tobacco & Intoxicants (2.38%), Housing (10.07%) (Urban areas only, not considered in rural CPI), Clothing & Footwear (6.53%), Fuel & Light (6.84%) and Miscellaneous (28.32%). The miscellaneous includes Household goods and services, Health, Transport and communication, Recreation and amusement, Education, Personal care and effects.”

2.9 When queried about steps taken to improve GDP data collection including the coverage of wide / comprehensive spectrum economic activities, be it within the formal or informal sectors and efforts that have been taken to affirm the credibility/authenticity of GDP figures compiled by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the Ministry in its written reply stated as below:

“Ministry compiles National Accounts Estimates both quarterly and Annually by following international standards/concept and methodology.

Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has constituted Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS) vide the Gazette Notification on 27-06-2024 to guide the base revision of GDP and related macroeconomic aggregates. As per ACNAS recommendation, it has been decided to revise the base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23 and publish the revised estimates in February, 2026 as per advance release calendar. The base revision is aimed to capture the structural changes in the economy and improve the data sources and methodology of National Accounts Statistics compilation.

It has been decided to enhanced use of GST and other administrative data to improve the estimates. Moreover, incorporation of estimates based on Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises, Periodic Labour Force Survey, will improve the estimates of household sector as annual data will be available in the new series. Besides, various rates/ratios used in estimates will also be updated as per results from various studies awarded by NAD (eg Construction Sector to CIDC, Milk & Milk Products to NDRI, Inputs in Fisheries to CMFRI & CIFRI etc)

Ministry has also initiated dialogues with stakeholders such as Central Govt. Ministries, State DES, researches etc to help them in understanding the estimates.”

2.10 The Ministry has proposed to undertake new surveys such as Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey, National Household Travel Survey and Health Surveys. When

questioned about the allocation for these services in the Budget and the outcome of these newly introduced surveys based on past precedence/surveys, the Ministry in its post evidence reply answered as below:

“NSS, MoSPI has proposed two new surveys namely the Domestic Tourism Survey, requested by the Ministry of Tourism, and the National Household Travel Survey, requested by the Ministry of Railways, Government of India. Both surveys are set to commence on July 1, 2025. In addition to these, two regular surveys, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) and the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) along with the Survey on Household Social Consumption on Health and the Comprehensive Modular Survey on Telecom and Skills were started by MoSPI in January 2025. Furthermore, a pilot study for the Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises (ASSSE) was completed in January 2025 to assess the accuracy and suitability of the survey methodology before launching a full-fledged survey. Appropriate provisions of the budget allocation under Capacity Development Scheme annually as well as in the EFC - 2021-26 is there for taking up these surveys.

Furthermore, it is important to note that the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) was launched in 2017, with annual results for both rural and urban areas at the national and state levels released by MoSPI. Until December 2024, in addition to the annual results, quarterly results were published only for urban areas under PLFS. However, starting in January 2025, MoSPI has decided to extend the release of quarterly results to rural areas as well. Furthermore, the sampling design has been revised from January 2025, with the district replacing NSS regions as the basic stratum. This modification enables the provision of district-level estimates for the calendar year 2025. The key indicators released in PLFS include the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), and Unemployment Rate (UR). The latest annual PLFS report for 2023-24 was released in September 2024, while the urban quarterly report ending December 2024 was released in February 2025.

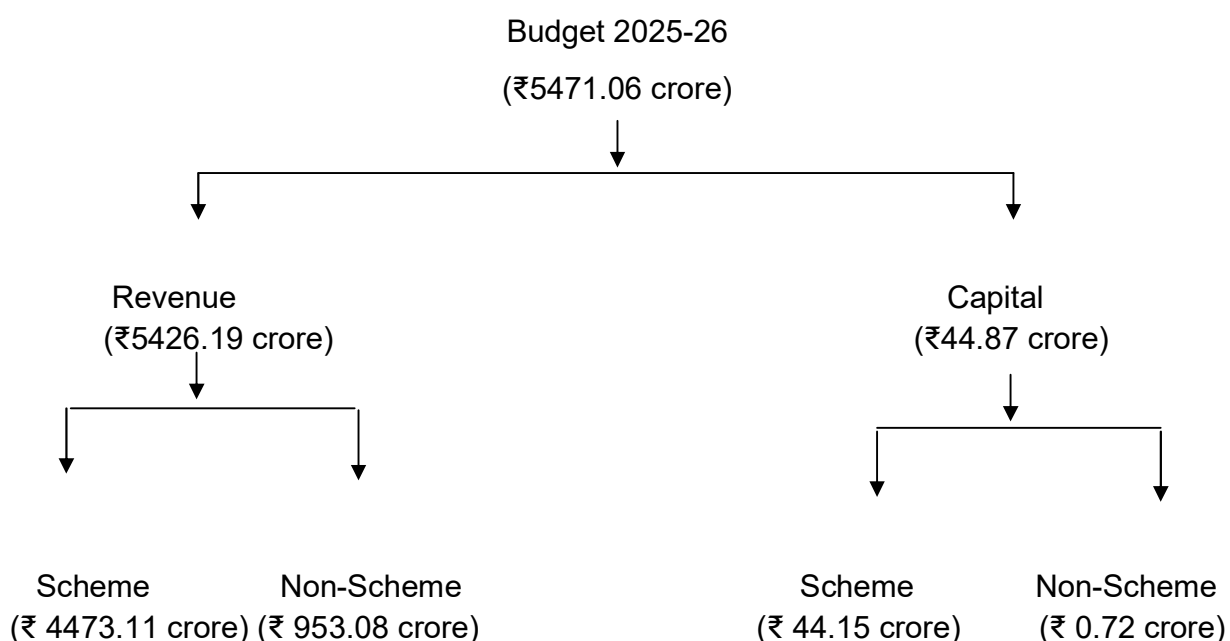
Another significant survey launched by MoSPI in 2019 to capture the unincorporated sector is the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE). This survey was designed exclusively to measure various economic and operational characteristics of unincorporated non-agricultural establishments in manufacturing, trading, and other service sectors (excluding construction) at both the national and state levels. Data from ASUSE is utilized in the compilation of National Accounts Statistics and serves as a crucial input for various central and state government ministries, policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders. The factsheet for ASUSE 2023-24 was released in December 2024, while the detail annual report along with unit-level data was released in January 2025.”

### CHAPTER III

#### BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

##### BUDGET 2025-26

3.1 The Demands for Grants under Demand No. 96 for the Ministry includes a budget proposal of ₹ 5471.06 crore for the year 2025-26. The demand under Revenue is ₹ 5426.19 crore and under Capital is ₹ 44.87 crore. The Ministry proposes to undertake two Schemes namely, (i) Capacity Development (CD) Scheme and (ii) Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).



3.2 A statement showing Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Accruals for 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and Budget Estimates for 2025-26 both under Scheme and Non-Scheme along with a statement showing major Head and Division-wise break-up is detailed below:

Statement showing BE, RE & Actuals for 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and BE for 2025-26										
(Total Scheme and Total Non-Scheme)										
	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			(Rs.in lakhs)
	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual (as on 31.12.2024 on e-lekha)	2025-26 BE
Non-Scheme (Total MOSPI)	87,097.00	86,459.00	82,167.54	88,490.00	91,101.00	83,896.64	95,496.00	91,407.00	70,935.96	95,380.00
(%ge change)				(1.6%)	(5.4%)	(94.8%)	(7.9%)	(0.3%)	(74.3%)	-(0.1%)
Scheme (Without MPLADS)	56,211.00	34,750.00	32,767.04	60,000.00	45,000.00	42,994.35	54,387.00	47,203.00	34,593.64	56,501.00
(%ge change)				(6.7%)	(29.5%)	(71.7%)	-(9.4%)	(4.9%)	63.6%	3.9%
<b>TOTAL (Scheme + Non scheme) without MPLADS</b>	<b>143,308.00</b>	<b>121,209.00</b>	<b>114,934.58</b>	<b>148,490.00</b>	<b>136,101.00</b>	<b>126,890.99</b>	<b>149,883.00</b>	<b>1,38,610.00</b>	<b>1,05,529.60</b>	<b>1,51,881.00</b>
(%ge change)				(3.6%)	(12.3%)	(85.5%)	(0.9%)	(1.8%)	(70.4%)	(1.3%)
MPLADS	396,500.00	396,500.00	256,696.34	395,850.00	260,000.00	120,057.33	395,500.00	3,94,779.00	1,60,000.00	3,95,225.00
(%ge change)				-(0.2%)	-(34.4%)	(30.3%)	-(0.1%)	(51.8%)	(40.5%)	-(0.1%)
<b>TOTAL Scheme (including MPLADS)</b>	<b>452,711.00</b>	<b>431,250.00</b>	<b>289,463.38</b>	<b>455,850.00</b>	<b>305,000.00</b>	<b>163,051.68</b>	<b>449,887.00</b>	<b>4,41,982.00</b>	<b>1,94,593.64</b>	<b>4,51,726.00</b>
(%ge change)				(0.7%)	-(29.3%)	(35.8%)	-(1.3%)	(44.9%)	(43.3%)	(0.4%)



<b>G. TOTAL MOSPI (Scheme + Non Scheme)</b>	<b>539,808.00</b>	<b>517,709.00</b>	<b>371,630.92</b>	<b>544,340.00</b>	<b>396,101.00</b>	<b>246,948.32</b>	<b>545,383.00</b>	<b>5,33,389.00</b>	<b>2,65,529.60</b>	<b>5,47,106.00</b>
<i>(%ge change)</i>				<i>(0.8%)</i>	<i>-(23.5%)</i>	<i>(45.4%)</i>	<i>(0.2%)</i>	<i>(34.7%)</i>	<i>(48.7%)</i>	<i>(0.3%)</i>
Note : %ge increase (+) / decrease (-) in BE & RE has been calculated using figures of the current year over the corresponding figure of previous year.										
%age of Actuals has been calculated using figures of the respective year BE										

**Statement showing BE, RE and Actuals for 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and BE for 2025-26 (Major Head wise and Division wise)**

**(Scheme and Non-Scheme)**

<i>(Rs. in crore)</i>										
	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26
	B.E.	R.E.	Actuals	B.E.	R.E.	Actuals	B.E.	R.E.	Expenditure (based on e-lekha as on 31.12.2024)	B.E.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Major Head "2052" / 00.090. Sectt. General Services</b>										
<b>Non-Scheme</b>	7.54	7.83	6.89	8.51	8.45	6.14	8.80	6.44	5.17	6.78
%ge increase				(12.9%)	(7.9%)	(72.2%)	(3.4%)	-(23.8%)	(58.8%)	-(23.0%)
<b>Major Head"2553"/00.101.MPLADS</b>										
<b>Scheme</b>	3,965.00	3,965.00	2,566.96	3,958.50	2,600.00	1,200.57	3,954.75	3,947.54	1,600.00	3,952.00
%ge increase				-(0.2%)	-(34.4%)	(30.3%)	-(0.1%)	(51.8%)	(40.5%)	-(0.1%)
<b>Major Head"3451" / 00.090 Sectt. Economic Services</b>										
<b>Non-Scheme</b>	64.05	62.28	60.35	27.51	28.97	28.11	30.10	32.85	25.23	34.38
%ge increase				-(57.0%)	-(53.5%)	(102.2%)	(9.4%)	(13.4%)	(83.8%)	(14.2%)
<b>Major Head"3451" / 00.090.51-National Statistical Commission</b>										
<b>Non-Scheme</b>	1.44	1.44	0.74	1.42	1.24	0.71	1.26	0.92	0.64	0.95
%ge increase				-(1.4%)	-(13.9%)	(50.0%)	-(11.3%)	-(25.8%)	(50.8%)	-(24.6%)
<b>Major Head"3454" / 02.201 National Sample Survey (NSS)</b>										
<b>Non-Scheme</b>	411.40	411.40	390.72	452.46	441.86	425.10	463.17	463.65	373.54	486.09
%ge increase				(10.0%)	(7.4%)	(94.0%)	(2.4%)	(4.9%)	(80.6%)	(4.9%)

<b>Major Head“3454” / 02.202 ISI, Kolkata</b>										
<b>Non-Scheme</b>	321.70	315.32	299.37	322.29	357.55	312.80	375.59	337.39	247.45	349.39
%ge increase				(0.2%)	(13.4%)	(97.1%)	(16.5%)	-(5.6%)	(65.9%)	-(7.0%)
<b>Major Head“3454” / 02.203 Data Informatics &amp; Innovation Division (DIID)</b>										
<b>Non-Scheme</b>	9.13	7.81	6.45	8.34	8.34	6.54	8.77	8.35	6.62	8.74
%ge increase				-(8.7%)	(6.8%)	(78.4%)	(5.2%)	(0.1%)	(75.5%)	-(0.3%)
<b>Major Head“3454” / 02.204 Central Statistical Office</b>										
<b>Scheme</b>	499.04	313.18	319.83	549.56	400.26	411.14	481.37	412.14	334.04	502.46
%ge increase				(10.1%)	(27.8%)	(74.8%)	-(12.4%)	(3.0%)	(69.4%)	(4.4%)
<b>Non-Scheme</b>	53.98	56.78	55.85	61.28	61.51	57.86	64.13	62.91	50.00	65.92
%ge increase				(13.5%)	(8.3%)	(94.4%)	(4.7%)	(2.3%)	(78.0%)	(2.8%)
<b>Major Head“3454” / 02.798 International Cooperation</b>										
<b>Non-Scheme</b>	0.22	0.22	0.20	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.22	0.22	-	0.22
%ge increase				(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(95.5%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)
<b>Major Head“3454” / 02. 800 Other Expenditure (includes Departmental Canteen)</b>										
<b>Non-Scheme</b>	1.51	1.51	1.11	1.64	1.64	0.95	1.69	0.80	0.55	0.61
%ge increase				(8.6%)	(8.6%)	(57.9%)	(3.0%)	-(51.2%)	(32.5%)	-(63.9%)
<b>Major Head“2552” – North Eastern Area</b>										
<b>Scheme</b>	43.07	22.59	-	18.19	18.19	-	19.00	16.94	-	18.65
%ge increase			-	-(57.8%)	-(19.5%)	-	(4.5%)	-(6.9%)	-	-(1.8)%

<b>Major Head "5475" Capital Outlay</b>										
Scheme	20.00	11.73	7.84	32.25	31.55	18.81	43.75	43.20	11.90	44.15
%ge increase				(61.3%)	(169.0%)	(58.3%)	(35.7%)	(36.9%)	(27.2%)	(0.9%)
Non-Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.23	1.23	0.54	1.23	0.54	0.15	0.72
%ge increase	-	-	-	-	-	(43.9%)	(0.0%)	-(56.1%)	(12.2%)	-(41.5%)
<b>TOTAL (All Major Heads)</b>										
<b>Total Non-Scheme</b>	<b>870.97</b>	<b>864.59</b>	<b>821.68</b>	<b>884.90</b>	<b>911.01</b>	<b>838.96</b>	<b>954.96</b>	<b>914.07</b>	<b>709.35</b>	<b>953.80</b>
<b>(% increase)</b>				(1.6%)	(5.4%)	(94.8%)	(7.9%)	(0.3%)	(74.3%)	-(0.1%)
<b>Total Scheme</b>	<b>4,527.11</b>	<b>4,312.50</b>	<b>2,894.63</b>	<b>4,558.50</b>	<b>3,050.00</b>	<b>1,630.52</b>	<b>4,498.87</b>	<b>4,419.82</b>	<b>1945.94</b>	<b>4517.26</b>
<b>(% increase)</b>				(0.7%)	-(29.3%)	(35.8%)	-(1.3%)	(44.9%)	(43.3%)	(0.4%)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,398.08</b>	<b>5,177.09</b>	<b>3,716.31</b>	<b>5,443.40</b>	<b>3,961.01</b>	<b>2,469.48</b>	<b>5,453.83</b>	<b>5,333.89</b>	<b>2,655.29</b>	<b>5,471.06</b>
<b>(% increase)</b>				(0.8%)	-(23.5%)	(45.4%)	(0.2%)	(34.7%)	(48.7%)	(0.3%)

Note: %ge increase (+) / decrease (-) in RE & BE has been calculated using figures of the current over corresponding figure of previous year.  
%ge of Actuals has been calculated using figures of the respective year BE

3.3 When asked for the reasons for allocating dismally for Capital expenditure vis-à-vis the allocation for Revenue and whether the low Capex indicates slow pace of upgradation and progress for the Ministry, the Ministry in its written reply stated as follows:

“National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA), MoSPI is a nodal training academy for ISS probationers for their probationary training of 2 years. In addition, it also conducts training programmes such as Induction training for Sub-ordinate Statistical Service (SSS) officers, refreshers training programme for both Indian Statistical Service (ISS) and SSS cadre, Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES) training programmes, etc. Over the years, the number of training programmes have increased. Some funds in revenue section of CD Scheme are being used for conducting these training programmes. Further, NSSTA was founded on 13th February, 2009 with fully equipped infrastructure and is in continuous upgradation of the academy in phased manner. Hence, capital expenditure is less as compared to revenue.”

#### **NON-SCHEME 2025-26**

3.4 The Ministry's Non-Scheme budget of ₹ 953.80 crore in 2025-26 is primarily salary oriented as the major function of the Statistics Wing (NSO) is to conduct census / surveys, collect, analyses and disseminate data, which is a staff intensive function. The major components of the Non-Scheme budget for the Ministry during 2025-26 are given below:

(₹ in lakh)		
Object Head	Budget	% of total Non-Scheme Budget
Salaries	31200.00	32.711
Rewards	201.95	0.212
Medical Treatment	824.86	0.865
Allowances	25949.00	27.206
LTC	340.37	0.357
Training Expenses	25.08	0.026
Domestic Travels	572.57	0.600
Foreign Travel	15.62	0.016
Office Expenses	636.23	0.667
Rent Rates and Taxes for Land and Buildings	330.49	0.346
Printing and Publication	16.47	0.017

Rent for Others	59.76	0.063
Digital Equipment	35.00	0.037
Materials & Supplies	5.00	0.005
Fuels & Lubricants	10.50	0.011
Advertising and Publicity	1.50	0.002
Minor Civil and electric Works	26.00	0.027
Professional Services	19.00	0.020
Repair and Maintenance	48.29	0.051
Other Revenue Expenditure	23.25	0.024
International Contribution	22.00	0.023
Grant in Aid General (IARNIW)	6.06	0.006
Grants-in-aid to ISI, Kolkata	34939.00	36.631
Capital	72.00	0.075
<b>Total</b>	<b>95380.00</b>	

3.5 The Ministry provides Grants-in-Aid to Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) for its functioning, academic activities and infrastructure creation and its maintenance as part of the Non-Scheme component of the budget. ISI is devoted to the research, teaching and application of statistics, natural sciences and social sciences. The institute gained the status of an Institution of National Importance through Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959. Section 4 of the ISI Act, empowers ISI, *inter-alia*, to grant degrees and diplomas in statistics, mathematics, quantitative economics, computer science and such other subjects related to statistics. From the budget of the Ministry, an amount of ₹349.39 crore has been kept as grants-in-aid to the Institute, as Non-Scheme allocation during 2025-26.

3.6 National Statistical Commission Non-Scheme budget for the year 2025-26 has been pegged at 0.99 crore..

3.7 Trend of Non-Scheme allocation indicates an increase from ₹ 914.07 crore in 2024-25 (RE) to ₹ 953.80 crore (BE) during 2025-26.

3.8 When asked about utilization of increased amount in budgetary grant under the Major Head '3454', 02.202, ISI, the Ministry stated in its written reply is as under :

"The Grants-in-Aid provided to the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) at the Budgetary Estimate (BE) stage was Rs. 375.59 crore, which was subsequently revised to Rs. 337.39 crore at the Revised Estimate (RE) stage. The actual expenditure for FY 2024-25 stands at Rs. 247.45 crore.

It is important to highlight that, against the RE of Rs. 337.39 crore for FY 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 273.24 crore (80.99%) has already been released w.e.f. 01.04.2024 up to 31.01.2025.

The following are the main reasons for increase in budget under the Salaries and General Heads:

1. Implementation of Pay Commission recommendations regarding the revision of allowances after DA crossing the 50% mark, approval for which has been received from MoF on 05.11.2024.
2. Payment of arrears under fellowship, approval of which was received from MoF on 07.06.2024.

The remaining two months will involve meeting committed liabilities under various heads of Grant-in-Aid (GIA) to ISI Kolkata. Additionally, a proposal seeking Rs. 5 crore under the GIA-Creation of Capital Asset head for the R.C. Bose Centre has been submitted through the Second Supplementary".

## **SCHEME 2025-26**

3.9 The Ministry is presently implementing two Central Sector Schemes namely, Capacity Development (CD) Scheme and Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The total Scheme budget proposal in 2025-26 for the Ministry is ₹ 4517.26 crore.

3.10 Out of the total Scheme budget of ₹ 4517.26 crore, ₹ 565.01 crore is earmarked for Capacity Development (CD) Scheme. The major components of expenditure of CD Scheme are as follows:

(₹ in lakh)		
Object Head	Budget (₹ in lakh)	% of total CD Scheme Budget
Salaries	734.00	1.299
Rewards	13.10	0.023
Medical Treatment	42.50	0.075
Allowances	599.00	1.060
LTC	16.55	0.029
Training Expenses	860.50	1.523
Domestic Travels	4253.43	7.528
Foreign Travel	475.38	0.841
Office Expenses	5062.64	8.960
Rent Rates and Taxes for Land and Buildings	8755.19	15.496
Printing and Publication	65.60	0.116
Rent for Others	471.10	0.834
Digital Equipment	346.95	0.614
Materials & Supplies	16.00	0.028
Fuels & Lubricants	62.60	0.111
Advertising and Publicity	1100.91	1.948
Minor Civil and electric Works	1110.16	1.965
Professional Services	24408.41	43.200
Repair and Maintenance	212.34	0.376
Awards & Prizes	5.00	0.009
Other Revenue Expenditure	317.25	0.561
Grant-in-Aid-General	1317.39	2.332
Grant-in-Aid-General for NER	1865.00	3.301
Motor Vehicle	45.52	0.081
Machinery and Equipment	432.99	0.766
ICT Equipment	1737.78	3.076
Buildings and Structures	1397.85	2.474
Infrastructure Assets	227.29	0.402
Furniture & Fixtures	293.78	0.520
Other Fixed Assets	27.50	0.049
Land	227.29	0.402
<b>Total</b>	<b>56501.00</b>	



### 3.11 System of Monitoring of Performance of Capacity Development Scheme

- The activities, which are part / components of the CD Scheme are monitored regularly, through review meetings on physical and financial progress of the scheme.
- Regular meetings with stake holders are organized to oversee, guide and timely implementing the concerned activities.
- The expenditure is being closely monitored wherever required; so as to avoid large scale unspent budget provisions

3.12 An amount of ₹ 3952.25 crore has been provided in BE 2025-26 under MPLADS.

3.13 Grants-in-aid (under Scheme): The proposed outlay under grants-in-aid during 2025-26 is ₹ 13.1739 crore for Capacity Development scheme (Non-North East) and ₹ 3940.00 crore under MPLAD Scheme.

3.14 The Scheme wise allocation (BE, RE and Actuals) during 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 (BE) are as follows:

**Scheme-wise allocation of BE, RE & Actual Expenditure 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26**

**(Scheme Budget)**

*(Rs. In lakhs)*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	2022-23	2023-24			2024-25			2025-26
		Actual expenditure	BE	RE	Actual expenditure	BE	RE	Expenditure (based on e-lekha on 31.03.2024)	BE
Central Sector Schemes (1 to 2):									
1	Capacity Development	32,767.04	60,000.00	45,000.00	42,994.35	54,387.00	47,203.00	34,593.64	56,501.00
2	NPIQSI	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-
Total MOSPI (without MPLADS)		32,767.04	60,000.00	45,000.00	42,994.35	54,387.00	47,203.00	34,593.64	56,501.00
	P.I. Wing								
3	MPLADS	256,696.34	395,850.00	260,000.00	120,057.33	395,500.00	3,94,779.00	1,60,000.00	3,95,225.00
Grand Scheme Total (MOSPI)		289,463.38	455,850.00	305,000.00	163,051.68	449,887.00	4,41,982.00	1,94,593.64	4,51,726.00

3.15 There has been a shortfall in fund utilization by Rs. 170.06 crore in 2023-24 against the BE of Rs. 600.00 crore (28.34% downfall) and Rs. 197.94 crore in 2024-25 against the Budget allocation of Rs. 543.87(36.39% downfall) under Capacity Development Scheme. The BE 2025-26 is Rs 565.01 crore. During the sitting held on 18.02.2025, on being asked to apprise the Committee of the rationale to such allocation and the hurdles that come in the way of full utilization of Capacity Development Scheme outlay, the Ministry *inter-alia* in its post evidence replies submitted the following reply

“The Capacity Development (CD) Scheme of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has three components namely, CD (Main), Economic Census (EC) and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS). EC and SSS are the Sub-Schemes of CD Scheme. Budgetary allocations of CD (Main) Scheme are utilized majorly for payment of remuneration, TA/DA and service charges to the manpower agencies for contractual manpower engaged for various surveys undertaken by the Ministry, payment of TA/DA to the regular field staff and officers, payments towards regular office expenses, monthly rent/license fee and maintenance of offices buildings of field offices and other offices of National Statistics Office (NSO), the training activities undertaken by National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA)- training institute of MoSPI, procurement of land, publicity measures about the statistical products, etc. The budgetary allocation under SSS sub-scheme is utilized for releasing Grants-in-aid to States/UTs for taking up various activities for statistical strengthening in the States/UTs.

During the current Financial Year, based on the assessment made and as per revised requirements, BE 2024-25 under the CD Scheme have slightly been reduced from Rs. 543.87 crore to Rs. 472.03 crore at RE stage. As on 24.02.2025, against this Revised Estimates (RE) of Rs. 472.03 crore, expenditure to the tune of Rs. 416.30 crore (88.19%) has already been incurred.

The expenditure under CD Scheme in a particular Financial Year mainly depends upon the surveys to be undertaken in the respective year and recurring and non recurring expenditure towards manpower, IT and infrastructure requirement and other routine expenditure and necessary financial approvals for carrying out the same. All efforts are made to initiate the proposals well in time for obtaining necessary financial approvals for achieving the physical targets of the scheme.

Further, the implementation of the SSS Sub-Scheme is done by the concerned Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DESS) of the States/UTs. The activities to be implemented are delineated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Govt, of India and the respective States/UTs. The expenditure incurred under the Sub-Scheme is contingent upon the requirement of funds by States/UTs. The primary reason for decreasing trend of funds released under the Sub - Scheme is due to non-receipt of demands from the States/UTs. The Ministry has been following up with the States/UTs for smooth operations and successful

implementation of the Sub-Scheme by way of holding Joint Review Meetings and regular communication.”

3.16 When asked about any adverse impact on implementation of Schemes and Programmes of the Ministry and implication on the achievement of Physical Targets under respective Schemes due to the decreasing trend in funds utilization, the Ministry replied as below:

“As per the budgetary practice, initial proposals on budgetary requirements (i.e. Budget Estimates for year ahead) are prepared in the current year based on the projections made on the requirements. However, based on the actual requirement of the ongoing year, the Budget Estimates projected in the previous year is revised to Revised Estimate after considering various factors of expenditure including progress of works projected, fulfillment of associated payment criteria, etc. Since the revisions on initial budgetary proposals are based on the actual requirements under various components of CD Scheme of MoSPI, the reduction in funds against the initial budgetary projections made through Budget Estimates would not have any major impact on implementation of the Scheme.”

3.17 When asked to specify as to how much sum has been surrendered by the Ministry during the last three Financial Years due to under-utilization, the reasons for the same and whether steps have been taken to remedy and avoid the same in the coming fiscals, the Ministry stated the information regarding amount surrendered in the last three Financial Years and the reasons thereto as below:

“

( in lakh)								
2021-22			2022-23			2023-24		
BE	RE	Surrender Amount	BE	RE	Surrender Amount	BE	RE	Surrender Amount
1,40,913.00	3,73,700.00	1,04,130.11	5,39,808.00	5,17,709.00	1,68,137.99	5,44,340.00	3,96,101.00	2,97,388.14

**Reasons:** During 2021-22, Ministry of Finance allotted fund of ₹ 1172.50 crore for MPLADS on 28.05.2021 to exclusively clear pending installments of FY 2019-20. After decision of the Government to restore the scheme on 10.11.2021 for release

of installments under MPLADS, approval for the Second Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants was received in the middle of January 2022. Further, there was Model Code of Conduct due to Assembly Elections/Bye Elections resulting in saving. Also, during 2021-22, the activities and payment milestones for 7<sup>th</sup> Economic Census and National Integrated Information Platform (NIIP), were impacted due to COVID-19 pandemic. There was delay in development of Online Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) by the vendor. Some procurement proposals could not materialize and some bills were not timely submitted.

During 2022-23, saving under MPLADS was due to receipt of less viable proposals, pending proposals for completing formalities and imposition of Model Code of Conduct owing to Assembly Elections, By-elections in some of the States/UTs. Saving under Capacity Development Scheme during 2022-23 was due to less hiring of professionals owing to not conducting two planned surveys, non-accomplishment of milestones under common service sectors and special purpose vehicle, non-materialization of some procurement proposals, non-utilization of funds towards AMC and payment to the System Integrator of National Integrated Information Portal and non-receipt of proposals from States under Support for Statistical Strengthening Sub-Scheme.

The year 2023-24 is the first year after implementation of the eSAKSHI Portal by the Ministry. During this transition period, the expenditure under the scheme got impacted as the stakeholders were slowly getting aware and acquainted with the newly established portal and its functionalities. As a result, in the initial part of the year, the pace of expenditure was very slow. Savings under Capacity Development Scheme during 2023-24 were inter alia due to non-completion of National Integrated Information Project (NIIP) on account of litigation and hiring of less outsourced staff. In addition, some of the procurement proposals for hiring of technical manpower could not materialise in time.

**Remedial Action Taken:** In order to avoid savings, the MPLADS Division is emphasizing on use of modern technology. The Ministry, in collaboration with SBI, has launched a new Web-Solution to implement new Fund Flow Procedure in accordance with Ministry of Finance OM dated 09.03.2022. With effect from 1 April 2023, the Ministry has developed an Integrated MPLADS eSAKSHI Portal, for effective monitoring, supervision and implementation of MPLAD Scheme. The portal has been fully operationalized and is a single point of reference for all stakeholders, viz., Ministry, Honorable MPs, State Nodal Departments and District Authorities. From recommendation of works by Members of Parliament, to payment to vendors, all the functionalities are now available on the eSAKSHI Portal.

Further, the Ministry regularly shares district-wise pendency details with the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories, highlighting the number of works pending for sanction and urging them to expedite the clearance process to accelerate the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme. Furthermore, the Ministry has been conducting several webinars with District Authorities, emphasizing the need to execute the works with greater efficiency and speed. Through regular monitoring with States and District Authorities, Ministry is taking measures to ensure increase in pace of expenditure under the scheme. For further improvements in the implementation of MPLAD Scheme, the Ministry is in process of evaluation of the Scheme through a third party.”

3.18 The Ministry also apprised the Committee about its plan to spend the remaining funds in the current fiscal, which is as follows:

“During the current Financial Year, based on the assessment made and as per revised requirements, BE 2024-25 under the CD Scheme have slightly been reduced from Rs 543.87 crore to Rs. 472.03 crore at RE stage. As on 10.02.2025, against this Revised Estimates (RE) of Rs. 472.03 crore, expenditure to the tune of Rs. 416.30 crore (88.19%) has already been incurred.

Budgetary allocations of CD (Main) Scheme is planned to be utilized majorly for payment of remuneration, TA/DA and service charges to the manpower agencies for contractual manpower engaged for surveys, payment of TA/DA to the regular field staff and officers, payments towards regular office expenses, monthly rent/license fee and maintenance of offices buildings of field offices of National Statistics Office (NSO), procurement of furniture, office and IT equipment, construction of office buildings and procurement of land, local level publicity measures about National Sample Surveys, etc. The budgetary allocation under SSS sub-scheme is to be utilized for releasing Grants-in-aid to States/UTs for taking up various activities for statistical strengthening in the States/UTs.”

3.19 The expenditure under the Major Heads 3451- Minor Head 00.090.51 (National Statistical Office) and 3454- Minor Head 02.201 (National Sample Survey) is incurred mainly on the salary & allowances of the staff and to meet their day-to-day office requirements.

3.20 When asked to elaborate upon the reasons leading to the decrease in the budgetary grant under Demand No. 96 Major Head 2552 under the scheme of 'Provision for scheme for the benefit of North-Eastern Area' and the impact of decreasing trend in funds allocation on implementation of schemes /programmes, the Ministry in its written reply has stated as below:

"The funds provisioned under North East component under CD Scheme are allocated to CD(Main) Scheme and SSS sub-scheme respectively.

#### **I. CD(Main) Scheme**

NSSO release Grant-in-Aid to 5 North-Eastern (NE) States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim for conducting sample surveys for various rounds of NSS, NSO. The DES of these NE States take up the work of Socio-Economic Surveys for Central Sample on behalf of NSS, NSO in addition to the coverage of their State Sample except Sikkim. NSO compensates them for their services through release of Grants-in-Aids (GIA) every year. The DES's of these NE States take up the work of Socio-Economic Survey for Central Sample on behalf of NSS, NSO in addition to the coverage of their State Sample except Sikkim. NSS, NSO compensates them for their services through release of Grants-in-aids every year. In accordance with the revised procedure of flow of funds under central sector scheme, the fund allocated under the object head GiA will completely be released to 5 NE states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim for utilization.

The amount under the object head GIA-NER which is utilized for release of funds to the five NE States has been increased by Rs. 3 crores (from Rs. 12 crores in FY 2022-23 to Rs. 15 crores in FY 2023-24) to ensure the continuity of the survey work by the five NE States. Also, Rs. 15.00 Crore under object head GIA has been allocated to NSS for FY 2024-25 under CD Scheme.

Keeping in view of increase in demand to 5 NE states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim, the demand under the object head GIA of NSS has been increased from Rs. 15 crores in FY 2024-25 to Rs. 16 crores in FY 2025-26. Keeping in view of expenditure of FY 2023-24 under GIA, the fund under GIA of CD Scheme in FY 2025-26 will be fully released to aforesaid 5 NE states for utilization.

#### **II. SSS sub-scheme**

SSS is an ongoing Central Sector sub- scheme of CD Scheme under which Grant-in-Aid (GIA) are provided to States/UTs for undertaking various activities for statistical strengthening in the States/UTs.

In BE 2024-25, under the SSS sub scheme Rs. 3.68 crore had been provisioned for the North Eastern (NE) States. SSS sub-scheme is a demand driven scheme and funds are released to the implementing States/UTs based on the demands raised by the States. A reduction in allocation was done at RE stage due to slow pace of expenditure and RE 2024-25 for North Eastern States stands at Rs. 1.54 cr. It may also be noted that as per the revised procedure for fund flow, only up to 25% of the funds earmarked in a FY is given to the State at a time.

Rs. in crore				
Budget Head	Expenditure SSS scheme:	RE 2024-25	BE 2025-26	
Head 3454	4.93	5.48	12.5	
Head 2552	1.53	1.54	2.5	
Total	6.46	7.02	15	

Out of total BE 2025-26 of Rs. 15 crores for SSS scheme, Rs. 2.5 cr is provisioned for NER States for taking up various activities for statistical strengthening in the States.

Guidelines of SSS scheme has been revised in 2024 to facilitate optimum fund availability and utilization by states/UTs. Guidelines have been made more concise and implementing States/UTs are also allowed to seek upto 50% of their original allocation.”

3.21 On a query regarding steps that have been taken by the Ministry to strengthen and improve the quality of surveys and census in the North-Eastern states of the country, the Ministry submitted as under:

“NSS, NSO conducts survey operations in NE States mainly through its Regional and Sub-Regional Offices of Field Operations Division (FOD), located in the NE States. The Zonal Office of NSO located at Guwahati is entrusted with quantitative and qualitative monitoring of survey operations in NE states and training of staff of FOD offices in these States. To ensure data quality in the field, adequate training is imparted to the field staff prior to starting survey operations as well as during survey. Qualitative supervision and guidance of primary field workers through handholding, field inspections and scrutiny by experienced field officials is ensured during the survey. In recent years, the surveys of NSO have been shifted to digital platform. All FOD offices in NE States have been equipped with necessary IT equipment to carry out survey operations in digital mode. The budgetary requirements for functioning of FOD offices are met through the functional heads of CD Scheme and Non-Scheme. In the States of Tripura, Manipur, Arunachal



Pradesh and Mizoram except Sikkim (State Sample only), central sample of socio-economic surveys is carried out through State Governments with budgetary support from the Ministry.

Further, as far as SSS sub-scheme is concerned, the State/UTs have been provided funds for various statistical activities including conduct of survey/studies/census.”

3.22 Under the Major Head 3454, Minor Head: 02.203 of Data Informatics and Innovation Division (DIID), the grant in aid for ‘DIID’ have seen a total allocation of 8.74 crores for FY 2025-26 which is slightly lower than BE 2024-25. When asked about steps taken for expansion and strengthening of Data Informatics and Innovation Division, the Ministry responded in its reply:

“Data Informatics and Innovation Division (DIID) has been strengthened by way of collaboration with academic institutions, participation in International forum such as United Nations Committee of Experts on Big Data (UNCEBD), consultation with multilateral agencies like World Bank and other expert agencies from public and private sectors.

Further, the following steps have been undertaken for expansion of activities related to Data Informatics and Innovation:

1. eSankhyiki Portal has been launched for ease of data access. This portal is having time series data of important macro indicators and a catalogue of major data assets of the Ministry. It currently has 134 million records in its repository.
2. CD Scheme component of Data Innovation Lab (DI Lab) has been operationalized in July, 2024 to strengthen the innovative activities.
3. MoU has been signed with six institutions namely IIT (Madras & Gandhinagar), IIIT (Delhi & Vadodara), IIM Nagpur and Maharaja Agrasen University to create a network of academic institution to leverage their expertise.
4. India has become a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Big Data (UNCEBD).
5. Hackathon has been planned in the month of March, 2025 in collaboration with IIT Gandhinagar.
6. Working papers and self-assessment tools were published as part of Competencies and Capacity Development

- Institutional Readiness for Adoption of Emerging Technologies Such as AI, ML and Big Data in Official Statistics
- Assessment of Websites for Effective Dissemination of Data
- Assessment of portals for Digital Dissemination of Data.”

**Demands for Grants 2025-26 and recommendations of the Committee as contained in the 5<sup>th</sup> report of the Standing Committee on Finance on ‘Demands for Grants (2024-25)’.**

3.23 Based on the recommendations of the Committee, budget requirements for meeting additional demands for activities of the Ministry have been provisioned through the Demands for Grants 2025-26.

3.24 On a pointed query regarding utilization of Capacity Development Scheme funds on various components for the last three fiscals, the Ministry submitted:

“The major components of Capacity Development (CD) Scheme are as under:

- i. Improvement of National Accounts Statistics.
- ii. Improvements in Price Statistics and International Comparison Programme (ICP).
- iii. Improvements in Social, Environment and Allied Statistics.
- iv. Improvements in Economic Sector Statistics.
- v. Training / Capacity Building of Statistical Personnel in Official Statistics and also to promote Official Statistics and research in Statistics through Internship Programme, Grant-in-Aid to Institutions, International/National Awards in Statistics, on the spot essay competition, etc.
- vi. Strengthening of Coordination with Central and State Statistical Organizations.
- vii. Strengthening of Computer Centre of MoSPI.
- viii. Strengthening of Survey Capabilities of the NSO and undertaking new surveys.
- ix. To facilitate project monitoring of the projects under Infrastructure Project Monitoring Division of this Ministry.

The Capacity Development Scheme has three components namely, CD (Main), Economic Census (EC) and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS). The component wise budget allocated and expenditure incurred under CD Scheme are as under:

(Rs. in Cr)

Name	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24		
	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp.
CD(Main)	284.92	270.23	235.73	452.46	319.95	320.88	527.38	439.19	422.21
EC	280.00	64.77	0.89	57.01	20.00	0.16	62.31	0.50	0.02
SSS	33.44	12.00	5.08	52.63	7.55	6.64	10.31	10.31	7.71
<b>CD Scheme</b>	<b>598.36</b>	<b>347.00</b>	<b>241.70</b>	<b>562.10</b>	<b>347.50</b>	<b>327.68</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>450.00</b>	<b>429.94</b>

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (MPLADS)**

4.1 To implement the mandate given to the Ministry, and to fulfill its objectives, the Ministry has been operating two central sector schemes namely Capacity Development (CD) Scheme and Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

4.2 The MPLAD Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Government of India. The Scheme was announced on 23rd December, 1993 by the then Prime Minister of India in the Parliament. The main objective of the Scheme is to enable each Member of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs of the people. Initially, the administration of MPLADS was with the Ministry of Rural Development. However, since October 1994, the administration of the Scheme has been vested with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The scheme is governed by a set of Guidelines, which have been comprehensively revised from time to time. The present Guidelines were released on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2023, which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023.

4.3 The salient features of MPLADS Scheme are as follows:

- (i) MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India under which Hon'ble Members of Parliament are allocated annual authorization limit at the beginning of each financial year subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) The basic principle to be followed by the Member of Parliament, the Nodal District Authorities, the Implementing District Authorities and the Implementing Agencies, while recommending and sanctioning the works under the scheme is that it leads to creation of durable public assets for public good of the society at large and does not have any restriction in its access and its usage to any section of the society.
- (iii) MPLADS funds can be used for creation of immovable public assets on Government owned land, and movable public assets for Government owned and

Government controlled institutions only, i.e. the Central, State/UT and local Governments, including Government aided institutions.

- (iv) MPLADS Guidelines, 2023 provides an indicative list of works that can be taken up under the scheme. However, this list is not exhaustive and new works can be added to the list on the recommendations of a Member of Parliament, if the same complies with overall principles and objectives of the scheme.
- (v) Any unspent balance out of the annual allocation of a particular Member of Parliament shall be carried forward and added to the annual allocation for that Member of Parliament for the subsequent Financial Year and the drawing limits of his account with Nodal District Authority shall be fixed accordingly.
- (vi) Under MPLADS, the role of the Members of Parliament is limited to recommending the works. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the District Authority to sanction, execute and complete the works recommended by Members of Parliament within the stipulated time period.
- (vii) The elected Lok Sabha Members can recommend works in their respective constituencies. The elected members of the Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the State from which they are elected. Nominated Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can recommend works, anywhere in the country.
- (viii) A Member of Parliament can recommend funds only up to ₹50 lakhs per year to all Societies/Trusts put together, provided that such Member of Parliament cannot recommend work of more than ₹1 crore for any particular Society/Trust during his/her entire term. The limit of ₹1 crore will start again on start of a fresh term of the individual concerned as Member of Parliament after their re-election/nomination.
- (ix) Any Member of Parliament from anywhere in the country can consent their MPLADS funds up to ₹1 Crore per annum for rehabilitation and reconstruction works in areas affected by natural "Calamity of Severe Nature" declared by the Government of India in any part of the country, subject to other provisions of MPLADS Guidelines.
- (x) When a "Calamity of Severe Nature" has been declared by a State Government through a notification in the official gazette and not by the Government of India, Lok Sabha Members of Parliament from any constituency in that State and any Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament of that State can consent up to a maximum of ₹25 lakh per annum in the affected area(s) of the State.
- (xi) In order to give due attention to the development of infrastructure in the areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Members of Parliament are to recommend every year, works costing at least 15 per cent of the total MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and at

least 7.5 per cent of the total MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribe population.

- (xii) An elected Member of Parliament can also recommend works anywhere in the country outside the usual region in which he/she can recommend work as mentioned in Para 3.1.2.1 of the MPLADS guidelines subject to the ceiling of ₹50 lakh in a financial year per Member of Parliament for all such recommendations, except in case of calamity.
- (xiii) The guidelines have a provision to provide assistance to individual differently abled persons by providing them prosthetics, wheelchairs, tricycles (manual or motorized), electric scooties, hearing aids and other such devices.
- (xiv) The MPLADS funds, including those for the works to be executed for Trust, Societies and Cooperative Societies, can be pooled with individual/stand-alone projects of other Central and State Government schemes, as well as with that of local bodies, provided such works are otherwise eligible under MPLADS Guidelines.
- (xv) The Project Management Unit under MPLADS Division (PMU-MPLADS) of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has been designated as Central Nodal Agency for implementation of the Scheme. The actual fund shall only be with Central Nodal Account and fund will be directly credited to vendor's account as and when the demands are raised electronically.
- (xvi) Trust, Society, Cooperative Society, Bar Association, Gram Panchayat, ULB, etc as selected by the Implementing District Authority are eligible to directly execute the recommended and sanctioned work of MPLADS and is referred to as Sub Agency.
- (xvii) The fund flow procedure under the MPLAD Scheme has been revised w.e.f. 1 April 2023, wherein virtual drawing limits are allocated for incurring expenditure. Now, the fund will directly flow from the Central Nodal Agency Account to the vendor on real time basis only at the time of payment based on the principle of 'Just in time release', thereby resolving the issue of parking of funds.
- (xviii) A new Web-Solution has been launched to implement the revised fund flow procedure. The entire process of fund flow now operates on an IT platform through the Web-Solution, which allows all the stakeholders to monitor in real time, the status of funds and works.

#### 4.4 System of monitoring of the implementation of MPLAD Scheme:

- Annual All India Review Meeting with the Nodal Secretaries of the States/UTs is organized to discuss the implementation of the scheme.
- The provisions of guidelines are amended from time to time on the recommendations/suggestions of various stakeholders if found feasible as per the objective of the scheme.
- Digital Empowerment for all the stakeholders: Hon'ble Members can now digitally recommend, view, and review projects. The portal also enables exclusive digital operations for state, districts, and agencies facilitating seamless collaboration and communication.
- The eSAKSHI portal is a unique initiative that aims to enhance overall efficiency, accountability, and transparency in managing funds for various stakeholders involved in the MPLAD Scheme. In the portal, MP recommendations, District Authority sanctioning and Implementing Agency execution are all seamlessly integrated, contributing to a well-coordinated and efficient workflow.
- Third Party Monitoring is conducted from time to time to review the effective implementation of MPLAD Scheme. Currently a Third Party Monitoring is under progress.

### **MPLAD Scheme in the light of Revised Guidelines**

4.5 MPLAD Guidelines have been revised with effect from 1 April, 2023. Revised Guidelines 2023 have simplified and streamlined provisions on the earlier guidelines. The main changes are as follows:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>New Guidelines</b>	<b>Old Guidelines</b>
1.	Under the Revised Fund Flow Procedure, the money will flow from the Central Nodal Agency Account to the vendor/ implementing agency on real time basis at the time of payment/ advance based on the principle of 'Just in time release' with the approval of the District Authority (DC/ DM). There will be no parking of funds at any level and UC	Earlier, large sums of funds used to remain in savings bank accounts of multiple banks at different levels of Nodal Districts, Implementing Districts, Implementing Agencies, etc. i.e. there was huge parking of funds.

S. No.	New Guidelines	Old Guidelines
	will be generated on real time basis, once the payment has been made.	
2.	The allotment for a year is released in one go at the beginning of the FY. Subsequent releases are delinked from the receipt of documents such as eligible MPR, UC, AC, PUC, Bank Statement, etc.	Subsequent release was dependent upon receipt of a number of documents such as eligible MPR, UC, AC, PUC, Bank Statement, etc.
3.	Contribution of Rs. 50 lakhs outside Constituency/ State, also allowed for Trusts/Societies and Cooperative Societies. [Para 3.1.2]	It was not allowed.
4.	Trust, Society, Cooperative society, Bar Association, Gram Panchayat, ULB etc. may be selected as Sub-agencies for the execution of the MPLADs Works.	It was not allowed.
5.	Sanction/rejection of recommendation of an MP shall be issued by IDA within 45 days from the date of the receipt of recommendation. [Para 3.2.4]	Time limit for sanction was 75 days.
6.	Minimum threshold for each project has been raised to Rs. 2.5 lakh. [Para 3.2.9]	Minimum threshold limit for each project was Rs. 1 lakh. [Para 3.26]
7.	The work, once sanctioned by the Implementing District Authority, cannot be changed and cancelled. [Para 3.2.15]	The work, once sanctioned by the District Authority could be cancelled only if the execution of the work had not commenced and cancellation did not lead to any financial liability on the government. [Para 3.4]



S. No.	New Guidelines	Old Guidelines
8.	Construction of more than one community hall in a village allowed. [Parav5.1.4.1 read with Point-1.1 of Annexure VIII]	Only one community hall in one village was allowed. (Annexure IV-E)
9.	Construction of Govt. Office Buildings (Post Office, Police Station, Police Chauki etc.) allowed [Para-5.1.4.1 read with Point-1.9 of Annexure-VIII]	It was not allowed.
10.	Repair and renovation of immovable assets allowed subject to some conditions. [Para 5.1.9]	It was not allowed.
11.	Pooling of MPLADS fund with CSR fund is not allowed [Para 5.2.10]	There was no clarity on the matter in old guidelines
12.	The Implementing District Authority to ensure that details of grants given to the beneficiary Trust/ Society under MPLADS are updated on the Darpan portal on a real time basis. [Para 6.2.4]	There was no such provision
13.	For Society/Trust, construction of structures also allowed on land taken on long term lease from a Govt. or Govt. controlled institution [Para 6.2.6.1]	It was not allowed [Para 3.21.1]
14.	A Member of Parliament can recommend funds up to Rs. 50 lakhs per year to all Societies/ Trusts put together, provided that such members of Parliament cannot give more than Rs 1	A Member of Parliament could recommend funds only up to Rs. 50 lakh per Trust/ Society during its lifetime and Rs.1 crore in a financial year all together (Para 3.21.2)

S. No.	New Guidelines	Old Guidelines
	crore for any particular Society/Trust during his/ her entire term. The limit of Rs.1 crore will start again on start of a fresh term of the MP after his/her re-election/ nomination [Para 6.2.6.2]	
15.	Trust society can also work as an Implementing Agency.	It was not allowed.
16.	All rehabilitation works shall be completed by concerned district authority within 18 months of the approval of the work.(Para-8.12.1)	Time limit for completion of rehabilitation work was 8 months. (Para-2.7.1)
17.	A new chapter exclusively for works relating to calamity affected areas has been added.	
18.	Para-9.1: Allocation for funds for administrative expenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Nodal Agency→0.1% of total authorization released to the Nodal Districts Authorities put together</li> <li>State Nodal Authority→ 0.1% of total authorization received in that State</li> <li>Nodal District Authority→ 0.8% of total authorization received by Nodal District Authority</li> <li>Implementing District Authority→ 1.0% of each authorization received from Nodal District Authority as drawing limit</li> </ul>	Allocation for funds for administrative expenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Nodal Authority→ 0.2% of total authorization received in that State</li> <li>Nodal District Authority→ 0.8% of total authorization received by Nodal District Authority</li> <li>Implementing District Authority→ 1.0% of each authorization received from Nodal District Authority as drawing limit</li> </ul>
19.	Subsequent capital expenditure above 5 lakh on the facilitation center can be made after a gap of five years.	Any subsequent capital expenditure above 5 lakh on the facilitation center was not allowed

S. No.	New Guidelines	Old Guidelines
	(Para 9.5.6)	(Para 3.34)
20.	Only audit certificate for CNA shall be required for release of funds to CNA A/c. Audit certificate from district authority has not been linked to the release of subsequent installment to the concerned district authorities (Para 10.2.2)	Audit Certificate for district authorities was required for release of fresh funds [Para-4.3(iii)]
21.	Provision has been made for Audit of Administrative Expenses. (Para 11.4.2)	It was not there in the old Guidelines.

4.6 When asked to specify about salient features of revised fund flow procedure and its effect on MPLAD Scheme in the light of revised guidelines, the Ministry submitted its reply as below:

“Under the new funds flow mechanism, the Ministry shall act as the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and the funds will be released directly to the account of Central Nodal Agency. The accounts of Nodal District Authority (NDAs), Implementing District Authorities (IDAs) and all Implementing Agencies (IAs) shall be used only for the purpose of pass-through of funds under MPLADS for payments to vendors directly using eSAKSHI Portal. The salient features of the revised Fund Flow Procedure are as follows:

- Members of Parliament would be allocated the amount of Rs. 5 crore at the beginning of the FY, every year.
- Only the authorization would move from CNA to IDA and payments to vendor would be done directly from the CAN account through eSAKSHI portal.
- The pre-conditions for release of funds such as Utilization Certificate are no longer required.
- The whole paper based system has now become paperless, thereby reducing time taken for processing.

Members of Parliament can make all recommendations for development works online through the Web-Solution and thereafter can monitor the status of his/her

recommendations for development works and the progress of the development works undertaken by the District Authority on his/her recommendations. The new Web-Solution has simplified the entire process, with the facility of auto-generation of Utilization Certificates, progress reports and all information relating to status of funds, recommendations and development works is available online on the dashboards of each stakeholder, including the Members of Parliament.

Mobile Application has also been developed for all the stakeholders to take decisions and monitor status on the go.”

4.7 After the successful migration of MPLAD Scheme on the e-SAKSHI portal w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023, when further asked to furnish updated factual operational status and the details of steps undertaken to mitigate operational and functional discrepancies in the portal, the Ministry responded as follows:

“The eSAKSHI portal has been implemented to address issues by simplifying the fund release process, reducing pre-conditions for authorization, minimizing dependency on physical accounts and introducing a systematic tracking mechanism for improved efficiency and transparency. Through the portal, MPs can recommend works, District Authorities can sanction works and payments made to vendors, all seamlessly integrated, contributing to a well-coordinated and efficient workflow.

The eSAKSHI portal was developed by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Govt. of India, with technical partnership from State Bank of India and TCS. The portal helps eliminate manual errors and enhances transparency, preventing financial discrepancies and safeguarding resources.

The Ministry has taken various initiatives for resolving issues relating to the eSAKSHI Portal. Regular Kiosks are being organized during Parliament sessions to resolve issues. Recently a workshop was held for officers in the State of Haryana. Workshops have been held across various States/UTs to make officials handling the portal aware of the functionalities. A dedicated helpline is there for Hon’ble MPs and other stakeholders to resolve matters.”

## **Funds Allocation**

4.8 Under the scheme of MPLADS, an aggregate amount of ₹ 59505.74 crore was released by the Ministry till 31.12.2023 before the implementation of the revised fund flow system and launch of eSAKSHI. Further, after successful migration of MPLADS scheme on e-sakshi portal, authorization of ₹ 4063.00 crores was released to the Members of Parliament during 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024. Hon'ble MPs have recommended 24997 works costing ₹ 1695.26 crore, District Authorities have issued the sanctions for permissible works for 33873 works costing ₹ 1909.43 and 12853 works completed costing ₹ 2237.69 crore during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024.

4.9 The allocation of funds under the scheme is made on annual basis. The MPLADS has a yearly allocation of amount of ₹ 3940.00 crore as per the entitlement of ₹ 5.00 crore per MP (per annum) for 788 MPs of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. For the implementation of the Scheme through IT solution, currently eSAKSHI portal is a unique initiative that aims to enhance overall efficiency, accountability, and transparency in managing funds for various stakeholders involved in the MPLAD Scheme. In the portal, MP recommendations, District Authority sanctioning and Implementing Agency executions are all seamlessly integrated, contributing to a well-coordinated and efficient workflow.

4.10 Actual expenditure under MPLAD Scheme was Rs. 1200.57 crore in 2023-24 (69.67% downfall in 2023-24) and Rs. 1600.00 crore (59.54% downfall in 2024-25) in 2024-25 (as on 31.12.2024). The Committee wanted to know the reasons for the mismatch between budgetary allocation and its utilization in MPLAD Scheme funds utilization, the Ministry in its written reply submitted the following:

“A revised fund flow system as per the instructions issued by Department of Expenditure, MoF on 09.03.2022 have been introduced with effect from 1 April 2023. An end-to-end e-solution is implemented for the MPLAD scheme through eSAKSHI portal and now all the activities under the scheme starting from recommendations by the Hon'ble MPs to making payments to the vendors have been computerized and are carried out through the portal only. During this

transition period, the Ministry took extensive steps to make the Hon'ble MPs and other stakeholders aware of the new functionalities and conducted regular training programmes in every State/UT physically as well as virtually. The scheme implementation during the transition period was not stopped even for a single day and gradually all the stakeholders were onboarded on the eSAKSHI Portal. Expenditure under the scheme is now picking pace and can be monitored on a daily basis. The actual expenditure under the scheme during the past two years is as follows:

2023-24 – Rs.1200.57 crore

2024-25 – Rs. 2000 crore (as on 10.02.2025)

Now onwards, it is expected that there would be significant improvement in expenditure under the scheme.”

4.11 During the earlier sitting of the Committee regarding DFG, there was a pointed query regarding methodology of 45 days limit for sanction /rejection of projects in MPLADS Portal. It was seen in the portal that there have been many occasions since the first year of the e-SAKSHI portal launch there were delays beyond 45 days when the sanction could not be obtained. When asked about the steps taken by Ministry regarding introduction of any notification button or any alert sign to highlight the 45 days limit after its completion, the Committee replied as follows:

“As per the MPLADS Guidelines, the District Authorities are required to sanction works recommended by Hon'ble MPs within a period of 45 days. It has been observed that on many occasions, works have been delayed for sanction or rejection beyond the stipulated 45-day period. To address this issue, the Ministry has consistently requested all State Governments to issue necessary directions to the responsible District Authorities, in line with paragraph 3.2.4 of the MPLADS Guidelines, 2023, to ensure that all pending recommendations exceeding 45 days are either sanctioned or rejected without further delay.

Additionally, the Ministry regularly shares district-wise pendency details with the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories, highlighting the number of works pending for sanction and urging them to expedite the clearance process to accelerate the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme. Furthermore, the Ministry has been conducting several webinars with District Authorities, emphasizing the need to execute the works with greater efficiency and speed. Through regular

monitoring with States and District Authorities, Ministry is taking measures to ensure increase in pace of expenditure under the scheme.”

4.12 During the sitting of Committee held on 18.02.2025, on a query of Hon’ble Member regarding proposal of third party analysis, the representative of the Ministry deposed as under:

*“....Regarding this third-party monitoring of the MPLADS, we have just engaged the agency”*

4.13 After the introduction of digitalization in the working system of Ministry, several online platforms have been started like e-portal, OCMS, e-CAPI. During its sitting, when queried by Hon’ble Chairperson about the measures taken by Ministry for enhancement of cyber security and preparation of security plan for Ministry/Dept., the Ministry in its Post – evidence replies submitted as below:

“Adoption of Data Safety measures is a continuous process. The major steps taken in this regard are, storage of data in cloud facility of National Informatics Centre (NIC), Security audit of applications & Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) implementation of the domains, Vulnerability Assessment, compliance of guidelines issued by agencies like NIC, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) etc. Also, training on “Cyber hygiene and Security” in online/ offline mode was held for the Ministry. Advisory issued time to time on Protecting Sensitive Information & Awareness on Phishing Domains, Phishing Domains mimicking Indian Government Organizations to all the divisions of MoSPI. Data is anonymised before uploading on website. Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) of Ministry and Dy. CISO of NIC has been nominated to monitor Cyber Security related issues. Agency is in place to analyze and implement cyber security issue to strengthen data security and HR capacity.”

### **Physical Performance of Scheme**

4.14 Since inception, the Scheme has benefited the local community by meeting various developmental needs such as drinking water facility, education, electricity, health and family welfare, irrigation, non-conventional energy, community centers, public libraries, bus stands/stops, roads, pathways and bridges, sports, etc. These works are sanctioned, executed and monitored as per the provisions of the MPLADS Guidelines. Since the inception of the scheme and as per information provided by the District Authorities through MPLADS (old) portal as on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024:

- (i) 26,03,283 works have been recommended by MPs;
- (ii) 22,99,962 works have been sanctioned out of these recommended and taken up for implementation;
- (iii) 20,90,818 works have been completed and assets made available for utilization by the local communities.

After the implementation of revised fund flow system through eSAKSHI Portal during 1st April, 2024 to 31st December, 2024:

- (i) Authorization Limit of ₹ 4063.00 Crore (including admin funds) under MPLAD Scheme;
- (ii) 24997 works costing ₹ 1695,26,22,472.36 recommended by Hon'ble MPs;
- (iii) 33873 works costing ₹ 1909,43,17,450.51 have been sanctioned by the District Authorities; and
- (iv) 12853 works costing ₹ 2237,69,00,780.08 have been completed by the Executing Agencies

### **Financial Performance**

4.15 Since the inception of the Scheme, funds amounting to ₹59,505.74 crore have been released by the Ministry till 31st March, 2023 and an expenditure of ₹59,250.75 crore has been incurred. 99.57 per cent of the amount released has since been spent under the scheme since inception. The expenditure of ₹3484,39,13,384.63 crores was done till 19th January, 2025 and ₹3317,76,92,934.52 crores expenditure was done till 31st December, 2024 since the launch of eSAKSHI portal and implementation of revised fund flow system.



4.16 GST is not levied on MLA funds, but GST is levied on MPLADS funds. During its sitting, when queried about exact or average impact of GST on the MPLADS funds and whether Ministry is going to recommend to Ministry of Finance for waiving off GST for

MPLADS projects, the Ministry in its post-evidence replies submitted as below:

“There is no provision in the MPLADS Guidelines for exemption of GST against the works executed under the MPLAD Scheme. However, the Ministry receives and examines, on a continuous basis, the new suggestions from stakeholders, following due process.”

## **CHAPTER V**

### **INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (ISI)**

#### **Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)**

5.1 Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) is an autonomous institution under MoSPI and is devoted to research, teaching in Statistics and its applications in related subjects, natural sciences and social sciences. The Institute was established on 17<sup>th</sup> December in the year 1931 by Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis, at Kolkata, West Bengal. In addition to the headquarters located at Kolkata, the ISI has Centres at Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Tezpur (North-East Centre) and some outlying Units located at Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad and branch at Giridih. The Institute gained the status of an Institution of National Importance through Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959, known as 'Indian Statistical Institute Act No. 057 of 1959'. MoSPI provides Grants-in-Aid to ISI for its functioning, academic activities including research and infrastructure creation and maintenance.

#### **Degrees/courses offered**

5.2 The ISI conducts various courses (bachelor, post-graduate diploma, masters and research fellowships programs) in various subjects with prime focus on Statistics; Mathematics; Quantitative Economics; Computer Science; Quality, Reliability and Operational Research, Data Sciences and related subjects as may be determined by the Institute from time to time. Over the years, the Institute has developed a set of unique research and academic programme, which are cross-disciplinary in nature. These programmes cater for the unique need of statistical analysis of large-scale data collected at different government and non-government sectors including international arenas. A new course has been launched last year viz. Bachelor of Statistical data Science (BSDS).

#### **RC Bose Centre for Cryptology and Security**

5.3 R.C. Bose Centre for Cryptology and Security has been established at ISI Kolkata to promote interdisciplinary research in Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics towards furtherance of teaching, research as well as training and development in Cryptology and Cyber Security. It acts as a national hub for cryptographic requirements, cutting-edge research activities and indigenous capacity building to fulfill the growing demands at the national level. The Centre is funded by MoSPI as a part of the Grant-in-Aid to the Indian Statistical Institute. Apart from contributing to knowledge dissemination and talent development, ISI continues to work on innovative multidisciplinary applications to address issues of national importance. Towards this, ISI has also set up two Centers of Excellence, namely, Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning at ISI Kolkata, and Centre for research on the Economics of Climate, Food, Energy and Environment (CECFEE) at ISI Delhi. These centres work at cutting edge interdisciplinary areas of research including in machine learning and cryptology, and in climate change. The studies undertaken by the Institute have been recognized by several awards at National/International level.

#### **International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC)**

5.4 The International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC), founded in 1950 on the initiative of Professor P.C. Mahalanobis at Kolkata through an agreement between the International Statistical Institute and the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI). It functions under a Board of Directors, which has members from ISI, MoSPI and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The centre aims to provide training in theoretical and applied statistics at various levels to selected participants from countries of the Middle East, the Far East, South and South-East Asia, as well as the Commonwealth countries of Africa. ISEC organizes an annual 10-month diploma course in Statistical Theory and Applications, which is partially funded by the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, and is conducted with the support provided by ISI. In addition, special courses on different topics of varying duration are also organized for international participants.

5.5 The Ministry provides Grants-in-Aid to Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) for its functioning, academic activities and infrastructure creation and its maintenance as part of the Non-Scheme component of the budget. From the budget of the Ministry, an amount of ₹349.39 crore has been kept as grants-in-aid to the Institute, as Non-Scheme allocation during 2025-26. When asked to specify the reasons for increased amount in budgetary grant, the Ministry *inter-alia* submitted the following:

“The Grants-in-Aid provided to the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) at the Budgetary Estimate (BE) stage was Rs. 375.59 crore, which was subsequently revised to Rs. 337.39 crore at the Revised Estimate (RE) stage. The actual expenditure for FY 2024-25 stands at Rs. 247.45 crore.

It is important to highlight that, against the RE of Rs. 337.39 crore for FY 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 273.24 crore (80.99%) has already been released w.e.f. 01.04.2024 up to 31.01.2025.

The following are the main reasons for increase in budget under the Salaries and General Heads:

1. Implementation of Pay Commission recommendations regarding the revision of allowances after DA crossing the 50% mark, approval for which has been received from MoF on 05.11.2024.
2. Payment of arrears under fellowship, approval of which was received from MoF on 07.06.2024.

The remaining two months will involve meeting committed liabilities under various heads of Grant-in-Aid (GIA) to ISI Kolkata. Additionally, a proposal seeking Rs. 5 crore under the GIA-Creation of Capital Asset head for the R.C. Bose Centre has been submitted through the Second Supplementary.”

5.6 On being asked about achievements of the Ministry under this programme during the past three fiscals, the Ministry in its written reply has stated:

“The Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) continues to make significant contributions through its scientific endeavors. The Institute is a pioneer in introducing the concept of Soft Computing in India and serves as a national Centre of Excellence in machine learning and artificial intelligence.

ISI offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs and conducts extensive outreach initiatives across the country. The institute excels in diverse fields, including Bioinformatics, Computational Genetics, Cryptology, Indian Language Technologies, and Population Genomics. It has also maintained a

leading position in theoretical statistics and mathematics, receiving recognition at both national and international levels.

The R.C. Bose Centre for Cryptology and Security plays a crucial role in advancing research in cryptology and security. The Centre for Research on the Economics of Climate, Food, Energy, and Environment in Delhi has gained international recognition and receives extensive funding to address key challenges in the fields of energy and the environment.

Additionally, ISI hosts the IDEAS Technology Innovation Hub, a DST-funded not-for-profit Section 8 company aimed at fostering entrepreneurship, startups, and translational research. The institute's researchers developed the National Coal Index, which has been adopted by the Ministry of Coal, and work is currently underway to develop a National Mineral Index.

ISI continues to collaborate with various government and non-government organizations, as well as industries, to generate innovative research problems and address theoretical challenges.”

5.7 When asked about new initiatives undertaken for expansion, strengthening and qualitative resurgence of premier National Institutes like Indian Statistical Institute, the Ministry responded as below:

“ISI is actively working towards expansion and qualitative enhancement by increasing student intake and introducing academic programs that align with national priorities.

ISI is having 14 different courses including undergraduates, graduates, diploma holders and PhD scholars. A total number of students at the Institutes, during academic year 2023-24, in these courses, stands at approximately 1,200. In the year 2024, 450 new students and 60 new research scholars joined ISI across various programs. A bachelor's program in Data Science has been launched across three of its centers in a hybrid mode.

To accommodate the growing number of students, the institute is constructing new infrastructure, including buildings and large classrooms. The faculty strength across centers is being rationalized through the adoption of hybrid teaching methods. Additionally, ISI has introduced supernumerary seats to encourage the participation of female students.

The Cell for Collaboration with Academia, Industry, and R&D Labs is effectively managing externally funded projects and consultancy activities. The institute has signed and renewed multiple MoUs with government bodies, industries, and academic institutions to strengthen partnerships.

Furthermore, the restoration and preservation of the P.C. Mahalanobis Museum and Archives is underway, underscoring ISI's commitment to honouring its rich legacy while advancing its academic and research mission.

Additionally, creation of Endowment fund in ISI, out of donations received from other Institutes / organisations / Well- wishers / Philanthropists / Alumni / Corporates for the purpose of mobilizing donations for the development of Institution, students and faculties has been approved.

ISI is in the process of receiving contribution an amount of Rs.12 crore towards endowment fund from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for instituting one or more RBI Professional Chair position in the broad domain of Theoretical and Applied Statistics in the under RBI Scheme which may invite renowned experts to teach and carry out research work in the institute.

ISI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tripura Institute for Transformation (TIFT), Government of Tripura for rendering its academic, technical guidance and research supports to TIFT. For this purpose, a sum of Rs.5 Lakh per annum will be given to ISI, Kolkata as institutional fee by TIFT.”

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECT MONITORING**

6.1 The Infrastructure Projects Monitoring Division (IPMD) of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation undertakes the monitoring of projects above ₹ 150 crore. As per Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, this division of Programme Implementation (PI) wing of MoSPI is mandated to fulfill the following:

- (i) Project Monitoring - Monitoring of projects of ₹ 150 crores and above
- (ii) Performance Monitoring- Monitoring of the performance of Infrastructure Sectors

6.2 IPMD performs the implementation status of Projects above ₹ 150 crore through the project related data of Ministries/Departments/PSUs captured through the Online Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) of MoSPI. A range of parameters are captured through OCMS in respect of the progress of the projects, financial parameters (cost and expenditure related), reasons/ issues accounting for slippages in the projects with respect to the planned schedule and original cost. Based on the aforementioned project data, MoSPI analyses the time and cost overrun of the projects and releases a monthly Flash Report (FR) and a Quarterly Project Implementation Status Report (QPISR).

6.3 The IPMD reviews the performance of 11 key infrastructure sectors including Power, Cement, Coal, Steel, Railways, Shipping and Ports, Fertilizers, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Civil Aviation, Roads and Telecommunication with reference to their pre-set targets for the period and achievement there against. When asked to elaborate the number of delayed projects sector-wise during the last three years and the current fiscal year, the Ministry provided the following detail:

SECTOR-WISE DELAYED PROJECTS								
	as of 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2022		as of 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2023		as of 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2024		as of 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2025	
SECTOR	No. of Projects	No. of Delayed Projects	No. of Projects	No. of Delayed Projects	No. of Projects	No. of Delayed Projects	No. of Projects	No. of Delayed Projects
ATOMIC ENERGY	5	4	5	4	5	4	0	0
CIVIL AVIATION	23	20	26	25	35	18	41	15
COAL	118	39	122	48	120	48	114	43
FINANCE	3	0	3	0	3	0	2	0
FERTILISERS	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
DEFENCE PRODUCTION	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
COMMERCE	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION	21	15	21	15	21	12	20	8
DPIIT	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	0
DONER	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE	28	4	28	2	8	7	8	5
HOME AFFAIRS	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	3
MINES	6	6	7	7	8	7	8	5
PETROLEUM	141	81	145	86	131	80	113	69
POWER	84	54	78	54	101	52	99	59
HEAVY INDUSTRY	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAILWAYS	211	130	173	115	249	109	213	89
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS	845	243	749	402	1093	399	1011	445
RENEWABLE ENERGY	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
SHIPPING AND PORTS	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
STEEL	8	4	8	5	12	5	13	5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3	3	3	3	7	2	6	4
URBAN DEVELOPMENT	27	16	26	16	27	15	27	11
WATER RESOURCES	41	37	41	31	41	15	35	9
SOCIAL JUSTICE	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1579</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>1449</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>1873</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>1719</b>	<b>771</b>



6.4 When asked to furnish the reasons for time and cost overrun in projects, the Ministry furnished the following reply:

“The reasons for time and cost overruns are project-specific, depending upon a number of factors which include technical, financial and administrative issues. As reported by the project implementing agencies on this Ministry’s Online Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS), the major reasons for cost and time overrun are inter-alia as follows: under-estimation of original cost, changes in rates of foreign exchange and statutory duties, delay in regulatory clearances (environmental, land acquisition and forest clearance etc.), shortage of skilled manpower/ labor, changes in project scope, monopolistic pricing by vendors, general price rise/ inflation and cascading effect of the time overrun.”

6.5 Further, on being asked to specify the steps that are being undertaken to mitigate the further delay and expedite the projects, the Ministry in its written reply stated as follows:

“Some of the major steps taken by the Government to mitigate the delays and expedite the infrastructure projects are as follows: Periodic review of projects under PRAGATI through video conferencing by Hon’ble Prime Minister, rigorous project appraisal, On-line Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) for better monitoring, setting up of Revised Cost Committees in the Ministries for fixation of responsibility for time and cost overruns, regular review of infrastructure projects by the concerned administrative Ministries, and setting up of Central Sector Projects Coordination Committees (CSPCCs) in the States under the Chief Secretaries for removal of bottlenecks and for facilitating the speedy implementation of major projects.”

6.6 The data collected through the OCMS portal is utilized to generate inputs for several high-level meetings, including the PRAGATI monthly review, the Prime Minister's State visits, for addressing Parliamentary Questions and requests under the Right to Information (RTI), Act. To simplify the project monitoring exercise, the OCMS portal is also in a process of being revamped. On being asked to give in detail the status of remodeling of OCMS portal and salient features that are being introduced to the new version, the Ministry furnished the following reply:

“To strengthen the existing monitoring mechanism by this Ministry, the process of redevelopment of OCMS portal has been initiated which can be broadly classified into two constituents as below:

- i. Input (Data Capturing interface) via unified IIG-PMG-OCMS portal: The requisite modification of the DPIIT's IIG-PMG portal to cater to the MoSPI's requirement has been undertaken. The unified IIG-PMG-OCMS is ready for launch.
- ii. Output interface via new OCMS portal: A new API based interface is being developed to generate the automated reports and dashboard.

Further, the tentative salient features of the new application are as below:

- An API based application to pull information from the unified IIG-PMG-OCMS and generate reports/ dashboard. This would avert the existing limitation of the multiple data entry by Line Ministries/ Departments/ Implementing Agencies on similar project monitoring portals.
- An analytics and data-visualization intensive Dashboard.
- Login based Reports/dashboard to facilitate the apex level monitoring (PMO/CabSec/NITI)
- Minimizing the manual intervention to generate reports i.e. Reports Automation.
- Mobile Application.”

### **Effectiveness of project monitoring done by IPM Division of MoSPI vis-a-vis time and cost overruns**

6.7 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation publishes a monthly/ quarterly report on ongoing Projects worth Rs. 150 crore & above, encapsulating a range of key parameters such as Original/Revised/ Anticipated Cost & Date of commissioning, cumulative Expenditure, Physical Progress etc. based on information reported by Implementing Agencies/Ministry/ Department on the MoSPI's OCMS (online Computerized Monitoring System) web application. MoSPI also sends the periodic communications to apprise the administrative Ministries/ Departments of the projects having time and cost overrun, and the data gaps in reporting. These communications are helpful to the stakeholders in managing the project execution at their end.

## CHAPTER VII

### SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER

7.1 Manpower shortage has always been a challenge for the Ministry. There are two main statistics services in the Ministry namely (i) Indian Statistical Service (ISS) and Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS).

#### **Indian Statistical Services**

7.2 The Indian Statistical Service (ISS) was constituted on 1 November 1961 as a cadre of qualified professionals with core discipline of Statistics to control, coordinate, monitor and steer the diversified statistical system to render the crucial statistical needs of planning, policy formulation and decision making by the Government and to consolidate and disseminate these statistics at National and International level.

7.3 Recruitment to the service is made through Indian Statistical Service Examination conducted by UPSC annually, promotion from the feeder grade i.e. Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) and through absorption of Statistical Officers working in other Ministries/Departments. The service has grown over the years in terms of relevancy and number of posts. The allocation of posts in various grades, at present is given below:

Grade	Sanctioned Strength	On Cadre Strength as on 31 December 2024	
		In-position	Vacancy
Higher Administrative Grade plus (HAG+)	05	05	0
Higher Administrative Grade (HAG)	18	18	0
Senior Administrative Grade (SAG)	136	133	3
Junior Administrative Grade (JAG) & NFSG	176 #	173	3
Senior Time Scale (STS)	179	153	26
Junior Time Scale (JTS)	300*	245	55
Total	814	727	87

# Out of these, 30% of senior duty posts are operated in NFSG;  
\* Sanctioned posts include 50 reserve posts.

### **Subordinate Statistical Service**

7.4 The Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) was constituted on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2002 as a cadre of qualified personnel with core discipline of Statistics to assist in building crucial statistical database covering various aspects of Indian Economy for planning, policy formulation and decision making by the Government.

7.5 The SSS is a Group B Central Civil Service of statistical function posts which constitutes feeder cadre for Indian Statistical Service (ISS). It comprises of Senior Statistical Officer (SSO) (Group-B Gazetted) and Junior Statistical Officer (JSO) (Group-B Non Gazetted). As per 7th CPC, the Pay Scale of SSO corresponds to Level 7 and that of JSO to Level 6 in the Pay Matrix. The officers of the SSS cadre are posted in various Ministries/ Departments/ Organisations of the Government of India across the country.

7.6 The SSS Rules 2013, provides for 90 per cent of the posts of JSO to be filled by direct recruitment through open competitive examination, viz. Combined Graduate Level Examination (CGLE) conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) while 10 per cent of total posts are to be filled by promotion from the feeder posts (Statistical function posts existed at Level 4 and Level 5 of pay matrix). The present sanctioned strength of SSS officers as on 01.01.2025 is as follows

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Post</b>	<b>Sanctioned Strength</b>	<b>In position Strength</b>
1.	Senior Statistical Officer	1983	1942
2.	Junior Statistical Officer	2402	1400
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4385</b>	<b>3342</b>

7.7 On a query with regard to the issue of shortage of manpower in the Field Operation Division for the last three fiscals, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in written reply stated as below:

“The officers of Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) form the foundation of the Statistical System of the Country with cadre sanctioned strength of 4385 officers in two grades, that is Junior Statistical Officer (JSO) of level 6 & Senior Statistical Officer (SSO) of level 7. More than 80% of SSS officers are deployed in Field Operation Division (FOD) of National Statistics Office (NSO). The posts of JSOs are filled through direct recruitment by Staff Selection Commission.

The details of SSS manpower deployed and vacancies/ incumbencies in Field Operations Division (FODs) during last three year are as under:

Details as on 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan, 2025	Sanctioned Strength		In-position		Vacancy	
	JSO	SSO	JSO	SSO	JSO	SSO
2025	1963	1566	1055	1526	908	40
2024	1963	1566	1265	1384	698	182
2023	1766	1472	1152	1431	614	41
2022	1766	1472	1093	1399	673	73

7.8 On being asked to specify the extent of impediments suffered by the Division due to manpower shortage, the Ministry stated that the Shortage of manpower in FOD in respect of collection & scrutiny of the data affects the quality of the data. However, the same is being addressed through engaging contractual manpower and training them.

7.9 During the sitting, when further questioned about whether any concrete steps other than contractual hiring are being taken by Ministry to address the critical gaps over the issue of manpower shortage, the Ministry in its post evidence reply submitted as below:

“The officers of Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) form the foundation of the Statistical System of the Country with cadre sanctioned strength of 4385 officers in two grades, that is Junior Statistical Officer (JSO) of level 6 & Senior Statistical Officer (SSO) of level 7. More than 80% of SSS officers are deployed in Field Operations Division (FOD) of National Statistics Office (NSO). The posts of JSOs are filled by direct recruitment through open competitive examination, viz.

Combined Graduate Level Examination (CGLE) conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) on All India basis. The minimum qualification for the CGLE is graduation. It is to mention here that the attrition rate of JSOs is around 44% as large number of newly recruited JSOs leave the job due to other better options. However, MoSPI is regularly referring the vacancy position to Staff Selection Commission for recruitment of JSOs. The shortage of manpower in FOD is addressed by engaging contractual staff through outsourcing agencies and providing them with proper training before deploying them for survey work. It is note worthy to mention that the minimum education qualification for engaging contractual field staff is graduation level.

As per the extant SSS Rules, 90% of the posts for Junior Statistical Officers (JSOs) are to be filled through direct recruitment via the Combined Graduate Level Examination (CGLE) conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC). The remaining 10% of the posts are to be filled by promotion from feeder posts (Statistical function posts at Level 4 and Level 5 of the pay matrix). The recruitment process for the year 2024 was initiated in January 2024, and at that time, 725 vacancies for JSOs (which constitutes 30.18% of the total posts of JSOs) were communicated to the SSC for filling through CGLE-2024. The Tier-II examination for CGLE-2024 was held from January 18 to January 20, 2025. Upon the release of the final results of CGLE-2024 and receipt of dossiers of selected candidates from the SSC, the appointment process for JSOs will be initiated by this Ministry accordingly. Further, the shortage of JSO is presently being handled by hiring of contractual manpower and providing of regular trainings so that the quality and timeliness of data collection is not impacted”

## **CHAPTER VIII**

### **EIGHTH ECONOMIC CENSUS**

8.1 The Economic Census provides a detailed and comprehensive database of all establishments in the country, whether in public or private sector, organized or unorganized sector. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has been directed to undertake the Economic Census every 3 years. So far 6 Economic Censuses have been undertaken by the Ministry of Statistics whereas 7th Economic Census remained unreleased due to excessive delay.

8.2 The main objectives for conduct of EC are as under:

- (i) To provide detailed information on operational and economic variables, activity wise, of all the non-agricultural establishments of the country including its distribution at all India, State, district, village/gram panchayat, ward levels;
- (ii) To generate information on number of establishments, activity wise and area wise in operation;
- (iii) To provide information on number of workers working in establishments, activity wise and area wise in operation;
- (iv) To provide comprehensive information on informal sector including number of workers employed therein;
- (v) To provide updated Directory of Establishments employing 10 or more workers up to village/Gram Panchayat, ward level for local level planning purposes; and
- (vi) To provide an up to date frame (list) from which samples could be drawn for collecting detailed information.

8.3 When asked about details on the funds allocated and utilized for conduct of 7th Economic Census, the Ministry in its written reply has stated as below:

“The total outlay of 7th Economic Census was 913 crores out of which Rs. 691.04 crores have been utilized till date. The final settlement of accounts of 7th EC is yet to be done”.

8.4 On being asked about the measures taken by the Ministry in providing proactive approach to ensure not to repeat the fate of the 7th Economic census, the Ministry furnished the following reply:

“The model of engagement of third party for conduct of field work of 7th Economic Census did not work out as per expectations, as the role of States / UTs was minimal. Thus, in the next EC, the following measures are provisioned as proactive approach to ensure not to repeat the fate of the 7th Economic census:

- i. Complete ownership of the States/UTs in engagement of enumerators for data collection and deployment of supervisors for supervision.
- ii. Timeline for field work has been increased from 3 months in 7th EC to 9 months in 8th EC, to enable States / UTs get sufficient time for conduct of field work. This will also enable the States / UTs to accommodate time consumed in other official obligations like Elections.
- iii. Deployment of manpower will be done by States / UTs. Besides their own field staff, the States/UTs will be given option to hire field staff to tide-over any shortage of manpower.
- iv. Supervision of the field work is recommended to be done by the regular Government staff of the States / UTs.
- v. Special focus on training of field staff in offline/online mode and with interactive training videos. Multiple level trainings are envisaged for Master Trainers / supervisors and enumerators.
- vi. Multiple virtual / physical trainings on concepts and definitions, method of implementation and IT application.
- vii. District level deployment of IT expert to assist in resolving day-to-day technical issues (like in data transfer, in software/ app etc.) faced by the field staff and in data validation at District level.”

8.5 During the sitting, when further being asked about current status of the 8th Economic Census (EC) under the Capacity Development (CD) scheme, the Ministry in its post evidence reply submitted as under:

“MoSPI had submitted a proposal to the Department of Expenditure for conduct of 8th Economic Census in 2025 -26. Approval for conduct of 8th Economic Census has not been obtained. The Department of Expenditure has informed that considering the fiscal constraints as well as the fact that FY 2025 -26 is the last year of the present Finance Commission Cycle and the fiscal resources available to the Government



over the next Finance Commission Cycle would be known in February 2026, MoSPI may present the proposal for consideration of EFC after that date.”

## **PART II**

### **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Reforming National Statistical System**

1. The Committee note that the results from Surveys of National Sample Survey (NSS) are being diversely used for resource allocation, inclusive development, identifying gaps and challenges posed in policy making. The State wise coverage under the National Food Security Act was decided with the help of National Sample Survey Results. It also facilitated in identifying the challenge of skilling in India and were used for estimating workforce to be trained. It also contributed to measure consumption gaps in rural and urban household consumption expenditure and release of indicators for macro economic and social policy making for employment, health, education etc. The Committee in its sitting have been informed that in the Budget 2024, the Working Women Hostel and the establishment of creche to Increase Female Labour Participation were announced based on PLFS data, which revealed that child and personal commitments at home are the main reasons for low female labour participation. The Committee are satisfied to note that enhanced use of alternative data like GST and administrative data has also been introduced in compilation and corroboration of GDP estimates. New surveys, such as Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector and PLFS data with increased frequencies have also been incorporated. The Committee expect the Ministry to remain committed to introducing further reforms in the National Statistical System to boost its efficacy and make the estimates more robust.

## **Budgetary Allocations**

2. The Committee note that the shortfall in fund utilization by Rs. 170.06 crore in 2023-24 against the BE of Rs. 600.00 crore (28.34% downfall) and Rs. 197.94 crore in 2024-25 against the Budget allocation of Rs. 543.87 (36.39% downfall) under Capacity Development (CD) Scheme was mainly due to non-completion of National Integrated Information Project (NIIP) on account of litigation and hiring of less outsourced staff, revision in timelines for launch of second Time Use Survey (TUS), non-release of payment to CSC SPV as they could not achieve the milestone linked to payments etc. In addition, some of the procurement proposals for hiring of technical manpower could not materialise in time and thus the requirement under the heads was reduced at RE stage accordingly. However, the expenditure during 2024-25 as on 10.02.2025 was ₹ 384.72 crore, which is 70.74% and the final expenditure is likely to increase by the end of the financial year. The Committee trust that there is no shortfall in expenditure and the schemes under implementation are not adversely impacted due to under-utilisation. The Committee were informed that Budgetary allocations of CD (Main) Scheme is mainly planned for payment of remuneration, TA/DA, service charges etc. The Committee also observe that Budget allocations for Capital Expenditure have been low as compared to Revenue Expenditure. The Committee suggest that expenses should be planned evenly for Cap Expenditure *vis-à-vis* Revenue Expenditure for taking up various activities for statistical strengthening in the States/UTs also for timely conduction of surveys and capacity building programmes.

## **MPLAD Scheme**

3. The Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme implemented by the MPLADS Division under Programme Implementation Wing of the MoSPI with the main objective to enable the Hon'ble Members of Parliament to recommend creation of durable community assets of national priorities in the interest of common public. Under the scheme,

each MP is authorized with Rs 5.00 crore annually. With the objective of making the scheme more flexible, efficient and effective and to bring it in line with the changing development needs of the community, a revised set of Guidelines have been released which came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023. An e-SAKSHI portal has been developed by the Ministry in collaboration with State Bank of India and TCS to implement revised fund flow procedure under MPLADS in line with the directions of the Ministry of Finance to streamline the processes and enhance transparency of the system. The Committee note that on the design akin to e-SAKSHI portal, a mobile APP namely e-SAKSHI mobile application (APP) has been developed by the Ministry in order to (i) offer accessibility and convenience to the Hon'ble MPs to propose, track and oversee the projects in real-time (ii) enhance decision-making processes (iii) enable swift responses to emerging needs or issues (iv) provide the Hon'ble MPs with instant updates on the status and progress of their proposed projects and (v) streamline communication between MPs and relevant authorities. However, the Committee feel that there is still scope for improvement. There have been instances of significant delay in project sanction as well as discrepancies in constituency maps and their names in digital portal. The Committee also observe that this scheme of noble cause is heavily burdened under the GST and the current amount of funds that have been earmarked for this scheme seem to be insufficient to fulfill the desired objective. Therefore considering the constant hike in inflation and average impact of GST on MPLAD Fund, the Committee recommend the Ministry to prepare a proposal to take up the matter with Ministry of Finance for waiving off GST from MPLADS to enhance the effectiveness of the scheme.

#### **Indian Statistical Institute**

4. Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) is an autonomous institution and is devoted to research, teaching in Statistics and its applications in related subjects, natural sciences and social sciences. Its substantial contribution to the quality and theoretical work is acknowledged globally. The Committee are constrained to note that the actual expenditure incurred in respect of ISI during 2022-23 and 2023-24 was Rs. 299.37 crore and Rs. 312.80 crore which is lesser than the BE of the

respective years viz. Rs. 321.70 crore and Rs.322.29 crore. However, in BE 2024-25 an enhanced allocation of Rs.375.59 crore has been made and the actuals as on 31.12.2024 is Rs.247.45 crore. In the face of persistent under-utilization of funds by ISI, Kolkata in the last two financial years, the Committee are concerned about the performance of the institution. The Committee expect the ISI to fully utilize the allocated funds for the year 2024-25. The Committee note that the ISI has a total budgetary grant of Rs.349.39 crores (B.E) for the fiscal 2025-26. The Committee hope that with this budgetary provision, ISI would be able to undertake earnestly the task pertaining to development of new centres and strengthening of their existing centres. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to provide necessary resources to enable the Institute to fulfill its mandate alongwith ongoing projects including academic programmes.

#### **Minimize Time overrun and cost escalation**

5. The Infrastructure Projects Monitoring Division (IPMD) of MoSPI undertakes the monitoring of projects above ₹ 150 crore. One of the significant contributions of the IPMD has been implementing systemic improvements periodically to expedite the project implementation. MoSPI publishes a monthly/ quarterly report on ongoing projects worth Rs. 150 crore & above, encapsulating a range of key parameters such as Original/Revised/ Anticipated Cost & Date of commissioning, cumulative Expenditure, Physical Progress etc. based on information reported by Implementing Agencies/Ministry/ Department on the MoSPI's OCMS (online Computerized Monitoring System) web application. MoSPI also sends the periodic communications to apprise the administrative Ministries/ Departments of the projects having time and cost overrun, and the data gaps in reporting. These are helpful to the stakeholders in managing the project execution at their end.

The Committee note that as of 31st January 2025, there were 1719 projects that have incurred time and cost overrun under MoSPI's monitoring (as per reporting on the OCMS portal by the Line Ministries/ Project Implementing Agencies). Out of which, there were a total of 461 projects having cost overrun with respect to the original cost, amounting to overrun value of Rs. 5,35,384.25 Crore.

Further, a total 771 projects were having time overrun with respect to the Original Date of Commissioning, with an average delay of around 34 months which is approximately ten per cent of the budget itself. The Committee note that the Government has taken major steps like (i) Periodic reviews under PRAGATI (ii) rigorous project appraisal (iii) Online Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) (iv) setting of revised Cost Committees in the Ministries etc. However, despite these measures the time and cost overrun are too huge to be ignored and still point to poor monitoring and appraisal of projects by the concerned Ministries. The Committee strongly recommend that the latest approved date of commissioning and cost of projects should be adhered to at least now and under no circumstances these should be allowed to necessitate further revision.

#### **Shortage of Manpower**

6. Statistics is a specialized field which is vital for socio-economic planning and decision making and thus in effective nation building requires skilled manpower. The Committee are concerned about the shortage of manpower which is persisting for a prolonged period of time. Year on year, the vacancies in Field Operations Division (FODs) are rising. During 2023, it was 614, 698 in 2024 and 908 in 2025 (as on 1<sup>st</sup> January). The shortage of manpower in Field Operation Division (FOD) in respect of collection & scrutiny of the data affects the quality of the data. According to the Ministry, the same is being addressed through engaging contractual manpower and training them. The Committee is of the view that this is a stopgap arrangement and does not fully address the issue. The Committee, therefore recommend the Ministry to deal with the issue of severe manpower shortage on priority basis and take concrete steps towards recruitment of regular field based staff in a time bound manner.

#### **Seventh and Eighth Economic Census**

7. The Committee understand that the Economic Census is a valuable source of disaggregated information on various operational and structural variables of all

establishments of the country as it provides valuable insights into geographical spread/clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern, persons engaged, etc. of all economic establishments. The information collected through census are useful for socio-economic developmental planning at state and district levels. The practice provides an updated sampling frame for follow-up enterprise surveys undertaken for detailed and comprehensive analysis of all establishments across the nation. The Committee were apprised that Seventh Economic Census was not finalized due to quality concerns. The Committee note that the total outlay of the seventh Economic Census was Rs. 913 crores out of which Rs.691.04 crores have been utilized. The Committee feel that even after spending such a huge sum the purpose of the whole exercise was defeated. This is a sad state of affairs. The Committee note that as on date, approval for conduct of 8th Economic Census has not been obtained from Ministry and MOSPI has been requested to present the proposal for consideration of EFC after February, 2026. The Committee observe that the last Economic Census i.e the 6<sup>th</sup> was conducted in the year 2013, now with the non-finalization of the 7<sup>th</sup> Economic Census and push back of the date of 8<sup>th</sup> Economic Census the gap between two consecutive Economic Census will grow to more than twelve years. This is a large void of data. The Committee therefore urge the Ministry to salvage some useful data collected during the fieldwork done for the 7<sup>th</sup> Economic Census and to at least come out with some interim data for this period to partly justify the expenditure incurred on the survey. The Committee further desire that the Ministry should begin all the preparatory work for the conduct of the field work of 8<sup>th</sup> Economic Census in a smooth, reliable and time bound manner.

New Delhi;  
18 March, 2025  
27 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB,  
Chairperson  
Standing Committee on Finance

**Appendix-I**

**Minutes of the Thirteenth Sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2024-25).  
The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 from 1500 hrs. to 1630 hrs  
in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.**

**PRESENT**

**Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
3. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
4. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
5. Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap
6. Shri Kishori Lal
7. Thiru Arun Nehru
8. Shri N. K. Premachandran
9. Prof. Sougata Ray
10. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
11. Dr. K. Sudhakar
12. Shri Manish Tewari
13. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni
14. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy

**RAJYA SABHA**

15. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
16. Shri Sanjay Seth
17. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
18. Smt. Darshana Singh
19. Dr. M. Thambidurai
20. Shri Pramod Tiwari

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                          |   |                  |
|----|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa | - | Director         |
| 2. | Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana  | - | Deputy Secretary |



## **WITNESSES**

### **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation**

1. Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary
2. Smt. Geeta Singh Rathore, DG (NSS)
3. Shri Narender Kumar Santoshi, DG (CS)
4. Shri P.R Meshram, DG (DG)
5. Shri. Deepak Narain, AS & FA
6. Ms. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, Director, ISI Kolkata
7. Shri Sanjay, ADG (NAD)
8. Shri Kishore Kumar, ADG (CQCD)
9. Shri Praveen Shukla, ADG (ASPD)
10. Shri Tanweer Qamar Mohammad, JS (Admin)
11. Shri Arindam Modak, DDG (MPLAD)
12. Shri Siljo V.K., DDG (NSC)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members and the witnesses to the sitting of the Committee. After customary introduction, some Hon'ble Members raised concerns regarding glitches in MPLADS portal especially in the state of Assam, discontinuation of National Programme for Improving Quality of Statistics in India (NPIQSI), adequate reflection of impact of current weightage system on household expenditures, synching of Ministry of Rural Development with MOSPI regarding monitoring and implementation of central sponsored schemes, manpower shortage, proper utilization of budgetary allocations under MPLADS Head. Thereafter, the Ministry gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Reforming the National Statistical System and its budget allocations. The Ministry briefed the Committee about major activities of MOSPI, overview of National Statistical System, macro economic and social sector indicators, National Accounts Statistics, diverse socio-economic surveys, completion of 75 years of National Sample surveys, large sample sizes and use of administrative data sources, results of key

surveys of NSS, reforms undertaken to improve National Statistical System, provision related to transition of MPLAD Scheme to e-Sakshi Portal, Infrastructure and Project Monitoring, achievements of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), India's membership of UN Statistical Commission, citizen outreach, overview of Capacity Development (CD) Scheme and its budgetary allocations. The Members asked their queries on current status of Eighth Economic Census, private consumption expenditure, contribution of private sector to capital expenditure projects, interplay between NSC, ISI and NSO, waiving of GST on MPLADS funds, use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for statistics collection, unbiased and impartial data collection, enhancement of MPLAD fund, time and cost overrun of projects, furnishing of granular data regarding food inflation, selection of authorized government agencies for project implementation and monitoring under MPLADS, strengthening of cyber security. The Committee also discussed its desire to visit the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

3. The witnesses responded to the queries raised by the Members and the Chairperson then directed the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to furnish written replies to the points raised by the Members which could not be readily replied by them during the discussion by the end of this month to the Secretariat.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

## **Appendix-II**

**Minutes of the Seventeenth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2024-25).  
The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 18 March, 2025 from 1500 hrs to 1545 hrs in  
Committee Room '62', Samvidhan Sadan (SS), New Delhi.**

### **PRESENT**

**Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab – Chairperson**

#### **LOK SABHA**

2. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
3. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
4. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
5. Shri K. Gopinath
6. Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap
7. Shri Kishori Lal
8. Shri Harendra Singh Malik
9. Shri Chudasama Rajeshbhai Naranbhai
10. Thiru Arun Nehru
11. Shri N. K. Premachandran
12. Dr. C. M. Ramesh
13. Prof. Sougata Ray
14. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
15. Dr. K. Sudhakar
16. Shri Manish Tewari
17. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni
18. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy

#### **RAJYA SABHA**

19. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
20. Shri S. Selvaganabathy
21. Shri Sanjay Seth
22. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
23. Smt. Darshana Singh
24. Shri Pramod Tiwari

#### **SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                          |   |                  |
|----|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa | - | Director         |
| 2. | Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana  | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 3. | Shri T. Mathivanan       | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following draft reports for consideration and adoption:

- i. Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Public Enterprises and Investment & Public Asset Management);
- ii. Ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue);
- iii. Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs;
- iv. Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Planning;
- v. Twelfth Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; and
- vi. Thirteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services).

After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the above draft Reports with minor modifications and authorised the Chairperson to finalise them and present the Reports to the Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

\*\*\*