

Title: Regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 4th Report of Standing Committee on Finance in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2004-2005.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may lay it on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I lay the statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance in pursuance of Direction 73A of the directions by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

*The Standing Committee on Finance examined the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2004-05 and presented their Fourth Report to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 20th August, 2004. The Report contained eight recommendations. These recommendations of the said Committee relate to -

provisioning of funds only for those schemes/projects which have either been kicked off or likely to be taken up during that particular year;

introducing a separate head in the Demands for Grants of the Ministry for Information Technology;

setting up of National Statistical Commission through a Bill rather than through an administrative order;

amendment of Collection of Statistics Act which will bestow more powers on the Ministry with regard to Collection of Statistics;

implementation of Tier-1 of the Scheme 'Modernisation of Statistical System in India' expeditiously;

(vi) identification of various factors which cause delays in execution of projects and tackling the same in an effective manner on priority;

Laid on the Table of the House.

(vii) revision of allocation under Major Works for construction of Central Training Facility (CTF) at RE stage so as to minimise the gap between RE and actuals;

(viii) realistic assessment of advantages and disadvantages of schemes before planning the Plan Schemes and budgetary allocation.

All the recommendations of the Committee have been considered in the Ministry and action has already been initiated. The two new schemes, viz., Tier-1 of India Statistical Strengthening Project and Fifth Economic Census for which funds were provided during the current year 2004-05 have been operationalised during the year. Separate budget head for IT has been introduced in the Demands for Grants for 2005-06. Draft amendments to Collection of Statistics Act are being finalised in consultation with Ministry of Law. The budget allocation under 'Major Works' for construction of Central Training Facility was assessed realistically and revised from Rs.8.86 crore in BE 2004-05 to Rs.25 lakh in RE 2004-05.

The Action Taken Notes (ATNs) of the Ministry were forwarded to the Standing Committee on Finance in October, 2004. In its Eighth Report, the Committee has accepted the ATNs on all the recommendations except ATNs related to setting up of National Statistical Commission and implementation of the Plan Scheme 'Modernisation of Statistical System in India'. In order to expedite the setting up of the National Commission on Statistics, the Ministry has proposed to set up the Commission initially through an administrative order. Thereafter, the Commission itself

could develop a suitable legislation for establishing a Commission on statutory basis. Based on the above, a draft Cabinet Note has been

prepared and the process of consultations with the concerned Ministries prior to its finalisation is under way. The Plan Scheme 'Modernisation of Statistical System in India', which has been re-named as 'India Statistical Strengthening Project' has been operationalised with five components in Tier-1. The ATNs on the above two points have also been forwarded to the Standing Committee on Finance.