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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2017-18)**

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

**'REVIEW OF NSSO AND CSO AND STREAMLINING OF STATISTICS COLLECTION
MACHINERY IN THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
SYSTEM FOR PROJECT MONITORING/APPRAISAL'**

FIFTIETH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2017 / Agrahayana, 1939 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 20 December, 2017

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 20 December, 2017



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COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE – 2017-18

Dr. M. Veerappa Moily - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

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3. Shri Bandaru Dattatreya
4. Shri Nishikant Dubey
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30. Shri Digvijaya Singh
31. Dr. Manmohan Singh

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Smt. Abha Singh Yaduvanshi | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri Rajesh Ranjan Kumar | - | Director |
| 3. Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan | - | Additional Director |
| 4. Shri Preetam Prabhakar | - | Sr. Committee Assistant |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorized by the Committee, present this Fiftieth Report on the subject "Review of NSSO and CSO and streamlining of statistics collection machinery in the country including Management Information System for project monitoring/appraisal" pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

2. At their sittings held on 29 September, 2016 and 04 May, 2017, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

3. The Committee at their sitting held on 16 November, 2017 considered and adopted the draft Report and authorised the Chairperson to finalise the same and present it to Parliament.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officials of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the requisite material and information which were desired in connection with the examination of the subject.

5. For facility of reference, the observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in Part-II of the Report.

NEW DELHI
18 December, 2017
27 Agrahayana, 1939 (Saka)

DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Finance

Report

PART - I

Introductory

1.1 The India Statistical System presently functions within the overall administrative framework of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The Ministry came into existence on 15th October 1999 after the merger of the Department of Statistics and the Department of Programme Implementation. These two erstwhile Departments constitute the two Wings of the Ministry. The Statistics Wing, called the National Statistical Organisation (NSO) consists of Central Statistics Office (CSO) and National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). The Programme Implementation (PI) Wing has three Divisions, namely (i) Twenty Point Programme (TPP) Division (ii) Infrastructure and Project Monitoring (IPM) Division and (iii) Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) Division. The PI Wing monitors implementation of Twenty Point Programme (TPP) and Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing Rs. 150 crore and above, besides implementation of MPLADS.

1.2 The Statistics Wing re-designated as National Statistics Office (NSO) consists of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

1.3 The Government of India in a resolution dated 1st June, 2005 with the approval of the Cabinet, has set up a National Statistical Commission (NSC) in the Ministry. The Chief Statistician of India (CSI) is the Secretary to the Commission.

1.4 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation attaches considerable importance to coverage and quality aspects of statistics released in the country. The statistics released are based on administrative sources, surveys and censuses conducted by the Centre and State Governments and non-official sources and studies. The surveys conducted by the Ministry are based on scientific sampling methods. Field data are collected through dedicated field staff.

1.5 In line with the emphasis on the quality of statistics released by the Ministry, the methodological issues concerning the compilation of statistics are overseen by

Committees like Advisory Committee on National Accounts, Standing Committee on Industrial Statistics, Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices and Cost of Living (TAC on SPCL), etc. The Ministry compiles datasets based on current data, after applying standard statistical techniques and extensive scrutiny and supervision.

1.6 India's post-independence statistical system has been remarkable from its very inception - not only for its level of ambition, but for the careful and nuanced approach it has displayed from the early 1950s onwards in adapting international standards and definitions to Indian specificities. Yet such an endeavour is always necessarily fraught and open to challenge at different levels; in terms of the validity of the approach, the exactitude of the concepts, the effectiveness of the implementation when gathering data, and so on.

1.7 One particular conceptual and empirical minefield relates to the nature of work and how to capture it in empirical data, particularly in societies where so much work occurs in informal, often even very private settings that can be very hard to identify, much less to measure. The fact that international definitions of work and of economic activity have themselves been changing over time only adds to the complexity. Yet capturing work - its extent, its nature, its remuneration (or lack of it) and the terms under which it occurs - is absolutely essential not just for those involved in policy making for development and equity, but also for all those concerned with understanding the nature of Indian Economy and society.

2 Central Statistics Office (CSO)

2.1 The Central Statistics Office (CSO), an attached office of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, coordinates the statistical activities in the country and evolves statistical standards. It coordinates statistical activities amongst central Ministries/Departments and State Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DESSs), and lays down norms and standards in the field of official statistics. The (CSO) regularly compiles estimates of national accounts aggregates (i.e. domestic product,

consumption expenditure, capital formation, saving, capital stock etc.) for the economy as a whole as well as for institutional sectors.

2.2 The activities of CSO *inter-alia* include compilation for National Accounts, Index of Industrial Production, Consumer Price Indices for Urban/Rural/Combined, Human Development Statistics including Gender Statistics, conduct of Annual Survey of Industries and Economic Census and imparting training in Official Statistics. The CSO also assists in the development of statistics in the States and Union Territories and disseminates Energy Statistics, Social and Environment Statistics and prepares the National Industrial Classification.

2.3 The National Accounts Division (NAD) of the CSO 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 Savings along with details of transactions of institutional sectors. The NAD brings out annually a publication titled "National Accounts Statistics", containing these statistics.

2.4 The NAD is also responsible for preparation and release of Supply-Use Tables (SUT) and Input-output Transaction Tables (IOTT) from time to time. The NAD maintains liaison with international organisations on statistical matters.

2.5 The NAD provides technical guidance and support to the State/UT Directorates of Economics & Statistics (DESS) on compilation and release of State Accounts, 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, viz., Railways, Communication, Banking & Insurance and Central Government Administration are furnished by the NAD for the purpose.

2.6 In order to ensure comparability between the national and state level estimates, the NAD 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.

2.7 In compliance with the Special Data Dissemination Standards of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and as per its own policy, the NAD releases annual and quarterly estimates of GDP from time to time as per pre-specified schedule given in Advance Release Calendar. The Calendar has been revised in November 2016 to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Finance in the context of advancing the budgetary process. Details are given below:

Calendar for Quarterly estimates of GDP

(1) Q3 OF 2016-17 : 28.02.2017

(2) Q4 OF 2016-17 : 31.05.2017

(3) Q1 OF 2017-18 : 31.08.2017

(4) Q2 OF 2017-18 : 30.11.2017

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

Calendar for Annual estimates of GDP

(1) FIRST ADVANCE ESTIMATES FOR 2016-17 : 06.01.2017

(2) FIRST REVISED ESTIMATES FOR 2015-16 : 31.01.2017

(3) SECOND ADVANCE ESTIMATES FOR 2016-17 : 28.02.2017

(4) PROVISIONAL ESTIMATES FOR 2016-17 : 31.05.2017

2.8 The NAD has a regular advisory mechanism in the form of an Advisory Committee on National Accounts comprising eminent economists, statisticians and other experts, including Departmental representatives, to look into and advise on all methodological aspects of compilation and presentation of national accounts.

2.9 In January, 2015, CSO introduced the new series of national accounts statistics with base year 2011-12, replacing the previous series with base year 2004-05. The reason for changing the base year of the national accounts periodically is to take into account the structural changes which have been taking place in the economy and to depict a true picture of the economy. Base year revisions of national accounts statistics

are followed by base year revision of regional accounts. During 2015-16, CSO has imparted necessary training and guidance to the state officials on the changes in methodologies and data sources in the new series for compilation of state income estimates on revised base year.

3. National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)

3.1 Organisations and Functions:

- i. The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation is responsible for conduct of large scale sample surveys in diverse fields, on All India basis. Primary data is collected regularly through nation-wide household surveys on various socio economic subjects, Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) under the Collection of Statistics Act and enterprise surveys, as a follow up of the Economic Census. Besides these surveys, NSSO collects data on rural and urban prices and 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 for socio-economic Surveys in urban areas.
- ii. NSSO is entrusted with the responsibility of collection, processing and analysis of data in diverse socio-economic areas, such as employment, consumer expenditure, housing conditions, environment, literacy levels, health, nutrition, family welfare, etc. It also renders technical advice to State Governments for conducting surveys at State level.
- iii. NSSO functions, with requisite autonomy in matters relating to data collection and publication/dissemination of results/data based on its surveys, under overall guidance and supervision of National Statistical Commission (NSC) which appoints Working Groups/Technical Committees, comprising both official and non-official members, on different subjects for finalisation of survey instruments for its surveys. Director General and Chief Executive Officer (DG&CEO) is

responsible for overall coordination and supervision of all activities of NSSO and is assisted by four Additional Director Generals, each one being in-charge of separate Divisions responsible for four distinct aspects of such large scale surveys relating to their designing & planning, field work/ data collection , data processing and coordination.

- iv. Since its inception in 1950, National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) is responsible for conducting large scale nation-wide sample surveys for generating statistics for bridging the data gaps on varied socio-economic aspects crucial for planning, policy formulation and informed decision making. Primary data is collected regularly through nation-wide household and establishments surveys. Apart from conducting surveys, the NSSO provides technical guidance to States in the field of agricultural statistics for conducting crop area and yield estimation surveys under the Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS) Scheme, undertakes the field work relating to Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) and collects monthly data on retail prices. NSSO functions under the overall direction of National Statistical commission (NSC) with requisite independence and autonomy in the matter of collection, processing and dissemination of NSS data. It also maintains and updates frame of urban area units for use in sample surveys in urban areas.

3.2 Divisions of NSSO:

The NSSO has four divisions, namely (i) Survey Design and Research Division (SDRD), (ii) Field Operations Division (FOD), (iii) Data Processing Division (DPD) and (iv) Coordination and Publication Division (CPD).

- i. The Survey Design and Research Division (SDRD) located at Kolkata is responsible for technical planning of surveys, formulation of sample design, designing of enquiry schedules, formulation of concepts and definitions, drawing of tabulation plan, analysis and presentation of results and preparation of survey reports.
- ii. The Field Operations Division (FOD) with its headquarters at Delhi/ Faridabad and a network of 6 Zonal Offices, 51 Regional Offices and 116 Sub-Regional

Offices spread throughout the country, is responsible for the collection of primary data for the surveys undertaken by NSSO.

- iii. The Data Processing Division (DPD) has its headquarters at Kolkata. It has six Data Processing Centers at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata, Delhi, Giridih and Nagpur. It is responsible for sample selection, software development, processing and tabulation of the data collected through surveys. It undertakes the job of software development for data entry, data verification, computer edit, other data validations, tabulation, etc. It also assists the States by providing IT solutions in all their data processing related activities and also through periodic training/workshop and other interactive methods.
- iv. The Coordination and Publication Division (CPD) at Delhi coordinates all the activities of different Divisions. Besides, CPD is also responsible for organising National Seminars to discuss the survey results of various Socio-Economic Surveys conducted by the NSSO. It publishes the technical journal of NSSO, named Sarvekshana which includes research papers on various socio-economic surveys of NSSO.

3.3 When enquired as to how was it ensured that the errors are minimal in the surveys conducted, the Ministry in their post-evidence reply have stated as thus;

"With a view to minimize creeping of any type of errors in its survey data, NSSO, MoSPI has maintained high standard in planning & designing of its survey, collection of data, data verification & validation and generation of results based on its large scale multi-subject sample surveys over the years. Multiple level checks, beginning from the conceptualization of the survey to final dissemination of results in public domain, become the touch stone of authenticity and transparency in data generation by MoSPI. Independent body, namely, National Statistical Commission (NSC) guides and oversees the entire process of Socio-Economic Surveys of NSSO and approval of results based on the survey.

For ensuring adoption of appropriate scientific methods in conducting the survey and coverage of items relevant to the user Ministries & other users, National Statistical Commission (NSC) appoints for each Round, a Working Group comprising of eminent

economists, statisticians, officers from user Ministries / Organisations and other domain experts to oversee the development of survey instruments and checking the reliability of survey results presented in NSS Reports. Besides considering other relevant information for formulating suitable survey instrument, the Working Group also takes into account the experiences of NSSO during last survey on similar subject to minimize the non-sampling errors.

The trainings of the Field Investigators are organized elaborately in local languages to ensure correct implementation of concepts and definitions while collecting data. There is also a system of inspection/supervision and scrutiny of data by senior officers to check and ensure the quality of data and monitor the working of Field Investigators during data collection. In addition, officers of the NSSO are adequately exposed to in-service training on subjects relevant to enhance their skills on surveys as well as general skills.

As per the survey process flow, for any NSS Socio Economic (SE) survey, Field Operations Division (FOD) collects the data, Survey Design and Research Division (SDRD) prepares the survey instruments and also prepares the report and Data Processing Division (DPD) is involved in the data processing activity of these SE surveys. DPD makes its best effort through scrutiny, verification and validation of data to improve the quality of data. In the entire process of data validation, DPD closely interacts with FOD and SDRD for clarifications, wherever required. Data validation process in DPD is quite elaborate and involves pre-data entry scrutiny, post data entry scrutiny in the form of Computer Scrutiny Program for content checks, coverage checks, howler (extreme value) checks, consistency checks through computer edit rules etc. These validation rules are provided by SDRD, based on which the requisite software are developed in DPD. Thus DPD plays a significant role in improving the quality of data collected by FOD through various stages of validation."

3.4 Availability of qualified and trained staff with adequate experience is one of the important factors for ensuring the quality of data. NSSO has been constantly implementing measures required to ensure quality of data. The quality of data, being collected with the manpower, suitably supplemented by the enumerators appointed on

contract basis against the vacant regular posts, is ensured by providing regular trainings to the enumerators and other officials involved in the data collection in local languages through Regional Training Camps (RTC), Review Regional Training Camps (RRTC), etc. to ensure correct interpretation of concepts and definitions. In addition, the contractual staffs are assigned data collection work under close supervision and technical guidance from the regular experienced staff of NSSO and further there is also a system of inspection by senior officers to check the quality of data and the working of Field Investigators during data collection.

For adoption of appropriate scientific methods in conducting the survey, NSSO appoints for each Round, a Working Group comprising of eminent economists, statisticians and other experts to oversee the development of survey instruments. Detailed instructions/guidelines for the field investigators are part of the survey instruments. These instructions/guidelines, along with the system of training mentioned above, ensure adequate probing by the enumerator wherever required.

3.5 On being asked as to why do we get so many different estimates of GDP and which was the most reliable estimate and how authentic was the Ministry's estimate of GDP, the Ministry in their post-evidence reply stated as under;

"The GDP estimates are released in accordance with a release calendar to meet the requirements of users. In the process, estimates are released for the same year at different points of time. They differ because of differences in the underlying data. For instance, the advance estimates are released before the completion of the year essentially based on indicators only, while the provisional estimates are released just after the completion of the year based on some more detailed data. First revised estimates are released with a lot of actual data becoming available. Usually, after third revised estimates of the GDP are released, the estimates are frozen. Thus, the estimates undergo revision as more and more data becomes available. All these estimates are authentic and reliable at the time of their release and are based on an accepted methodology. CSO compiles GDP estimates are compiled based on United Nations Guidelines on System of National Accounts-2008 under the guidance of

Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics and the details of methodology are available on the MOSPI website."

3.6 Asked as to how could the adoption of United Nations Fundamental Principles on official statistics improve the quality of GDP estimates, the Ministry in their post-evidence reply have stated as thus;

"Official statistics are public goods and that they must comply with certain basic principles, such as professional independence, impartiality, accountability and transparency about methods of collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics. These principles are enshrined in the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. These Principles were adopted by the Government through a Cabinet Resolution on 4th May, 2016. Prior to and after the adoption, the Principles are being followed in most of the statistical products, National Sample Surveys in particular. This Ministry has been reviewing the statistical system holistically, on what has been done consistent with the Principles, and what more needs to be done, so as to take all the remaining necessary actions for creating the procedures, systems and institutions in furtherance of the Principles. Adherence to the Principles by all the organs in the statistical system will improve quality of statistics, including GDP and its underlying data and also enhance public trust in statistics."

3.7 On the need to have a separate service price index and whether the CPI captures services adequately, the Ministry in their post-evidence reply stated as under;

"There is a need to have separate service price index as CPI does not cover all services, such as trade, real estate, computer services, financial & insurance and many other services that are required in GDP compilation. In addition, the need to have a separate Service Price Index also necessitated from the fact that service sector contributes about 52.97 percent to overall Gross Value Added (as per National Accounts Estimate of 2015-16). The index will give exclusive measure of the change in prices of service items.

The Consumer Price Index compiled by the CSO, includes only 40 consumer service items in the basket whereas Classification of Individual Consumption according

to Purpose (COICOP), an International Standard classification suggests for 53 service items. Thus, the CPI does not cover services adequately."

4. Streamlining of Statistics Collection Machinery

4.1 India has a laterally decentralised system of statistics over different Ministries at the Centre, and a vertically decentralized system between the Centre and the States/ Union Territories. The authority of collection of statistics on any subject generally vests in the authority that is responsible for that subject. MoSPI plays a pivotal role in streamlining of statistics collection over activities under its direct control, while it assists the other agencies wherever such assistance is required.

4.2 Some major steps taken for streamlining the statistics collection machinery in recent period are described in the following paragraphs:

i. National Indicator Framework for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 adopted the Resolution on 'Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' consisting on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated 169 targets to be achieved by 2030. India has been an active party in the dialogue and development of SDGs and one of the 193 countries that have adopted them. These SDGs are most comprehensive list of global goals integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been entrusted with the responsibility of developing the National Indicator Framework for measuring the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries/Departments. Statistical indicators will be the backbone of monitoring of SDGs at the national and state level. An initial draft list of national indicators has been prepared based on the consultations with the concerned Ministries/Departments. The national list of indicators would undergo another round of inter ministerial consultation before finalisation. The Nodal Ministries/Departments would be responsible for providing

regular information on these indicators at required intervals and disaggregation for national and international reporting of SDGs.

When the Committee wanted to know about the measurement of achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Secretary (MoSPI) and Chief Statistician of India, while deposing before the Committee, *inter alia* stated as thus:

".....we had prepared a draft indicator list. This had been put up on the website for public comments and consultations. We had organised some consultations, NITI Aayog had organised some consultations,.... UN agencies on their own had also undertaken consultations..... Over 3,000 and odd specific suggestions in different goals and targets have been received. We are in the final stages of going through all of those recommendations and finalising an indicator list based the initial consultation..... This is work under progress. The draft national policy has been circulated internally for discussion. We hope that we will be able to complete that soon".

ii. Adoption of United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Indian Statistical System is founded on the principles of professional independence, impartiality, accountability and transparency about methods of collection, compilation and dissemination of official statistics. These principles are broadly consistent with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Government of India has adopted these UN Principles formally in June 2015. The adoption and implementation of these principles by other Ministries/Departments of Central Government and also State Governments will lead to enhancement of public trust in the integrity of official statistics. The adoption also paved the way for devising a National Policy of Official Statistics for improving systems, procedures and institutions.

iii. Extensive review of Statistical Functions and Personnel requirement in Central Govt.

In 2015, MoSPI had compiled a Compendium on Core Official Statistics bringing out the statistical activities being undertaken in different Central Ministries, and the

various areas, where there was a need to enhance the scope of these activities to generate good-quality statistics for strengthening the needs of planning, policy formulation and evidence-based decision making. Based on this exercise, a Compendium was also brought out and circulated to all concerned Ministries. Further, MoSPI had carried out an extensive exercise to assess the personnel requirement of Statistical personnel to be deployed in various Ministries/Departments. This exercise culminated in carrying out a Cadre Review of Indian Statistical Service (ISS), an organised Group A Central Service constituted specifically to man the statistical posts in the Central Govt. The Cadre Review has since been notified and at present is under implementation.

The sanctioned strength and number of incumbents in position as on 1st December 2016, are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength	In Position
1.	Senior Statistical Officer	1781	1420
2.	Junior Statistical Officer	2196	1696
Total Strength		3977	3116

iv. Economic Census

The Economic Census (EC) provides a list of all economic establishments in the country, including those in the unorganized sector. It also provides information on the number of persons employed in these establishments, their geographical location, type of ownership, etc. The information available from the EC is useful for administrative plans and programmes, besides forming the basis for conducting any established-based surveys. The all-India results of the Sixth Economic Census, which was conducted during 2013-14, have been recently released by MoSPI. Most of the State-wise reports of the EC have also been released, and the remaining ones will be released very shortly. MoSPI is in the process of conducting workshops of various stakeholders like Central Ministries and State Govts. to apprise them about the availability of the results, which can be used for planning industrial development and other purposes. The workshops also aim to provide orientation to the users about accessing the EC data

online. A SAS-BI tool is also developed to easily access the analytical data by the users.

v. Survey on Services Sector

The importance of the services sector in the Indian economy has been growing continuously. With this growth, the need of reliable data on the services sector has also been growing. It has, therefore, been decided to conduct a focused survey on services sector in the 74th round of NSS, i.e. during 2016-17. The frame for this survey comprises the list of establishments from Sixth Economic Census (EC), available Business Registers (BR), and the list of active private non-financial companies (MCA-2013-14) with some auxiliary information. Enterprises maintaining auditable accounts only will be covered and data collection will be carried out under the provisions of the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008. The outcome of this survey will be examined thoroughly by the government and academic circles, with the objective of making the survey of the services sector an annual feature similar to the existing Annual Survey of Industries (ASI).

vi. Revision of base year of National Accounts Statistics and Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The base year of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and major macro-economic aggregates has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 by this Ministry in January 2015. As part of the base year revision exercise, a comprehensive review of methodology and data sets was made. The new series incorporates the latest available data sets along with the recommendations laid down under the System of National Accounts, 2008. The revised series of CPI (Rural/Urban/Combined) with new base 2012=100 is being released with effect from January 2015. In the revised series, many methodological changes have been incorporated including improvement in measurement of Index and consumer basket, to make the indices more robust. It further gives an improved measure of inflation.

vii. Initiatives for better use of Administrative Data

A large part of statistical data is generated as a product or by-product of administration or from monitoring of specific projects / programmes. However, quite often these data are available in silos, and are not available to users because of incompatibilities or non-feasibility of different databases. The Govt. has taken various initiatives in the recent past to have some standardization/ common parameters in the databases to make them fit for integrated use. The seeding of Aadhar Number& PAN Number, GIS information, census codes of geographical units like towns/ villages etc. has been initiated across the Govt. databases towards this endeavor. In the new base revision exercise on national accounts with 2011-12 as the base year, MoSPI has made extensive use of MCA 21 database in the compilation of GDP.

viii. Online collection/ submission of Data for Surveys

CSO has been conducting the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), the principal source of industrial statistics in India, annually. In recent years, a web-portal has been used by CSO for collecting the data directly from data source. The respondent, an establishment, can submit the data online as per its convenience by accessing the portal through a pre-assigned user id and password. However, in case a unit does not submit the data online, the portal has a provision for each field office of NSSO to submit the data online at its end. This process has increased the accuracy of data as the validation checks provided for the data entry module help in considerably reducing the errors. Further, the doing away of sending physical filled-in schedules through post has resulted in considerable cost and time savings. The web portal is being continuously refined.

On the lines of ASI, CSO is contemplating development of a web-based data collection system for Index of Industrial Production (IIP), a monthly index compiled to assess the growth of industrial production and release with a lag of 6 weeks.

CSO is also mandated to release the Consumer Price Index (CPI) – Rural, Urban and Combined. This involves collection of more than 5 lakh data values. The submission of this data is now being done online from the field offices of NSSO and postal

department. As a result, the CPI is now released with a time lag of only around 12 days. Improvements in this system of online data collection are being carried out incrementally.

ix. Wide Area Network (WAN) for State Domestic Product (SDP) Estimates

A wide area network has been developed by MoSPI which is dedicated to information on 'State Domestic Product'. The objective is to collect and present data pertaining to SDP from all 29 States and 7 Union Territories of India at one platform. This portal provides secure access to State Income Units of Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the States/ UTs and MOSPI for consolidating a centralized database on the different sets of information used for compilation of state income.

x. Employment - Unemployment Data with Increased periodicity

So far NSSO used to conduct employment-unemployment survey at 5-year intervals. There is undeniably a need to have a system for labour market data at more frequent/quarterly interval for measuring short-term changes and on annual basis for long-term basis. Accordingly, NSSO has designed a survey called the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), which will fulfill this need. The sampling design and schedule for this survey has been finalized, and the data collection under this survey is going to be started by NSSO during 2016-17.

On the need to have more regular employment data, the Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Chief Statistician of India, while deposing before the Committee on 4th May 2017, *inter alia* stated as *thus*:

".... This is a work which had been taken up in the Ministry quite seriously. I am happy to tell the Committee that from the 1st of April we had started a new survey under the National Sample Survey. This will be a regular survey, it will continue year after year, to measure employment and labour market characteristics. The survey is entitled *Periodic Labour Force Survey*. The intent of the survey is to produce on an annual basis estimates of characteristics of the labour market covering all India both rural, urban as well as in the States of the country...."

xi. Data collection through Tablets

With a view to replace use of paper schedule for data collection by hand-held devices and reduce time lag in release of results of the survey, NSSO has developed a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) solution with technical assistance from the World Bank (WB). Initially, the CAPI solution would be introduced in the new quarterly Employment Unemployment Survey of NSSO, namely, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), which is scheduled to commence soon. Later on, data collection by using IT device would be explored for other Socio Economic (SE) surveys of the Ministry.

xii. Survey Data Cataloguing using IHSN Tool Kit Software

A web-based Survey Data Catalogue/ Micro Data Archive of the unit-level data has been created covering the data sets available with the Ministry. These include the data of Annual Survey of Industries, Economic Census, and the National Sample Surveys. The micro data archive is being accessed by various national and international users to download metadata and various reports uploaded on the website. Every month more than one lakh users are accessing the metadata from one source having international standard.

xiii. Other new Initiatives in the field of collection of data :

Digitisation of UFS: A sampling frame is an essential pre-requisite for organizing and conducting any sample survey. Urban Frame Survey provides frame for sample selection for such surveys in urban areas. Each UFS block is a compact areal unit consisting of 80-200 households in general and the block is bounded by well-defined, clear-cut and natural / permanent boundaries.

NSSO has undertaken the digitization of UFS maps in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and Remote Sensing and GIS Division, NIC. A pilot was conducted by NSSO in Rewari town of Haryana for converting UFS maps from notional to size map. After successful pilot, it is decided to conduct some more pilots in other areas in Hyderabad and Dehradun districts, to finalise the manner in which

digitization of UFS maps and Integration of UFS blocks with Census Enumeration blocks (EB) can be carried out. A mobile application is being developed by National Remote Sensing Centre, Department of Space for facilitating digitization of Urban Frame Surveys maps.

Pooling of Central and State sample data: At present, the NSS estimates are given at National and State levels only due to limitation on size of Central Sample. Increase in sample size by pooling of Central and State sample data enables generation of sub-state level estimates. A Manual on Pooling of Central and State Sample Data covering all methodological aspects of Pooling Central and State sample data, prepared by NSSO, has been released for use by States. NSSO has been providing technical support to State/UT DESs in the exercise of pooling of data of central and state samples.

Base Revision of IIP: Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an important short-term indicator of industrial growth. The current series of IIP is being compiled with an old base of 2004-05. MoSPI has already undertaken the base revision exercise of all-India IIP with 2011-12 as the new base year to be introduced soon. A Note in this regard for discussions in the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) has been prepared with comments/suggestions of important user ministries/departments. MoSPI has sought a date for holding the meeting of the CoS.

xiv. Publications/ Reports

In order to improve dissemination of results from various surveys and also analysis of data from different sources, the Ministry brings out a number of regular and ad-hoc publications either and/or in printed form or through web releases. The list of publications brought out by CSO during the last one year are given in Annexure I. Based on the surveys, NSSO regularly brings out results in form of reports. The list of survey reports released by NSSO in the last one year are given in Annexure II.

4.3 In response to a query by the Committee as to what improvements are brought out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in Data collection, the Ministry in their post-evidence reply have stated as under;

"At present, data under National Sample Surveys are collected from the field by using paper schedule. Data for the new regular survey introduced by the NSSO namely, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), are being collected by using handheld IT devices in place of paper schedule. A Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) solution has been developed by NSSO with the technical assistance from the World Bank for collecting data by using tablets. The solution will replace use of paper schedule for data collection by hand held devices, besides integration of the data collection & entry with basic inbuilt mechanism of data verification/validation leading to improvement in quality and timeliness of results. After successful implementation of CAPI Solution in PLFS, the use of CAPI Solution would be extended to other surveys of NSSO. It is also stated that significant improvement in data collection of Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) could be achieved in recent times through introduction of Web portal for ASI — a 24x7 online application which has computerized all the processes for factory level compilation.

The data for compilation of all -India Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is sourced from 15 source Ministries/ Departments, which use various modes of data collection from the primary units/ factories. In the new series of IIP with base 2011-12 (launched in May 2017), it is envisaged to set up a dedicated IIP portal for web –based data collection in order to minimize chances of error during data collection and reduce compilation time."

4.4 National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducts socio-economic surveys on various subjects on all-India basis. Based on the sample canvassed by the NSSO (Central Sample), the results of each survey are published in the form of reports. The State Governments also participate in these surveys on a matching sample basis (State Sample), using the same survey instruments (i.e. schedules and concepts & definitions). The data collected by State Governments, through the state samples, are processed by them as per the data processing protocols and a common tabulation plan

developed by NSSO. Based on the data for the sample used for data collection by NSSO (i.e. Central sample), NSSO provides national and state level estimates. Sub-state level estimates are not given by the NSSO. Due to difference in set of samples, data collection and processing, there may be some difference in the results published by NSSO and the State Governments.

The purpose of participation of State Governments in the above surveys is to have adequate sample size to facilitate generation of sub-state/district level estimates by State Governments by pooling Central & State sample data. The State Government officials involved in conducting the sample surveys are imparted training using the same concepts & definitions and through a common training conference, so that the agency bias is minimized. The data processing methodology is also shared with the State Government officials through data processing conference and data processing software developed by NSSO, which is distributed to the states for their use.

NSSO has also developed a uniform methodology and software for use by the State Governments to bring out sub-state level estimates by pooling the data of Central and State samples. The pooling methodology and software are shared with the State Governments and training on the same to the State Government officers is organized by the NSSO on regular intervals.

In respect of the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura where, NSSO either does not have manpower to conduct the survey or the manpower is not adequate for the purpose, field work is carried out by the respective state DES's for both central and state samples.

The estimates based on the central sample and state sample may differ due to sampling and non-sampling errors.

4.5 In cases where MoSPI requires data from other Ministries on a regular basis, there is generally an understanding that the data would be provided in the prescribed standard format(s). A standard format has been developed for collecting monthly production data from the 15 source Ministries/Departments supplying data for compilation of IIP.

4.6 All Ministries produce data as a by-product of their administrative activities. Integration of this data is a complex activity which requires dove-tailing of technology and more importantly, involvement of all Ministries on a continuing basis, individually as well as collectively. These are integrated by MoSPI through many on-going and new initiatives.

4.7 Considering the need for availability of labour force statistics at more frequent intervals, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has launched the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) from the month of April, 2017, with the objective to measure quarterly changes of various statistical indicators of the labour market in urban areas as well as to generate the annual estimates of different labour force indicators both in rural and urban areas.

The Annual estimates of the parameters (both rural and urban areas) will broadly inter-alia cover (i) Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) & Unemployment Rate (UR), (ii) Distribution of workers by industry and occupation, and (iii) Average earnings of self-employed, regular wage/salaried and casual workers. The quarterly estimates of changes for urban areas will inter-alia cover Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR).

For planning the release of first estimates based on PLFS, MoSPI has taken into account the sample design recommended by the Standing Committee on Labour Force Statistics (SCLFS) for measuring quarterly change in employment-unemployment indicators for urban areas and the reference period of July-June, which had been in use for annual estimates of employment-unemployment indicators based on earlier quinquennial Employment-Unemployment Surveys of NSSO. Accordingly, MoSPI plans to release the first estimates of labour force indicators based on the survey data upto the quarter ending June, 2018. The first annual estimates for the reference period of July, 2017 to June, 2018, are expected to be available by December, 2018.

5. Management Information System for Project Monitoring/ Appraisal

5.1 The mandate of the Ministry of Statistic and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is to monitor central sector projects of Rs 150 crore and above. MoSPI has been flagging the projects showing time and cost overruns in its monthly Flash Reports. This enables the nodal Administrative Ministries to identify the constraints for each project and to take timely remedial measures.

5.2 The Infrastructure & Project Monitoring Division (IPMD) monitors the implementation status of Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing more than `150 crore and above taken up by the respective Ministry/Department and their Central Sector Public Enterprises (CPSEs) in 16 infrastructure sectors. Successful Implementation of various projects and schemes constitutes the most significant conditions for development. Effective coordination judiciously matched with regular monitoring becomes an important element in ensuring their successful completion with improved efficiency at a greater speed and at a lesser cost.

5.3 Objectives of Project Monitoring:

- i. To enhance effectiveness of project implementation;
- ii. To facilitate information flow for effective decision making;
- iii. To resolve outstanding implementation issues;
- iv. To bring about system improvement; and
- v. To promote best management practices;

5.4 Based on the information provided by the project implementing agencies, on all the projects costing Rs. 150 crore & above, MoSPI analyses each of the project on time and cost overruns and the report is being sent to the concerned Administrative Ministry every month. This has resulted in reduction of cost overrun which has come down from 40.9% in March, 1999 to 12.79% in July 2016. Similarly, the percentage of projects

showing time overrun has also come down from 44.99% in March 2000 to 30.07% in July 2016.

5.5 During the 12th Plan (April 2012 to March 2017) 342 projects reported completion. Of these, 73 projects completed in 2012-13, 69 projects completed in 2013-14, 72 projects completed in 2014-15, 61 projects completed in 2015-16 and 67 projects completed during April to October 2016. Sector-wise breakup of these projects is given in the table below.

Summary of Projects Completed during 12th Plan:

S.No	SECTOR	NO OF PROJECTS	COST ORIGINAL (₹ in crore)	COST ANTICIPATED (₹ in crore)	CUMMULATIVE EXPENDITURE (₹ in crore)
1	ATOMIC ENERGY	1	1106.29	1106.29	1084.24
2	CIVIL AVIATION	5	5172.79	6066.90	5526.66
3	COAL	9	12739.89	15558.04	14480.76
4	FERTILISERS	6	5317.41	5317.41	3826.59
5	PETROLEUM	65	146262.95	166053.38	125715.12
6	POWER	73	127404.50	142747.38	106775.98
7	RAILWAYS	33	12477.22	27404.69	24469.39
8	ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS	91	44413.24	44620.56	55843.73
9	SHIPPING AND PORTS	20	14378.47	15319.80	11397.76
10	STEEL	20	49983.37	55857.27	52184.36
11	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	14	6544.69	6429.16	2975.74
12	URBAN DEVELOPMENT	5	5732.98	5820.78	4356.50
TOTAL		342	431533.80	492301.66	408636.83

6. System of Monitoring

- i. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) monitors on-going Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing Rs. 150 crore and above on **time**

and cost overruns, through its Online Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS) on the basis of information provided by the project implementing agencies.

- ii. The OCMS serves as one of the reliable MIS tool to review the projects showing time and cost overruns by the Administrative Ministries, Cabinet Secretariat and the PMO through its PRAGATI meetings.
- iii. Various State Governments have shown their interest in the OCMS for monitoring State Sector Infrastructure Projects at their level and attended the training programme on the functional aspects of the OCMS.
- iv. As a result of efforts of IPMD, reporting of on-going Central Sector Infrastructure Projects on OCMS/ IPMD has been made mandatory under the MoU system.

7. Online Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS)

- i. When a project is approved by the Government, it is taken on the OCMS for monitoring, and when a project is completed it is taken off the OCMS (this is a continuous and dynamic process).
- ii. OCMS enables the various project executing agencies and Administrative Ministries to enter and view the project progress data through a web-based interface on a periodic basis. Once the project is in the execution phase, based on the ground realities the project executing agencies regularly update the status of the project on the OCMS. The data submission process undergoes multi-level authentication and authorization.
- iii. The OCMS, Government-to-Government (G2G) software has been developed on Oracle platform with suitable web-interface to enable project implementing agencies to regularly upload the status of projects in real time. OCMS portal (<http://www.cspm.gov.in>) is not specific to any sector or method of funding.

- iv. OCMS allows uploading of all relevant information on projects under implementation, such as milestones; expenditure; work completion status; problems being faced; reasons for delay; and documents (like project plan, PERT and CPM charts) and graphic and pictorial depictions.
- v. The essential data required for monitoring the projects on OCMS includes: date of approval, original/ anticipated/ revised date of commissioning, original/ anticipated/ revised cost, up-to-date physical progress, up-to-date expenditure, budget provision, identification of milestones, achievement of milestones, PERT & CPM charts, problems/difficulties faced, reasons for time/cost overruns, etc.

8. Reasons for Time and Cost Overruns

- i. The causes for time and cost overruns are project-specific, depend on a variety of technical, financial and administrative reasons, and differ from project to project.
- ii. However, the general causes leading to time and cost overruns in such large projects are as follows:

Main reasons for time overruns:

1. Delays in land acquisition
2. Delays in obtaining forest/environment clearances
3. Lack of infrastructure support and linkages
4. Delays in tie-up of Project financing
5. Delays in finalization of detailed engineering
6. Changes in scope
7. Delays in tendering, ordering and equipment supply
8. Law & Order problems
9. Geological surprises
10. Pre-commissioning teething troubles
11. Contractual issues.

Main reasons for cost overruns:

1. Under-estimation of original cost
2. Changes in rates of foreign exchange and statutory duties
3. High cost of environmental safeguards and rehabilitation measures
4. Spiraling land acquisition costs
5. Shortage of skilled manpower/labour
6. Changes in Projects scope
7. Monopolistic pricing by vendors of equipment services
8. General Price rise / inflation
9. Disturbed conditions
10. Time Overrun.

9. Output / Reports from OCMS:

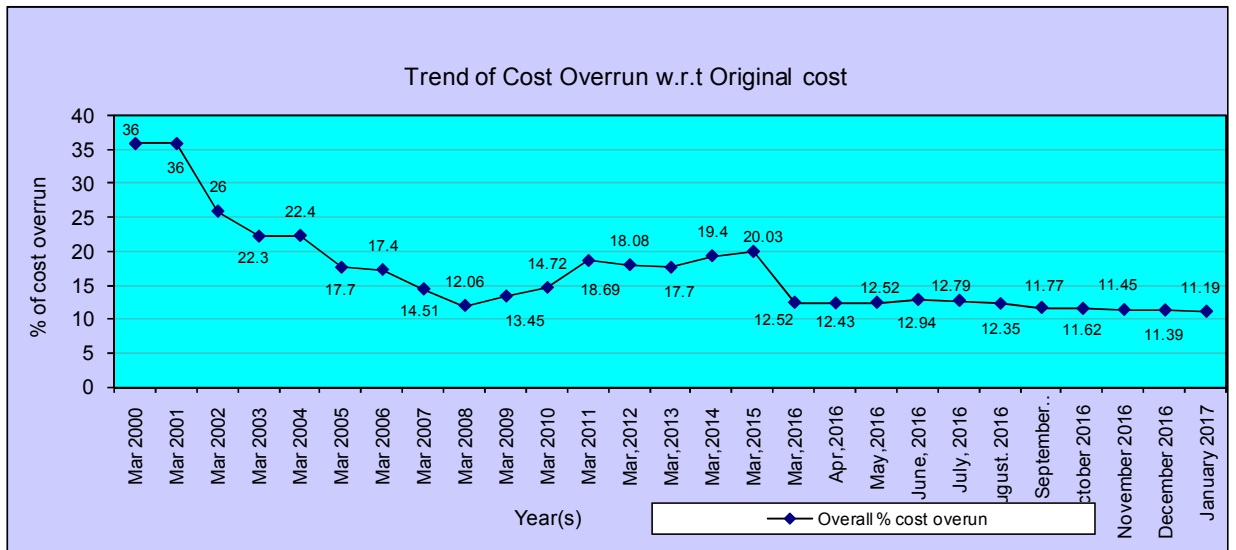
- i. As on **01.02.2017** there are **1201** projects, with a total original **cost** of implementation is about Rs.**15,28,249.27** crore and their anticipated cost is likely to be Rs.**16,99,285.76** crore which reflects overall cost overruns of **11.19%**.
- ii. Of these, 329 projects are showing time overruns, 293 are showing cost overruns and 95 are showing both time and cost overruns with respect to their original project implementation schedules.

iii. Projects completed during Last 3 years:

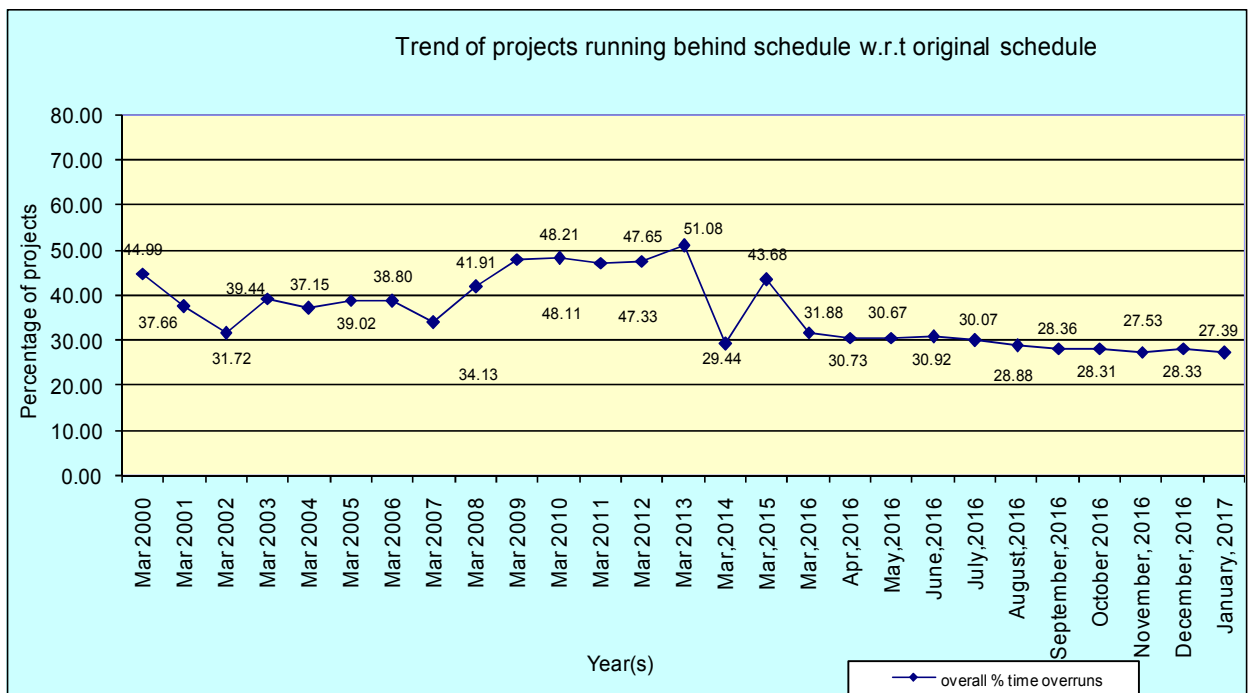
Financial Year	No. of completed Projects	Completion Cost (Rs. in crore)
2014-15	72	1,25,183.75
2015-16	61	1,39,256.40
2016-17 (up to January 2017)	88	58,719.23
Total	221	3,23,159.38

10. **Impact of Monitoring**

- i. Time and cost overruns have been a major problem affecting the implementation of Central Sector Infrastructure Projects. Due to close monitoring and improvement brought out mainly by the Ministries concerned with the support of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the time overrun in projects is coming down, resulting in reduction in the cost overrun of the projects. An analysis of cost overrun in the last 18 years with respect to the originally approved costs shows that the cost overrun has come down from 36% in March, 2000 to 11.19% in January 2016. The cost overrun has come down on account of various policies and control measures taken by the Government. The trend of cost overrun over the years may be seen in the following graph:



- ii. Similarly, the time overrun in projects has also come down from 44.99% in March 2000 to 27.39% in January 2017. Percentage of projects running behind schedule during last few years are shown in the following graph:



11. Monitoring by Administrative Ministries/ Departments

- i. The fundamental objective of this Ministry's reports is to provide integrated single access for all the projects cutting across the ministries and the sectors. By the very nature of the integrated single access of this Ministry's monitoring, the information available in its reports does not substitute for the in-depth project-specific Management Information System (MIS) that is required and expected of the concerned project implementing agencies / administrative ministries.
- ii. The integrated monitoring of this Ministry in no manner precludes or substitutes or dilutes the essential responsibility of the project implementing agencies / administrative ministries for detailed in-depth continuous monitoring of their respective projects.

Annexure I**Publications released by CSO from September, 2015 to March, 2017**

Sl. No.	Name of Publication	Release Month
1	SAARC Development Goals India Country Report 2015	September, 2015
2	Women and Men in India 2015	October, 2015
3	Statistics related to climate change India 2015	November, 2015
4	Compendium of Environment Statistics India 2015	February, 2016
5	Elderly in India 2016	March, 2016
6	SAARC Social Charter India Country Report 2016	September, 2016
7	Statewise Estimates of Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Activities	June, 2016
8	All India Report of 6 th Economic Census	March, 2016
9	Energy Statistics	April, 2016
10	India in Figures 2016	June, 2016
11	National Accounts Statistics, 2016	July, 2016
12	Disabled Persons in India A statistical profile 2016	January, 2017
13	Compendium of Environment statistics India 2016	March, 2017
14	Women and Men in India 2016	March, 2017
15	Youth in India 2017	March, 2017
16	Summary Results for Factory Sector (ASI 2013-14)	April, 2016
17	Energy Statistics	March , 2017
18	Annual Survey of Industries (2014-15) Vol. I	March , 2017

Annexure II

Publications released by NSSO from September, 2015 to March, 2017

Sl. No.	Name of Publication	Release month
1	<i>Status of Education and Vocational Training in India, NSS 68th Round</i>	September, 2015
2	<i>Some characteristics of Agricultural Households in India, 70th round</i>	December, 2015
3	<i>Household Ownership and Operational Holdings in India, NSS 70th round</i>	December 2015
4	<i>Household Assets and Liabilities in India, NSS 70th round</i>	January 2016
5	Some Aspects of Farming in India, NSS 70th round	February 2016
6	Employment and Unemployment Situation Among Major Religious Groups in India, NSS 68th round	February 2016
7	Livestock Ownership in India, NSS 70th round	February 2016
8	Education in India, NSS 71 st round	March, 2016
9	Health in India, NSS 71 st round	April, 2016
10	Income, Expenditure, Productive Assets and Indebtedness of Agricultural Households in India, 70 th round	May, 2016
11	Key Indicators of Domestic Tourism in India, NSS 72 nd round	June, 2016
12	Key Indicators of Household Expenditure on Services and Durable Goods, NSS 72 nd round	June, 2016
13	Household Indebtedness in India, NSS 70 th round (Jan-Dec. 2013)	December, 2016
14	Household Assets and Indebtedness among Social Groups in India, NSS 70 th round (Jan-Dec. 2013)	December, 2016
15.	Household Capital Expenditure in India, NSS 70 th round (Jan-Dec. 2013)	March, 2017

PART - II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee believe that GDP data should ideally reflect the prevailing momentum of all economic activities across the spectrum, which would provide accurate inputs for policy formulation. Otherwise, it may leave a policy vacuum, which will not be conducive for the health of the economy. It is, therefore, imperative that the economic activities and services including those in the unorganised / informal sector are comprehensively reflected in the GDP data so that the ground realities of the prevalent economic scenario emerges clearly.

2. The Committee are concerned to note that there are as many as 861 vacancies at the level of Junior and Senior Statistical Officer in the statistical cadre of the Ministry. Thus, the resource requirements for various statistical activities remain undermined. The Committee note that the existing statistical manpower is grossly insufficient to cope with the entire gamut of activities, including various ancillary activities in relation to mainstream industrial statistics, apart from service sector statistics and statistics of international trade. The Committee would, therefore, strongly recommend immediate filling up of all vacancies in the statistical cadre, so that the Ministry's core competency is not compromised. Further, they desire that a study be conducted to find out the reasons for high level of attrition from this sector and their inability to attract talent. In this connection, the Committee are of the view that out-sourcing of data collection should be avoided and instead, enumerators should be appointed on

contractual basis, whenever required, for maintaining reliability and authenticity of data.

3. The Committee observe that there are surprisingly wide variations between sample survey data collected by NSSO and those collected by the State Governments. Further, within the same Ministry, the CSO and NSSO adopt different standards to measure certain things, such as, definition of "disability impact services" rolled out for citizens. The Committee, therefore, recommend that such variations in standards and methodologies should be addressed to bring consistency, standardisation and uniformity in sample surveys conducted by different agencies including State Government Departments.

4. The Committee note that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) does not adequately capture the rising cost of services like education, healthcare, transport etc, which leave an adverse impact on the standard of living of our people. They, therefore, consider it opportune that our statistical apparatus has an exclusive Service Price Index for essential services, so that the government can formulate policy responses accordingly. It is high time the indices compiled and published by the Government approximate to the prevailing market conditions at the consumer level and get as close to his consumption pattern and standard of living as possible.

5. The primary aim of official statistics is to provide an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and meaningful empirical picture of society and economy for supporting formulation and monitoring of socio-economic policies by the

Government. Public Health being a crucial sector requiring Government support and active intervention, the Committee are of the view that Health related data collection and surveys be taken up by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation without any delay. Such statistical inputs on the social side would, no doubt, go a long way in helping both the Central and State Governments in their public interventions.

6. Needless to emphasise, lack of reliable and quality data poses a serious challenge to economic policy making as also economic revival, especially on the employment front. A major gap in our statistical armoury is the absence of regular employment / unemployment data. The official unemployment figures which are obviously out-of-date seem very unrealistic. Although the Government has been earnestly seeking to promote self-employment and skill-development through the National Skill Development Programme, some industries like garments, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, carpets etc. need more attention for more job creation. As revival and creation of employment is a stated objective of the Government, it is imperative that accurate, current and reliable data on employment to assess employment situation is readily available to assess employment trends and to formulate appropriate policy responses. In this regard, discrepancies with private data also need to be addressed and ironed out.

7. The Committee feel that although the economy has grown much larger and become more complex, the nature of manpower planning in Statistical departments has not changed over the years. It has thus become difficult to attract and retain talent. Good statisticians are now being lapped up by the

private sector especially financial services firms or, they prefer to go abroad. The Committee, therefore, recommend that besides re-formulating the teaching methodologies and curriculum at the University level to reflect changing requirements, a suitable rewards / incentive structure should be devised to attract expertise and quality statisticians for Government duties, albeit at the lateral level. Field level statistical machinery should also be strengthened simultaneously. Field staff are required to be adequately trained and motivated in the use of modern techniques/methods of data collection.

8. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is the nodal agency for coordination with other Central Ministries and States for collection and standardisation of statistics. However, as observed earlier, discrepancies in real time State and Central data on the same subject continue to persist due to differences in set of samples, data collection and processing, resulting in mis-leading differences in outcomes of data analysis and results. Such lacunae have, therefore, to be corrected forthwith with a view to ensuring accuracy and reliability of data.

9. Further, the Committee find that collection of data and compilation of various indices are still dispersed among different departments / agencies, although Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is the nodal Ministry for this purpose and is better equipped for carrying out various statistical activities. The Committee would, therefore, recommend synchronisation and integration of all statistical work including publication of

various indices within the ambit of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation with a view to arriving at broad-based conclusions / decisions.

10. The Committee also desire to be apprised of the progress with regard to the formulation of the new Index of Industrial Production (IIP), especially the implementation of agreements with participating Ministries for supply of data, updation of the basket of items and their specifications, wage structure, reporting entities and review methodology.

11. The mandate of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is to monitor central sector projects of Rs. 150 crore and above, being the nodal Ministry for Programme Implementation. However, the Committee are constrained to note that the Ministry has become a mere compilation agency as far as the mandate for Programme Implementation is concerned. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to develop tools and methodologies to play a more proactive and dynamic role as the nodal agency for real time monitoring of implementation of not only central sector projects, but also the operationalisation and progress of various flagship schemes of the Central Government as well as the tracking of implementation and status of various sustainable development goals (SDGs) set by the Government in coordination with State Governments. It is necessary that the Ministry makes available comprehensive data-base of the Government at regular intervals so that course-corrections can take place promptly and effectively.

12. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation should, in the final count, become a modern and vibrant data collecting, compiling, presenting as also analysing agency, aiding and advising not only the Governments but also corporations and organisations in the private and public sectors. The onus lies on this Ministry to generate and disseminate credible data, which will be more meaningful and purposeful for public policy and governmental action. For this purpose, secondary data can also be obtained from and shared with other Government agencies as well, like Income Tax, EPFO, Corporate Affairs etc. In this context, the Committee would also suggest that the Ministry may explore setting up an internal Commercial / Marketing Unit, which can share relevant data with different users on commercial basis with free access to researchers, students and universities.

**New Delhi;
18 December 2017
27 Agrahayana, 1939 (Saka)**

**DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Finance**

Minutes of the Second sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2016-17)
The Committee sat on Thursday, the 29 September, 2016-17 from 1100 hrs. to
1230 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. M. Veerappa Moily - Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Venkatesh Babu T.G.
3. Shri Nishikant Dubey
4. Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar
5. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria
6. Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao
7. Prof. Saugata Roy
8. Shri Gajendra Singh Sekhawat
9. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
10. Shri Anil Shirole
11. Dr. Kiritbhai Solanki
12. Dr. Kirit Somaiya
13. Shri Dinesh Trivedi

RAJYA SABHA

14. Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan
15. Dr. Mahendra Prasad
16. Shri C.M. Ramesh
17. Shri Digvijaya Singh
18. Dr. Manmohan Singh

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Smt. Abha Singh Yaduvanshi | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri P.C. Tripathy | - | Director |
| 3. Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan | - | Additional Director |
| 4. Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora | - | Deputy Secretary |

WITNESSES

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

1. Dr. T.C.A. Anant, Chief Statistician of India and Secretary (S&PI)
2. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, AS & FA (S&PI)
3. Dr. Gurucharan Manna, Director General (CSO)
4. Dr. Ravendra Singh, Addl. Director General (CAP)
5. Shri K.P. Unnikrishanan, Addl. Director General (FOD)
6. Shri Arun Kumar Yadav, Joint Secretary
7. Shri K.K. Lamba, Deputy Director General (PI)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members and witnesses to the sitting of the Committee. After the customary introduction of the witnesses, the Committee were briefed by the Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on the subject "Review of NSSO and CSO and streamlining of statistics collection machinery in the country including Management Information System for project monitoring / appraisal". The major issues discussed during the sitting included functioning of the Indian Statistical System, the review of NSSO and CSO, strengthening of statistics collection machinery in the country including the efficacy of the existing Management Information System, the UN Fundamental Principles of Statistics, United Nations Statistical Commission, framing of a National Policy of Official statistics, review of statistical personnel in the Central Government, cadre review, e-governance platform, progressive introduction of modern technology in data collection, estimates on employment and unemployment, reliability of data in general and the GDP data in particular, etc. Thereafter, the Chairperson directed the representatives of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to furnish written replies to the points raised by the Members which could not be answered to / adequately responded to during the discussion within fifteen days to the Committee Secretariat. Thereafter, the Committee decided to undertake a study-tour of the Committee.

(The witnesses then withdrew)

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept

The Committee then adjourned.

Minutes of the Fifteenth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2016-17).

**The Committee sat on Thursday, the 04 May, 2017 from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs. in
Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.**

PRESENT

Dr. M. Veerappa Moily - Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Venkatesh Babu T.G.
3. Shri Gopalakrishnan Chinnaraj
4. Shri Nishikant Dubey
5. Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar
6. Shri Shyama Charan Gupta
7. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria
8. Prof. Saugata Roy
9. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
10. Shri Gajendra Singh Sekhawat
11. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
12. Shri Anil Shirole
13. Dr. Kiritbhai Solanki
14. Shri Dinesh Trivedi

RAJYA SABHA

15. Shri Naresh Agrawal
16. Shri Naresh Gujral
17. Dr. Mahendra Prasad
18. Shri T.K. Rangarajan
19. Shri Ajay Sancheti
20. Shri Digvijaya Singh
21. Dr. Manmohan Singh

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri R.C Tiwari | - | Director |
| 2. | Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan | - | Additional Director |
| 3. | Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora | - | Deputy Secretary |

WITNESSES

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

1. Dr. T.C.A Anant, Chief Statistician of India & Secretary
2. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, AS & FA
3. Shri Sanjiv Mittal, Additional Secretary
4. Dr. Davendra Verma, ADG (SSD), CSO, (MoS&PI)
5. Ms. S.A. Bhoyar, ADG (FOD), NSSO
6. Shri P.S. Bose, ADG (SDRD), NSSO
7. Shri D.P. Mondal, ADG (NSSTA), CSO
8. Shri M.V.S Ranganadham, ADG (NAD), CSO
9. Shri Tapas Kumar Saha, ADG (DS&DD), CSO
10. Shri Rakesh Kumar, ADG (CPD), NSSO
11. Shri Sunil Jain, DDG (PSD), CSO
12. Shri K.K. Lamba, DDG (PI)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members and witnesses to the sitting of the Committee. After the customary introduction of the witnesses, the Committee were briefed by the Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on the subject "Review of NSSO and CSO and streamlining of statistics collection machinery in the country including Management Information System for project monitoring / appraisal". The major issues discussed during the sitting included accuracy of GDP estimates, coherence of methodologies used, reliable data relating to unemployment, coordination with the State Governments, capacity building in NSSO and CSO for enhancing credibility and reliability of statistics, measurement of achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), status of project monitoring, cost overruns etc of Programme Implementation Wing, preparation of the authentic data base, revising the national accounts annually, need for regular staff instead of engaging contractual staff for data collection, wide variation between the results of surveys conducted by NSSO and various State Governments, need for having adequate regular faculty members in National Statistical Systems Training Academy,

infrastructure development of ISI at Tezpur, Chennai and Giridih, opening of regional offices in North Eastern States for strengthening survey capacity in that region, real time data on unemployment, revision of index of industrial production, formulation of national policy on official statistics, progress in preparation of national fact sheet on Indian economy etc. Thereafter, the Chairperson directed the representatives of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to furnish written replies to the points raised by the Members which could not be answered to / adequately responded to during the discussion within fifteen days to the Committee Secretariat.

(The witnesses then withdrew)

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept

The Committee then adjourned.

Minutes of the Fourth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2017-18)
The Committee sat on Thursday, the 16 November, 2017 from 1500 hrs. to 1800
hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. M. Veerappa Moily - Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
3. Shri Bandaru Dattatreya
4. Shri Nishikant Dubey
5. Shri Venkatesh Babu T.G.
6. Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar
7. Shri Shyama Charan Gupta
8. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria
9. Shri Chandrakant Khaire
10. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
11. Shri Prem Das Rai
12. Prof. Saugata Roy
13. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
14. Shri Gopal Shetty
15. Shri Kirit Somaiya
16. Shri Dinesh Trivedi
17. Shri Shivkumar Udasi

RAJYA SABHA

18. Shri A. Nvaneethakrishnan
19. Dr. Mahendra Prasad
20. Shri Ajay Sancheti
21. Dr. Manmohan Singh

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Abha Singh Yaduvanshi | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Rajesh Ranjan Kumar | - | Director |
| 2. | Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan | - | Additional Director |
| 3. | Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora | - | Deputy Secretary |

WITNESSES

2. XX XX XX XX XX XX
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3. XX XX XX XX XX XX
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(The witnesses then withdrew)

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

- (i) Draft Report on 'Review of NSSO and CSO and Streamlining of Statistics Collection Machinery in the Country, including Management Information System for Project Monitoring / Appraisal' of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (ii) Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the 44th Report on Demands For Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (iii) Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the 45th Report on Demands For Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (iv) Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the 46th Report on Demands For Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economics Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services and Investment and Public Asset Management).
- (v) Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the 47th Report on Demands For Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (vi) Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the 48st Report on Demands For Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Planning.

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

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept

The Committee then adjourned.