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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
(2019-2020)**

**SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

*[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)']*

**TWENTY SECOND REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**September, 2020 / Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)**

# **TWENTY-SECOND REPORT**

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**MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

***[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)']***

*Presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 09 September, 2020*

*Presented to Lok Sabha on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020*

*Laid in Rajya Sabha on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**September, 2020 / Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)**

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\* Not appended in the cyclostyled copy

**COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (2019-2020)**

**Shri Jayant Sinha - Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
3. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
4. Shri Vallabhaneni Balashowry
5. Shri Shrirang Appa Barne
6. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
7. Smt. Sunita Duggal
8. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
9. Shri Sudheer Gupta
10. Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh
11. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
12. Shri Pinaki Misra
13. Shri P.V Midhun Reddy
14. Prof. Saugata Roy
15. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
16. Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki
17. Shri Manish Tewari
18. Shri P. Velusamy
19. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma
20. Shri Rajesh Verma
21. Shri Giridhari Yadav

**RAJYA SABHA**

22. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar
23. Shri A. Navaneethkrishnan
24. Shri Praful Patel
25. Shri Amar Patnaik
26. Shri Mahesh Poddar
27. Shri C.M. Ramesh
28. Shri Bikash Ranjan
29. Shri G.V.L Narasimha Rao
30. Dr. Manmohan Singh
31. Smt. Ambika Soni

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri V.K. Tripathi - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan - Director
3. Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora - Addl. Director
4. Shri Tenzin Gyaltzen - Under Secretary

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorized by the Committee, present this Twenty-second Report on action taken by Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Committee (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

2. The Eleventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha / laid on the table of Rajya Sabha on 12 March, 2020. The Action Taken Notes on the Recommendations were received from the Government *vide* their communication dated 3 June, 2020.

3. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 8 September, 2020.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Committee is given in the Appendix.

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

**NEW DELHI**  
**08 September, 2020**  
**17 Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)**

**SHRI JAYANT SINHA**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Standing Committee on Finance**

## CHAPTER – I

### REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Finance deals with action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their eleventh report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation which was presented to Lok Sabha / laid in Rajya Sabha on 12 March, 2020.

2. The Action Taken Notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the nine recommendations contained in the Report. These have been analyzed and categorized as follows:

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

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

(Total: 8 )  
(Chapter- II)

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

Recommendation No. 7

(Total: 1)  
(Chapter- III)

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

Recommendation No. NIL

(Total : NIL)  
(Chapter -IV)

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

Recommendation No. NIL

(Total: NIL)  
(Chapter- V)

3. The Committee desire that the replies to the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter-I may be furnished to them expeditiously.

4. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on their recommendations.

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 3)**

#### **Budgetary Allocation and expenditure under major head 3454**

5. The Committee noted that under Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) major head 3454 - Demand No.95, the BE in 2018-19 for the organization was Rs 172.20 crore, which was increased to Rs 203.20 crore at RE stage. The actual expenditure during the year was Rs 210.78 crore. Similarly, in 2019-20, the BE was Rs 487.10 crore which remained steady at Rs 487.10 crore at RE stage while Actual expenditure came down by Rs 162.66 crore to Rs 324.44 crore (upto December, 2019). Further the BE for 2020-21 had been pegged at Rs 656.05 crore which is Rs 168.95 crore more than the BE of the previous fiscal. Keeping in view the trend of budgetary fluctuation, the committee were of the view that the Ministry/organization should exercise due diligence in their budgetary exercise and also take steps to ensure that allocations are made in a rational manner. The Committee desired that the extensive exercise undertaken by the Ministry towards collecting information, needs to incorporate technology intensive techniques and IT enabled systems so as to improve efficiency and reduce manpower needs. Furthermore, budgetary allocations should also be utilized optimally.

6. The Ministry in their action taken reply stated as under:-

" The actual expenditure reported under the Major Head 3454 (CSO) during 2019-20 stands at Rs 565.24 crore (which is 116% of the BE and RE of Rs. 487.10 crore), whereas the expenditure reported upto December, 2019 was Rs. 324.44 crore.

The increase in actual expenditure over BE, for the year 2019-20 was to meet the additional requirements for hiring of Khurshid Lal Bhavan, New Delhi by the Ministry in compliance of the directions of the Cabinet Committee on Security to shift its existing offices at Sardar Patel Bhavan and re-appropriation of funds from non-functional head 2552 North East Areas to this functional head.

The Scheme/Sub-Scheme-wise break-up of budgetary allocation of Rs. 656.05 crore under the Major Head 3454 during 2020-21, in comparison to the fiscal year 2019-20 (BE and RE) is given below:-

*(Rs. in Crore)*

<b>Scheme/Sub</b>	<b>BE 2019-20</b>	<b>RE 2019-20</b>	<b>BE 2020-21</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>Capacity Development</b>	221.94	221.94	226.04	4.10
<b>Economic Census</b>	250.16	250.16	400.00	149.84
<b>Support for Statistical Strengthening</b>	15.00	15.00	30.01	15.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>487.10</b>	<b>487.10</b>	<b>656.05</b>	<b>168.95</b>

The increase in the BE for 2020-21 is largely on account of the increase in the allocation of around Rs. 149.84 crore for requirements of the ongoing Economic Census programme of the Ministry. An increase of Rs. 15.01 crore in the Sub-Scheme Support for Statistical Strengthening is for meeting the demands of the State Governments for

support under the Sub-scheme. Additional allocation to the tune of Rs.4.10 crore under the Capacity Development Scheme in the current year (over BE 2019-20) is mainly to support for new IT initiatives of the Ministry. In it's endeavour to increase the use of technology in surveys, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has introduced the use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) mode for collecting information from respondents in some of its surveys. MoSPI is working towards developing a General Survey Solution to make extensive use of technology for all survey related work, including survey design, data collection, field work management and supervision, data validation and data processing. Besides, extensive use of technology is made in the various activities of the on-going 7th Economic Census programme of the Ministry. These include online Learning Management System for training, testing and certification of field staff, data collection through a mobile-based application, data transfer, data validation, and a Management Information System for supervision and monitoring of field operations, etc. The Ministry has encapsulated its various initiatives in the VISION 2024 document where ICT plays a major role in the reformative process."

**7. The Committee are happy to note the increase of 168.95 percentage in the budgetary allocation of Rs. 656.05 crore under the Major Head 3454 during the 2020-21 in comparison to the year 2019-20 mainly due to increase in the allocation of around Rs. 149.84 crore for requirement of the ongoing economic census. The Committee appreciate extensive use of technology in the various activities of the on-going economic census programme of the Ministry. The Committee also appreciate the long overdue introduction of a computer assisted/enabled mode of collecting information in the form of CAPI (Computer**

**Assisted Personal Interviewing). The Committee would like the Ministry to share its Vision-24 document with the Committee at the earliest and make earnest efforts towards working upon the various reformative processes outlined and encapsulated therein.**

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 9)**

#### **Shortage of Manpower**

8. The Committee noted with concern that an alarming shortage of manpower exists across different offices/wings of the Ministry. By the Ministry's own admission, since the quality and reliability of data collected by the contract employees in absence of regular and dedicated field staff may not be up to the mark, the Committee expected that since substantial funds are invested for gathering vital data, the Ministry must ensure that the data they gather, disseminate and utilize is of the highest quality. Towards this end, the issue of manpower shortage and other related concerns must be squarely addressed without any further delay, as it has a direct bearing on the timeliness and reliability of data collected. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Ministry make necessary changes in relevant recruitment rules etc. in order to employ desired personnel for the field operations of the Ministry. Requisite training structure may be established to train them in data collection and compilation so that efficiency and reliability of work is ensured.

9. The Ministry in their action taken reply stated as under:-

"There has been an increased demand for regular data on various facets of economy. In order to meet the requirements of the Government, the Ministry is required

to undertake new surveys on annual basis besides the regular surveys on various subjects. In order to ensure quality and accuracy of the data collected, adequate number of field level staff is required to be deployed for each survey. Keeping in view the workload and surveys to be undertaken, the Ministry regularly assess the additional manpower requirement of statistical functionaries working in Central Government and accordingly, reviews the cadre posts in Indian Statistical Service (ISS) (Group 'A' posts) and Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) (Group 'B' posts) from time to time. The Ministry has already initiated the process to fill up these vacancies at various grades of officers through promotion and direct recruitment. Further, a proposal for amendment to Indian Statistical Service (ISS) Rules has also been sent to DoPT which inter-alia includes incorporating a cumulative approach in promotion to JAG to address the impediment for filling up vacancies at JAG level and chain vacancies at lower level. Recruitment Rules of Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) are also amended from time to time to cater to the changing needs of the service and recruitment rules of SSS are in the process of getting amended keeping in view of the present needs. In addition, for addressing manpower shortage, the Ministry has resorted to a hybrid model where the core backend statistical activities and supervision are undertaken by in-house expertise while the primary level field work is outsourced. The contractual personnel are engaged to augment the manpower required for collection of data for conducting various surveys undertaken by the Ministry. To ensure quality, prospective candidates are scrutinized on their past experiences in similar assignments and also on their relevant academic qualifications. The selected candidates, known as Field Investigators, then undergo training and hand holding exercises before engaging them in actual surveys. The training of the Field Investigators is organized elaborately in local languages to ensure correct understanding of concepts and definitions & related instructions by field

investigators while collecting the data. There is also a system of inspection/supervision and scrutiny of data as collected by the Field Investigators by senior regular officers to check and ensure the quality of data. The private agency for supplying the manpower resources through outsourcing are selected after following all due diligence and following the extant Government guidelines including the General Financial Rules (GFR). Besides, the selected agency has to comply with a very stringent Service Level Agreement (SLA) apart from having to meet the transparency norms as laid down by the Government of India."

**10. The Committee note that as the economy evolves, the need for a variety of data to meet the requirements of the Government is bound to increase by the day. In this regard, the Committee have time and again expressed their concern with respect to the shortage of manpower in the Ministry and its field offices in their previous reports and have been informed about the steps taken in this regard. The Committee would reiterate that keeping in view the basic requirement of quality and reliability of the data collected and the amount of money involved therein, the Ministry must ensure that the issue of man power shortage is squarely addressed.**

## **CHAPTER - II**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 1)**

1. The Committee note that the budgetary grant for the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation during this fiscal of 2020-21 stands at Rs. 5444 crore. The revenue portion of the grant stands at Rs. 5426.05 crore while the capital side is Rs. 17.95 crore. Under the Revenue portion the scheme part of budget is Rs. 4648.05 crore and non scheme is at Rs. 788.00 crore. The Capital part of Rs. 17.95 crore includes the whole scheme portion of Rs. 17.95 crore. As the capital side of the budgetary grant is rather low, the Committee are concerned that various upgradation opportunities may be missed due to inadequate capital expenditure. The Committee note that the BE, RE and Actuals of 2018-19 was at Rs. 4859 crores, Rs. 4928 crores and Rs. 4897 crores while that of 2019-20 stood at Rs. 5231 crore, Rs. 5231 crore and Rs. 3469 crores respectively. The substantial difference between the Actuals of 2019-20 (i.e. Rs 3464 crore) and BE of 2020-21 (i.e. Rs. 5444 crore) stands at a staggering Rs 1979.82 crore, which suggests that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is unable to absorb the allocated funds. In view of the foregoing, the Committee are constrained to recommend that the Ministry must make a realistic assessment of funds required and strive to utilize them as per approved sanctions and needs. The trend of non-utilisation should be an exception instead of being a regular feature as observed.

#### **Reply of the Government**

The Ministry always assign due priority for its upgradation opportunities. The Budget Estimate (BE) for 2020-21 of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is Rs. 5444 Crore and the capital side of the grant is Rs. 17.95 Crore. The projected

requirements of the Ministry for the year are majorly met from the Revenue side of the Budget and therefore, comparatively less allocation was made for the capital side.

The BE, RE and actual Expenditure for 2018-19 and 2019-20 are stated in the following table:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Actual Expenditure (% of RE)
2018-19	4859	4928	4897	99.37
2019-20	5231.06	5231.06	4919.87	94.05

During 2019-20, an expenditure of Rs. 3464.00 crore was reported upto December, 2019 and the actual expenditure of the Ministry reported for the entire financial year 2019-20 is Rs. 4919.87 crore. The difference between Actual expenditure of 2019-20 (i.e. Rs. 4919.87 crore) and BE of 2020-21 (i.e. Rs. 5444 crore) is Rs. 524.13 crore. The difference of BE 2019-20 and BE for 2020-21 stands at Rs. 212.94 crore.

The increase in BE 2020-21 is largely on account of requirement of funds for the 7<sup>th</sup> Economic Census which will also continue in FY 2020-21.

**[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation vide  
O.M. No. N-11016/3/2019-CAP dated 03.06.2020]**

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 2)**

2. The Committee note that the project / scheme of 'Support for Statistical Strengthening' (SSS) proposes to improve the statistical capacity and operation of States Statistical Systems for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable and up to date official

statistics for policy planning at State and sub-State levels. Further, the Support for Statistical Strengthening is a sub-scheme of the Capacity Development (CD) Scheme in which the grants-in-aid are disposed to the States for a robust statistical system. The Committee observe that the BE for this fiscal of 2020-21 has been increased by Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 32 crore from the previous BE and RE of 2019-20 which was steady at Rs. 27 crore. The Committee find that since the merger of the two schemes, namely, India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) and Basic Statistics for Local Level Development (BSLLD) during the Annual Plan of 2014-15 into the consolidated scheme of Support for Statistical Strengthening, the performance and progress of the scheme is somewhat lagging and therefore its aim of building a composite statistical system and an integrated functional arrangement needs to be re-focused. The Committee expect the Ministry to fully utilize the increased allocation of funds and speed up the mechanism to revamp the statistical system / process in the country in a time-bound framework. The Committee appreciate the steps initiated by Ministry to include the North East into the statistical data framework of the country through provisioning of budgetary grants for the same. The Committee hope that this initiative will result in better dissemination of data to and from the North Eastern States.

### **Reply of the Government**

The suggestions of the Committee have been noted.

The Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) Scheme is a sub-scheme of an ongoing Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry namely the Capacity Development (CD) Scheme. The SSS Scheme aims to improve the statistical capacity and operations of State Statistical Systems for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics. Under this sub – scheme, funds have been allocated to the participating States / UTs.

The SSS Scheme is implemented through the State Directorates / Bureaus of Economics & Statistics, as per the approved activities/targets/outputs detailed out in the MoUs signed between the Government of India and respective States/UTs.

As on 31.03.2020, 24 States/UTs have been on boarded with the sub-scheme achieving physical closure in nine States. The Scheme is currently being implemented in 15 States/UTs, of which 10 States/UTs have been on boarded in the last two years: six (Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh) in the FY 2018-19 and four (Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Tripura) in the FY 2019-20. In addition, State Programme of UT of Jammu & Kashmir has also been approved for signing of MoU and subsequently first installment will be released to the UT in the current FY 2020-21. The remaining States are being constantly pursued to send their proposals.

As far as financial progress of the sub-scheme is concerned, during the period from 2014-15 to 2018-19, an amount of Rs.124.24 crore had been released which is 91% of the Revised Estimates (RE) of Rs.136.49 crore allocated during the said period. During the FY 2019-20, against the revised allocation of Rs. 20 crore received under the scheme, an amount of Rs.18.71 crore was released to various States/UTs. The Ministry has received funds to the tune of Rs.47.01 crore in the current FY, i.e. 2020-21 under the sub-scheme which includes Rs.17 crore dedicated to the North Eastern States.

**[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation vide  
O.M. No. N-11016/3/2019-CAP dated 03.06.2020]**

### **Recommendation (SI No.3)**

The Committee note that under Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) major head 3454 - Demand No.95, the BE in 2018-19 for the organization was Rs 172.20 crore, which was increased to Rs 203.20 crore at RE stage. The actual expenditure during the year was Rs 210.78 crore. Similarly, in 2019-20, the BE was Rs 487.10 crore which remained steady at Rs 487.10 crore at RE stage while Actual expenditure came down by Rs 162.66 crore to Rs 324.44 crore (upto December, 2019). Further the BE for 2020-21 has been pegged at Rs 656.05 crore which is Rs 168.95 crore more than the BE of the previous fiscal. Keeping in view the trend of budgetary fluctuation, the committee are of the view that the Ministry/organization should exercise due diligence in their budgetary exercise and also take steps to ensure that allocations are made in a rational manner. The Committee desire that the extensive exercise undertaken by the Ministry towards collecting information, needs to incorporate technology intensive techniques and IT enabled systems so as to improve efficiency and reduce manpower needs. Furthermore, budgetary allocations should also be utilized optimally.

### **Reply of the Government**

The actual expenditure reported under the Major Head 3454 (CSO) during 2019-20 stands at Rs 565.24 crore (which is 116% of the BE and RE of Rs. 487.10 crore), whereas the expenditure reported upto December, 2019 was Rs. 324.44 crore. The increase in actual expenditure over BE, for the year 2019-20 was to meet the additional requirements for hiring of Khurshid Lal Bhavan, New Delhi by the Ministry in compliance of the directions of the Cabinet Committee on Security to shift its existing offices at Sardar Patel Bhavan and re-appropriation of funds from non-functional head 2552 North East Areas to this functional head.

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In it's endeavour to increase the use of technology in surveys, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has introduced the use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) mode for collecting information from respondents in some of its surveys. MoSPI is working towards developing a General Survey Solution to make extensive use of technology for all survey related work, including survey design,

data collection, field work management and supervision, data validation and data processing.

Besides, extensive use of technology is made in the various activities of the ongoing 7<sup>th</sup> Economic Census programme of the Ministry. These include online Learning Management System for training, testing and certification of field staff, data collection through a mobile-based application, data transfer, data validation, and a Management Information System for supervision and monitoring of field operations, etc. The Ministry has encapsulated its various initiatives in the VISION 2024 document where ICT plays a major role in the reformative process.

**[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation vide  
O.M. No. N-11016/3/2019-CAP dated 03.06.2020]**

*(For Comments of the Committee Please refer para No.7 of Chapter I)*

#### **Recommendation (SI No.4)**

The Committee note that almost 84.87% of the total scheme outlay of the Ministry that is, Rs. 3960 Crore is earmarked for the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The Committee are of the view that there is a need for better coordination and tie-up between the Ministry and State Governments to improve the structure and implementation of MPLAD Scheme. The Committee feel that frequent changes in the schematic guidelines should be avoided and the issue of timely furnishing of utilization certificate from States to the Ministry regarding the ongoing projects under MPLADS should be addressed forthwith. The Committee desire that the Ministry should come up with a dedicated dashboard, wherein proper and timely monitoring of funds can be done. Further, with regard to the issue of proper supervision and monitoring of the progress of work carried out under the scheme, the local MPs may be allowed to depute

an individual of his/her choice who would report to them and work towards a better coordination and supervision of the scheme at ground level, as there is no proper mechanism at present to check on the quality and timely execution of work done. The Committee are of the view that it may also be considered as to whether a one stage junior officer like Sub-Divisional Magistrate etc. may be empowered to sanction a project, the monitoring of which may be carried out by the concerned District Magistrate/ Deputy Commissioner. The Committee feels that through such a delegation prompt compliance can be more effectively ensured.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Guidelines of the MPLADS includes suitable provisions for coordination with State Government. The Ministry follows up with the State Government authorities, from time to time, for better coordination and organizes Annual Meeting with the State/UT Nodal Authorities to review the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme.

Ministry also emphasizes upon the States/UTs to ensure that committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary/Development Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary reviews MPLADS implementation progress with the District Authorities and Hon'ble MPs at least once in an year. Also, Ministry issues necessary directions to States/UTs to issue suitable instructions to the District Authorities to ensure that the District Authority review, (every month and in any case at least once in every quarter), implementation of MPLADS works. The concerned Hon'ble MPs are also invited for participation in such review meetings and to send a report of such a review meetings to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The objective of the Scheme is to create durable community assets as per locally felt needs and is therefore receptive of inputs from public representative. Hence the

scheme is dynamic and keeps evolving with changing needs of public. However, the Ministry exercises adequate caution with regard to ensuring that the core tenets of the Scheme viz., community benefit, traceability and durability of assets so created are preserved and adhered to. As per the provisions of the MPLADS Guidelines, Ministry is to monitor the receipt of Completion Reports, Utilization Certificates and Audit Certificate from the District Authorities. Accordingly, Ministry follows up with Nodal District Authorities to follow up in turn with the respective implementing agencies for obtaining Utilization Certificates for completed projects/works on time.

Dashboard for MPLAD scheme is already hosted in the public domain and accessible at <https://www.mplads.gov.in/mplads/Dashboard/DashBoard.aspx>.

As per the provisions of the MPLADS Guidelines, an MP is entitled for setting up of MPLADS Facilitation Centre in the Nodal District for which space/room would be provided by the District Authorities (DC/DM). The capital cost of setting up of such facilities including equipment, furniture, etc. shall not exceed Rs. 5 lakh and will be met from MPLADS funds. The main function of the facilitation centre is to provide the Hon'ble MPs all the information at one place relevant for the effective implementation of the scheme. The information provided through the Facilitation Centres, *inter alia*, includes the following:

- (i) Details of works: (a) recommended by the MP (b) pending examination (c) found ineligible and rejected (d) sanctioned (e) pending sanction, with reasons therefore.
- (ii) Details of works under implementation, including their physical and financial progress.
- (iii) Details of completed works, including total expenditure incurred thereon.
- (iv) Latest Monthly Progress Report.

The works under MPLADS are implemented/ executed by the respective State Government Authorities in accordance with the State Government's technical, financial and administrative rules. The issue of delegation of administrative powers for sanctioning works, therefore, varies from State to State.

**[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation vide  
O.M. No. N-11016/3/2019-CAP dated 03.06.2020]**

### **Recommendation (SI No.5)**

The Ministry should consider whether it is possible to establish a standard menu of projects that can be implemented by designated government agencies. For instance, solar street-lights are already being implemented by EESL and Hon'ble MPs can use their standard designs. Similarly, it may be possible to get other infrastructure items such as check dams, solar water tanks, and community centers built by selected government agencies.

### **Reply of the Government**

As per the provisions of guidelines on MPLADS, the District Authority is to make the selection of an appropriate Implementing Agency through which a particular work recommended by an MP would be executed and the selection of the Implementing Agency is to be undertaken in accordance with the State Government rules/guidelines applicable for the purpose. With regard to selection of Government agencies for execution of works, Ministry vide its circular No. C-12/2016-MPLADS(Pt) dated 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 2017 has already clarified that while selecting an implementing agency, the Central Government agencies viz. CPWD, NBCC etc may also be considered by the State Government / District Authority.

**[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation vide**

**Recommendation (SI No.6)**

The Committee also observed that the MPLADS recommendations from various Parliamentary Committees do not appear to have been incorporated by the Ministry. These should be re-examined and an appropriate Action Taken Report submitted to the Committee within the next 3 months.

**Reply of the Government**

Ministry regularly receives Study Tour Reports from the Parliamentary Committees on MPLADS (LS/RS) which contain proposals/recommendations for examination. Ministry duly examines the same on their merits, keeping in view the core tenets of the MPLAD Scheme, and provides the Action Taken Report thereon to the respective Committees on time. The Committees on MPLADS (LS/RS) regularly hold meetings with the Ministry to discuss various issues and proposals/recommendations which are then forwarded in the form of Minutes. Ministry has provided the Action Taken Report on these Minutes to the concerned Committees and no recommendation, as on date, is pending for examination with the Ministry.

**[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation vide  
O.M. No. N-11016/3/2019-CAP dated 03.06.2020]**

**Recommendation (SI No. 8)**

**Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)**

Indian Statistical Institute is mainly engaged in conducting a comprehensive programme of research, training and practical application of different statistics spanning various disciplines through a large number of projects/schemes. The Committee note that with its specific mandate, the Indian Statistical Institute strives to maintain a credible

reputation as an institution of national eminence. The Committee hope that with the budgetary provision of Rs. 313.97 crore for the year 2020-21, Indian Statistical Institute would undertake earnestly all the pending works pertaining to infrastructure development especially of the capital nature at various centers across India and North Eastern States at a faster pace. The Committee would also urge the Ministry to provide necessary resources, wherever necessary, to enable Indian Statistical Institute to develop new centres and strengthen their existing centres. In this context, the Committee would also expect the Indian Statistical Institute to become pro-active in both academic as well as research activities, while expanding their reach to more avenues and centres in the country without obviously diluting their standards of excellence.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) conducts two bachelor degree, 8 post-graduate degree, 5 doctoral degree and 4 diploma programs in 5 of its centres and 5 outlying branches located all over India. In addition, man power training in the specialized areas of official statistics, machine learning, data and business analytics are important forte of the institute. A number of infrastructure development activities including constructions of academic building in Kolkata, hostel facilities in Bangalore, Campus development in Chennai and Tezpur, Assam are in progress as a part of capacity expansion plan of the institute. The institute is designing new academic programs, reformatting existing degree programs and encouraging cross-disciplinary research projects in 7 research divisions in the fields of statistics, mathematics, computer science, statistical quality control & operations research (SQC&OR), social sciences, biological sciences and in physics and earth sciences in order to retain its unique status in national and international academia.

The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has always tried to provide grants to ISI, based on the budgetary allocation, for its regular needs, as well as for its requirements of additional funds for staff salary/ pension, etc. on account of the pay commission recommendations implementation and for new buildings, constructions, etc.

**[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation vide  
O.M. No. N-11016/3/2019-CAP dated 03.06.2020]**

### **Recommendation (SI No.9)**

#### **Shortage of Manpower**

The Committee note with concern that an alarming shortage of manpower exists across different offices/wings of the Ministry. By the Ministry's own admission, since the quality and reliability of data collected by the contract employees in absence of regular and dedicated field staff may not be up to the mark, the Committee would expect that since substantial funds are invested for gathering vital data, the Ministry must ensure that the data they gather, disseminate and utilize is of the highest quality. Towards this end, the issue of manpower shortage and other related concerns must be squarely addressed without any further delay, as it has a direct bearing on the timeliness and reliability of data collected. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should make necessary changes in relevant recruitment rules etc. in order to employ desired personnel for the field operations of the Ministry. Requisite training structure may be established to train them in data collection and compilation so that efficiency and reliability of work is ensured.

### **Reply of the Government**

There has been an increased demand for regular data on various facets of economy. In order to meet the requirements of the Government, the Ministry is required to undertake new surveys on annual basis besides the regular surveys on various subjects.

In order to ensure quality and accuracy of the data collected, adequate number of field level staff is required to be deployed for each survey. Keeping in view the workload and surveys to be undertaken, the Ministry regularly assess the additional manpower requirement of statistical functionaries working in Central Government and accordingly, reviews the cadre posts in Indian Statistical Service (ISS) (Group 'A' posts) and Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) (Group 'B' posts) from time to time.

The Ministry has already initiated the process to fill up these vacancies at various grades of officers through promotion and direct recruitment. Further, a proposal for amendment to Indian Statistical Service (ISS) Rules has also been sent to DoPT which inter-alia includes incorporating a cumulative approach in promotion to JAG to address the impediment for filling up vacancies at JAG level and chain vacancies at lower level. Recruitment Rules of Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) are also amended from time to time to cater to the changing needs of the service and recruitment rules of SSS are in the process of getting amended keeping in view of the present needs.

In addition, for addressing manpower shortage, the Ministry has resorted to a hybrid model where the core backend statistical activities and supervision are undertaken by in-house expertise while the primary level field work is outsourced. The contractual personnel are engaged to augment the manpower required for collection of data for conducting various surveys undertaken by the Ministry. To ensure quality, prospective candidates are scrutinized on their past experiences in similar assignments and also on their relevant academic qualifications. The selected candidates, known as Field

Investigators, then undergo training and hand holding exercises before engaging them in actual surveys. The training of the Field Investigators is organized elaborately in local languages to ensure correct understanding of concepts and definitions & related instructions by field investigators while collecting the data. There is also a system of inspection/supervision and scrutiny of data as collected by the Field Investigators by senior regular officers to check and ensure the quality of data.

The private agency for supplying the manpower resources through outsourcing are selected after following all due diligence and following the extant Government guidelines including the General Financial Rules (GFR). Besides, the selected agency has to comply with a very stringent Service Level Agreement (SLA) apart from having to meet the transparency norms as laid down by the Government of India.

**[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation vide  
O.M. No. N-11016/3/2019-CAP dated 03.06.2020]**

***(For Comments of the Committee Please refer para No.10 of Chapter I)***

## CHAPTER - III

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

#### Recommendation (SI No. 7)

Further, the Committee observe that allocations under MPLADS have not been revised for a long time and is therefore long overdue. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to review the allocation made under MPLADS and suitably revise it, factoring in the rising inflation as also the higher allocations made for MLAs. MPLADS allocation have shrunk dramatically in real terms and are quite inadequate to meet the expectations that the public has of a national Member of Parliament. In most States, MLA funds now exceed Rs 4 Crores. With 5-7 MLAs per Lok Sabha constituency, the MPLADS appears quite puny in comparison making it even more difficult for MPs to meet public demands. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the MPLADS should at least be doubled or tripled and then rise in-line with inflation. The Committee would also like to be apprised as to whether the allocations could be made slab-based depending on the size of the Constituency similar to the pattern of election expenditure.

#### Reply of the Government

The Ministry does not deal with the subject matter of Local Area Development Scheme of the MLAs. However, under MPLADS, each Constituency, regardless of its size, is allotted Rs. 5 Crore annually. Introduction of slabs on the basis of size of the Constituency may be discriminatory and hamper the development projects for the respective Constituencies and therefore may not be feasible.

Operations of MPLADS stand suspended for next two FY i.e. 2020-21 and 2021-22 for managing the health and economic impacts of the outbreak of COVID-19 in the

country and budgetary outlay for MPLADS for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 stands placed at the disposal of M/o Finance. Therefore, the matter of revision of allocation of MPLADS could not be undertaken during the current financial year.

**[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation vide  
O.M. No. N-11016/3/2019-CAP dated 03.06.2020]**

## **CHAPTER - IV**

**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE  
GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE**

**NIL**

## **CHAPTER- V**

**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES  
OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWATED**

**NIL**

**NEW DELHI**  
**08 September, 2020**  
**17 Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)**

**SHRI JAYANT SINHA**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Standing Committee on Finance**

**Minutes of the Sixteenth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2019-20)**  
**The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 from 1500hrs. to 1600 hrs**  
**in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.**

**PRESENT**

**Shri Jayant Sinha – Chairperson**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
3. Shri Vallabhaneni Balashowry
4. Smt. Sunita Duggal
5. Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh
6. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
7. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
8. Shri Manish Tewari
9. Shri Rajesh Verma

**RAJYA SABHA**

10. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar
11. Shri Amar Patnaik
12. Shri G.V.L Narasimha Rao
13. **Smt. Ambika Soni**

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri V.K Tripathi - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan - Director
3. Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora - Additional Director
4. Shri Kh. Ginalal Chung - Under Secretary

## **PART I**

**(1500 hrs – 1545 hrs)**

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

## **PART II**

**(1545 hrs onwards)**

3. The Committee thereafter took up the following draft reports for consideration and adoption:

- (i) Draft Report on the subject 'Financing the startup ecosystem'.
- (ii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 1<sup>st</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Expenditure and Investment and Public Asset Management).
- (iii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 2<sup>nd</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (iv) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 3<sup>rd</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (v) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 4<sup>th</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Planning (NITI)
- (vi) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 5<sup>th</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (vii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 7<sup>th</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Expenditure and Investment and Public Asset Management).
- (viii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 8<sup>th</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (ix) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 9<sup>th</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

- (x) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 10<sup>th</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Planning (NITI)
- (xi) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 11<sup>th</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (xii) Draft Action Taken Report on the 50<sup>th</sup> Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) 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"

After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the above draft Reports and authorised the Chairperson to finalise them and present the Report to the Hon'ble Speaker / Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

## APPENDIX

(Vide Para 4 of the Introduction)

ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2020-21) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

	Total	% of total
(i) Total number of Recommendations	9	
(ii) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government (vide Recommendation at Sl. Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6,8, and 9)	8	88.9%
(iii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	1	11.1%
(iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	Nil	0.00
(v) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final reply of the Government are still awaited	Nil	0.00