

Action Taken Report

on recommendations of Annual Report of
the National Statistical Commission (NSC)
for the year **2020-21**

Action Taken Report on recommendations/observations/decisions contained in Annual Report of the National Statistical Commission (NSC) for the year 2020-21

Reference para nos. in Annual Report	Recommendation(s)/observations/decisions in brief	Whether accepted or rejected	If accepted, action taken and if rejected, reason thereof
Status of fieldwork of the on-going NSS surveys and the future course of action			
2.4 d	It was also advised that MoSPI may evolve chalking out strategies to bring out results/estimations from field surveys for which enumeration work is incomplete in the range of 70% to 90%. Efforts to shorten the duration of the survey are to continue and explore the feasibility of undertaking multiple surveys as well.	Accepted	NSS is exploring the possibilities of producing some key tables sub-round wise and which will be examined internally. Based on the findings, the detailed action plan will be devised to produce the sub-round-wise provisional tables. The survey schedules are being prepared to reduce the respondent time. A modular approach of survey has been envisaged through Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS) where different blocks will cater to the requirement of different line Ministries/ Departments.
Finalization of survey subjects for NSS 79th round (January-December, 2021)- proposal and recommendations			
2.6 & 2.7	2.6 During the 115th NSC meeting held on 16th October 2020, NSO (SDRD) gave a detailed presentation on the subject and coverage of NSS 79th round. The following surveys were proposed to be conducted in 79th round of NSS: (a) Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS) – This will accommodate various requirements of different Ministries/Departments to the extent feasible. (b) Survey on Living Conditions and other related aspects of Tribals in India (c) Survey on AYUSH		

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	<p>2.7 After a detailed discussion on the NSS 79th Round, the Commission recommended the three proposed surveys to be conducted in the 79th round of NSS but with the following observations:</p> <p>a) NSS in consultation with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs may finalize the details including the definitions, data requirements etc. for the survey.</p> <p>b) Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey may be conducted keeping in view that the survey does not include collection of the data which is being collected through the other data sources such as the administrative sources or which can be substituted with the proxy data so as to reduce the duplication of efforts and resources. The survey may be carried out with the minimum efforts so as to achieve maximum output.</p> <p>c) The different survey modules may be administered during each round depending on the basis of requirement of the line ministries. The modules can be added or dropped without altering the fundamental feature of the survey. Such a modular survey would not only save cost of resources but also would be able to serve the requirements of more than one user simultaneously.</p>	<p>a) Accepted</p> <p>b) Accepted</p> <p>c) Accepted</p>	<p>a) A detailed proposal for the Pilot Tribal Survey is under preparation, as per the recommendation of the Working Group.</p> <p>b) CAMS will be taken up in the 79th Round of NSS for which survey instruments are finalized in consultation with concerned Working Group (WG). The same was placed before NSC for concurrence and as per recommendations made by NSC in its 120th meeting, the finalisation of survey instruments is under process. The surveys will collect data which are required to derive the estimates of those parameters only for which line Ministries requested NSS to conduct surveys.</p> <p>c) A modular approach of survey has been envisaged through CAMS in 79th Round where different blocks will cater to the requirement of different line Ministries/Departments.</p>

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	<p>d) A committee may be formed under the chairmanship of Dr. Kiran Pandya, Member, NSC and with officers from MoSPI as members of the Committee to deliberate on use of alternative source of data to reduce survey burden. The Committee may submit its report within three weeks of its constitution.</p> <p>e) As the number of households taking AYUSH medicines or services may not be very high, the number of sample households captured through the survey may be on the lower side</p>	<p>d) Accepted</p> <p>e) Accepted</p>	<p>d) A Committee was formed by the Ministry vide order No. F-23015/6/2021-PIMD dated 11.02.2021 and its first meeting was held on 15th April 2021 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kiran Pandya, Member, National Statistical Commission (NSC). Follow-up action on the decisions taken in the meeting are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta Data and Registries format: Draft template for metadata and registries were circulated to members of IMC for input/comments on 17th May 2021. Received inputs were incorporated and webform has been developed. It will be further circulated to Ministries/Departments for providing the details on the same. • Two sectors to be identified for detailed examination of what would be best use of available administrative data: Draft report regarding the data available in the public domain have been prepared for Education Sector (Ministry of Education) and Health Sector (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) • Tenure of the Committee has been extended up to February, 2022. <p>e) M/o Ayush has been consulted by NSS, MoSPI and the former requested for making available the State-level estimates as well. Accordingly, in consultation</p>

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	leading to perhaps estimates with high margin of error. The survey may be conducted with the condition that generation of State level estimates may not be feasible. M/o Ayush may be consulted on this aspect.		with Working Group (WG) it has been decided that AYUSH survey will be carried out for a period of 12 th months split into four sub-rounds for generation of State-level estimates in addition to All-India estimates. The above decision was placed in the NSC 120 th meeting.
Household Consumer Expenditure Survey 2017-18 results			
2.10	Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) has requested the Commission to release the results of the NSO household consumer expenditure survey 2017-18 for policy research with an explanatory note highlighting the gaps, if any, which needs to be considered while interpreting research findings using the data base.		
2.11	After a detailed discussion on the matter, the Commission suggested that MoSPI may constitute a committee under the chairmanship of Chairman, NSC on this Matter. The other members of the committee would be Dr. G C Manna, Former DG (NSS) and few other officers of NSS as proposed by MoSPI. This Committee should submit its report within 2 weeks of its constitution.	Rejected	<p>The recommendation of NSC on constitution of the Committee has not been agreed to the following reasons:</p> <p>“Constitution of another Committee under the Chairmanship of NSC Chairman with other members as Dr. Manna, Member, NSC, DG (NSS) and his one or two nominee(s) from NSS, apparently seems repetition of the similar process, when Dr. Manna, Member, NSC, DG (NSS) and his nominee(s) from NSS officials had already deliberated upon this matter in great detail and the recommendations of Dr. Manna Committee were considered favourably in the NSC meeting held on 15th January, 2020. Further it was</p>

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			<p>submitted that observations/shortcomings pointed out in Dr. Manna Committee Report are to be addressed first and NSS was working on them” The above decision was placed in the NSC 116th meeting.</p> <p>Accordingly, as recommended by Dr. Manna Committee, refinement has been made in the survey instruments of upcoming Household Consumer Expenditure Survey (HCES) with the concurrence of NSC in its 118th meeting.</p>
Appraisal of NSC on Generation of estimates corresponding to indicator 8.3.1 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) from Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)			
2.14	After a detailed discussion on the matter, CEO, NITI Aayog, suggested that technology may be used in the survey work to capture more information. The sample size for the surveys may also be increased so as to facilitate better comprehension of socio-economic indicators.	Accepted	<p>In NSS surveys, all out efforts are being made to use technology to reduce the time for processing of data and improving the quality of data generated. NSO is now developing an application to facilitate online collection of data in digital format and faster validation and processing of data and accordingly three surveys namely Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) & Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) have been taken up in the online platform.</p> <p>A Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. T. J. Rao for determination of sample size for NSS estimates of socio-economic characteristics at sub-state level was constituted by</p>

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			MoSPI. The committee had submitted its report to MoSPI which is under consideration in the Ministry.
Appraisal of NSC on Recent changes in Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)			
2.17	After a detailed discussion on the matter, the Commission suggested that while adding new blocks and questions, it must be ensured that interview time is not extended as this will lead to respondent fatigue. The Commission further recommended that the respondent time should not be more than 30 minutes.	Accepted	Only utmost necessary items are being collected and no more additional items are being included unless absolutely necessary.
Discussion on Feasibility of generating monthly estimates of key Labour market indicators based on Periodic Labour Force Survey			
2.21	<p>The Commission gave its observations on the matter as summarized below:</p> <p>a) Member, NSC suggested that survey based estimates need to be compared with the administrative data for establishing the validity of the survey results.</p> <p>b) Secretary, MoSPI also suggested that the concerned divisions of MoSPI may continuously coordinate with line Ministries for improvement in the data both administrative and survey.</p>	Accepted	<p>a) & b) On the recommendations of NSC, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kiran Pandya, Member, NSC has been formed dated 11.02.2021 in order to identify possible alternative administrative data sources to reduce the survey burden. The Committee will identify administrative data sources both in Line Ministries/State Governments and thereafter suggest institutional framework for enabling usages of alternative data in official statistics in India. The Committee will also lay down guidelines for developing survey instruments</p>

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	<p>d) Member, NSC suggested that comparability of the quarterly estimates need to be ensured before bringing out the monthly estimates on PLFS.</p>	-	<p>in view of alternative data sources. The above decision has approval at Secretary level.</p> <p>d) Regarding generation of monthly estimates of key labour market indicators based on Periodic Labour Force Survey in 118th meeting of NSC, Secretary opined that the PLFS is a new annual survey, and its quality is generally considered to be good. He also stated that it is important for MoSPI to work on reducing the time lag between the completion of field work and release of quarterly results, and strengthen and stabilize this process, rather than undertaking any new activity.</p>
Discussion on Introduction of advanced modes of surveys like Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) and Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) in the MoSPI			
2.23 & 2.24	<p>2.23 During the 116th NSC meeting, NSO (DQAD) made a presentation before the Commission on Introduction of advanced modes of surveys like Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) and Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) in the MoSPI. The advantages of CAPI, CATI and CAWI along with their limitations in surveys were discussed in detail.</p> <p>2.24 After a detailed discussion on the matter, the Commission made the following recommendations:</p>		

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	<p>a) The Commission appreciated the efforts of MoSPI for working on introducing the advanced modes of survey, which may be cost effective. Further it was opined that such instruments though useful may be used with caution. Pilot testing etc. may be carried out before adopting such modes in a full-fledged way.</p> <p>b) The Commission observed that the response rate in CATI/CAWI is usually very low and the sample of households/persons may neither be random nor representative because of the voluntary responses from the respondents. Thus estimates may be subject to the issues of reliability and validity. Also with such procedures the sample size needs to be kept sufficiently large to account for the non-responses.</p> <p>c) Secretary, MoSPI suggested that this being a new initiative, requires more deliberations and creative thinking before making any decision.</p> <p>d) The Commission also suggested that while canvassing the 79th round, information from the respondents such as availability of web facility, mobile no. and willingness to take the survey on phone / Email should be explored.</p>	<p>Accepted</p> <p>Accepted</p>	<p>a),b),& c) As suggested, more deliberations are needed to examine the feasibility in adopting these methods in Indian conditions.</p> <p>d) The provision has been kept in the CAMS schedule of NSS 79th round for obtaining information of mobile no, land line no, e-mail id of the informant. Also, household's willingness to participate in Web survey will also be collected.</p>
Presentation on Social Audit Pilot project			
2.28	After detailed discussion on the matter, NSC recommended that the proposal of ISI will accordingly be forwarded to NITI Aayog for exploring the	Accepted	Necessary follow up has been made by NSS vide email dated 16.02.2021 with ISI and accordingly the proposal along with all related documents

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	feasibility of financial support. When the project is approved, MoSPI /NITI will facilitate necessary support from the State Governments for carrying out this project successfully.		including the technical proposal, financial proposal etc relevant to the Social Audit Project has been submitted by ISI to CEO NITI vide email dated 23.02.2021.
2.29	While ascertaining the status of Social Audit Project during the 115th NSC Meeting, it was decided that the proposed Social Audit Pilot project would be further processed by NSS. Then again during the 116th Meeting of the NSC, it was decided by the NSC that Dr. KiranPandya, Member, NSC on behalf of NSC along with an officer deputed by DG (NSS), would follow up with NITI Aayog on the project.		Subsequently, NITI Aayog has nominated ISI for conducting the research study on “Social Audit applying survey sampling and analytics”.
Concept Note on Exploring the idea of development of Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP) in Indian context			
3.2 & 3.3	<p>3.2 NITI Aayog made a presentation on the Concept Note and NSC was apprised of the following:</p> <p>a) GDKP India council would be constituted under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chairman NITI.</p> <p>b) Working Group would be constituted with Senior level officers & subject matter experts.</p> <p>c) Core group has been constituted with Prof Umberto Sulpasso, Amb (Retd.) K P Fabian, Amb (Retd.) Balkrishna Shetty, Sh. Ashish Kumar, Ex-DG, CSO & Sh. Rama Kamaraju.</p>		

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	<p>d) GDKP India Cell has been created for providing secretarial support.</p> <p>3.3 After a detailed discussion on the matter, the Commission made the following observations:</p> <p>a) Member, NSC pointed out that the concept note does not provide the methodology for capturing the data and computation of GDKP. This exercise would require not only identification of knowledge parameters but it also requires tweaking of parameters which would reflect the real status of the outcome. He further mentioned that alternative data sources for capturing data also needs to be spelt-out. The overall concept has a lot of subjectivity and requires further elaboration.</p> <p>b) MoSPI stated that the concept paper seems to suggest that the GDKP would serve as such an indicator supplementing the GDP measure, but falls short of specifying how it is going to supplement the GDP in measuring welfare, the specific purposes that the GDKP is expected to serve in policy making.</p> <p>c) Member, NSC cited that identification of right kind of knowledge indicators will be very important to determine the impact of knowledge dissemination on GDP. Some more information on explaining how Cyber Space would propel GDP growth</p>	Accepted	<p>3.3 (a) to (i): Vice- Chairman reviewed the progress made on the recommendation of NSC on 06.08.2021. After an overall consideration of the progress made on the issues raised by NSC on the concept note, it was decided that the project be ceased with immediate effect. Hence, the recommendation under this subject item may be dropped.</p>

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	<p>will be useful.</p> <p>d) Member, NSC opined that the definitional aspects of knowledge and knowledge products which are in the core of the concept of GDKP needs to be discussed. The other issues like the standardization of concepts particularly, for cross-country comparison of estimates of GDKP to GDP ratio, methodological issues including the data gaps if any in the Indian context, and also the utility of the final output might require more deliberations.</p> <p>e) MoSPI stated that the measurement framework of GDKP would require a comprehensive document similar to SNA 2008 which is the guiding framework for computing the national accounts of the country. Data for GDKP may not be readily available and in such circumstances perception based surveys would have to be conducted. A portion of GDKP is already being captured in GDP. Although GDKP may augment the GDP but integrating GDKP and GDP, would require a proper methodology.</p> <p>f) MoSPI opined that the mathematical and methodological foundations propounded by the Prof Sulpasso are nebulous and remain unshared.</p> <p>g) MoSPI stated that what GDKP intends to measure, can be considered as a subset of GDP. It can be developed as a satellite account similar</p>		

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	<p>to the satellite account of tourism. As tourism is also not an activity under the international standard industrial classification but it is an aggregation of various industries through which, they come out with direct and indirect contribution to GDP for the tourism sector. Same is the case with other sectors also such as civil aviation, health etc. The ownership lies with the respective ministries.</p> <p>h) MoSPI was of the view that desirability of GDKP may be specified in view of the technology and talent driven all pervasive transformations. In this direction, NITI has already constituted a Working Group. For embarking on its operational part, it is important that definition of knowledge may also be crystallized. Besides this, the definitions, indicators, methodologies, other variables including approach etc. are also required to be standardized as per the global acceptable norms else the exercise would not be comparable across countries.</p> <p>i) The Commission, while appreciating the concept stated that the columns and the rows of the two matrices namely, knowledge producing matrix and the knowledge users' matrix needs to be defined specifically. Thereafter, there is a need to understand the data required and its method</p>		

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	of collection for every cell in the matrices, which would be challenging.		
3.4	As NITI will be engaging subject matter experts, Commission decided that Sh. Pulak Ghosh, Member, NSC, Sh. Jyotirmoy Poddar, former DG-CSO, MoSPI, a few officers of MoSPI, one academician from ISI and other experts in this area as recommended by Secretary, MoSPI, would be co-opted in the Working Group to be constituted by NITI.	Not applicable in view of decision taken on para 3.3 above.	Not Applicable.