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राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) / Minister of State (I/C)
सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय; योजना मंत्रालय
M/O Statistics & Programme Implementation; M/O Planning
राज्य मंत्री कॉर्पोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय/MOS M/O Corporate Affairs
भारत सरकार / Government of India
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

Action Taken Report

on recommendations of Annual Report of
the National Statistical Commission (NSC)
for the year 2021-22

**Action Taken Report (ATR) on Recommendations/ Observations/ Decisions
contained in Annual Report of the National Statistical Commission (NSC) for
the year 2021-22**

Reference para no. in Annual Report	Recommendations/observations/ decisions in brief	Whether accepted or rejected	If accepted, action taken and if rejected, reason thereof
Presentation on Results of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2019-20 before release			
2.4	DDG, NSO (SDRD) made a Presentation on Results of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2019-20 before release. The commission decided that for release of all future NSS reports, the reports will be presented before the corresponding Working Group/ Committee. The presentation of report will then be circulated in password protected format to all NSC members. Then the NSC members will provide comments, if any, within 3 days. If no further modifications are needed in the report, the report will be released immediately.	Accepted	The presentations of reports are being circulated in password protected format to NSC members for comments before release of NSS reports.
Presentation on the need for wider and more timely labour market data, Thali Index and BNI			
2.7	Sh. Pulak Ghosh, Member, NSC suggested that the reasons for delay of PLFS data needs to be explored. Alternative data sources such as number of salary accounts in a bank or information from private players such as PayTM and Google Pay may also be explored.	Accepted Rejected	(i) Efforts have been made to gradually reduce the time lag in release of PLFS Quarterly Bulletins to less than 6 months from the closure of the field work, within a year. Accordingly, the last bulletin quarter ending June 2022 was released in August 2022 with a time lag of two months from the closure of the field work. (ii) In the meeting held on 27.08.2021, the sub-committee considered the matter of the proposal of alternative data sources. Sub- committee did not

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			agree and was of the view that internal users of NSS data may consider this proposal. However, the matter was again discussed in the 120th meeting of NSC and the Commission opined that this exercise was not feasible.
2.8 – 2.10	<p>Dr. G C Manna, Member, NSC also suggested that MoSPI should publish the quarterly reports within a month and subsequently it can be revised in the Annual Report.</p> <p>Secretary, MoSPI, stated 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 like generating additional labour market indicators or increasing the frequency of existing indicators.</p> <p>Chairman, NSC agreed that presently MoSPI's efforts needed to focus on reducing the excessive time lag in release of PLFS results. He advised that Secretary, MoSPI and DG (NSS) should review the system to bring about improvements on this aspect.</p>	Accepted	Efforts have been made to gradually reduce the time lag in release of PLFS Quarterly Bulletins to less than 6 months from the closure of the field work, within a year. Accordingly, the last bulletin quarter ending June 2022 was released in August 2022 with a time lag of two months from the closure of the field work
Discussion on Timely release of PLFS data			
2.12 – 2.13	<p>Reducing time lag of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) was presented by DDG, NSO (SDRD) before the Commission. Key points of the presentation are as follows:</p> <p>i. Time lag in release of results of</p>	Accepted	<p>(i) PLFS data is already being captured using CAPI, loaded with built-in data validation at different stages of data capturing.</p> <p>(ii) Stage-wise activities along</p>

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	<p>PLFS.</p> <p>ii. Steps for improvement in timeliness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification of stages in the survey process which is resulting in delay ➤ Preparation of Standard operating procedures(SOP) ➤ Intensive training to outsourced field staff ➤ Data capturing through CAPI ➤ Release of PLFS results <p>iii. NSO is now developing an application to facilitate online collection of data in digital format and faster validation and processing of data. A full-fledged stabilized CAPI-eSIGMA platform is being developed.</p> <p>iv. The new CAPI-eSIGMA data collection software is put to live testing use from 15th September 2021 to canvass the first visit Q1-Panel III (July-September 2021) by the field officials.</p> <p>v. In-built data validation at the different stages of data capturing in CAPI will ensure that the time of post-field work data cleaning is reduced.</p> <p>After detail deliberations, CSI & Secretary, MoSPI emphasized upon developing timelines for each stage of the process. The Commission sought stage-wise expected time-lines of the new platform and NSO (DQAD) was advised to summarize all the glitches observed in the new platform and to be brought before the NSC.</p>		<p>with expected time-lines have been prepared for PLFS in such a way to reduce time lag gradually and accordingly, the last bulletin quarter ending June 2022 was released in August 2022 with a time lag of two months from the closure of the field work.</p> <p>(iii) In this regard a Project Operating Team (POT) has been constituted for preparation and monitoring of the timelines of Stage-wise activities on a regular basis.</p> <p>(iv) Continuous training is also being imparted to Data Supervisors and field staff.</p>

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Survey on Consumption basket for Development of Chain-Base Indices			
2.15	<p>DDG, NSO (SDRD) made a presentation on Survey on Consumption basket for Development of Chain-Base Indices. Key points of the presentation are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Survey on household consumer expenditure renamed as "Survey on Consumption Basket for Development of Chain Base Indices". ii. Going by the practices followed in the ongoing surveys of NSS, questionnaire method is proposed to be adopted for collection of information. iii. In view of the recommendations of the NSC along with corroborating that the time taken for filling up the responses should not exceed 45 minutes, and to meet the users' need, it was proposed to divide the entire commodity basket of food and nonfood items into three broad groups and have separate questionnaires, namely, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Questionnaire FDQ: Food-items b. Questionnaire CSQ: Consumable & Services items c. Questionnaire DGQ: Durable items iv. To collect information on Household characteristics and Demographic particulars of sample households another Questionnaire, HCQ has been prepared. 	Accepted	<p>(i) As per the decisions taken in the 123rd meeting of NSC, the survey on household consumer expenditure has been further renamed as "Household Consumption Expenditure Survey" (HCES) and incorporated in all survey related documents.</p> <p>(ii) Survey instruments of the Household Consumption Expenditure: 2022-23 have been finalized as per the recommendations of the NSC and the same was approved by the Working Group constituted for the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey and the NSC.</p>

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	<p>v. The three Questionnaires will be canvassed at random in the selected households through three separate monthly visits.</p> <p>vi. Information on Questionnaire HCQ will be collected during first visit only. However, changes in composition of the household will be recorded in the subsequent visits to the household. In Questionnaire HCQ, some basic information on subsidy, online purchase/payments will also be collected.</p> <p>vii. Some new items have been added in the questionnaires in view of the current trend in consumption.</p>		
Launch of the Survey on Consumption Basket for Development of Chain-Base Indices			
2.19	<p>During discussion on the agenda, Dr. G C Manna, Member, NSC raised the following points:</p> <p>a. The feedback of fieldwork in successive visits during pilot and action to be taken in the main survey to adjust the household level data in case of partial response due to noncooperation / refusal to provide data in the subsequent visit(s).</p> <p>b. Comparability of data with the earlier NSS rounds without canvassing the full schedule in an independent sample of households in each village / block in addition to the proposed methodology of splitting the schedule into 3 parts and 3 visits for reducing the canvassing time in each visit.</p>	Accepted	<p>(i) A status note was prepared on the issues raised in the 121st meeting of NSC held on 25th January, 2022 the same was shared with all the members of NSC.</p> <p>(ii) All India Workshop for Trainers (AIWOT) for the survey has been conducted during 18th –19th May, 2022. The Regional Training Camps (RTCs) to train field staff were conducted during 20th - 30th July, 2022 in all the Regional offices.</p> <p>(iii) The Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI)</p>

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	<p>c. Utilization of MPCE estimates unless the full schedule is also canvassed in an independent sample of households to maintain comparability of poverty estimates with the past.</p> <p>d. Regarding launching of survey, he proposed that the survey cannot be delayed indefinitely, given the fact that the prevalence of virus would be there and as the earlier NSS rounds on household consumption expenditure has been usually conducted from July –June, therefore, it would be prudent to launch this survey from July 2022.</p>		<p>software for Household Consumption Expenditure Survey has been modified incorporating all provisions made in the survey instruments and the survey was launched in the first week of August, 2022.</p>
2.20– 2.24	<p>DG, NSS informed that during the pilot, in each 24 regional offices, only a small number of households (2-3) were visited therefore refusal from households was not encountered. It was also observed that the canvassing time and the respondent's burden was getting reduced.</p> <p>Regarding the NITI Aayog's exercise of Head Count Ratio, it was informed that it is not being carried out currently and NITI Aayog has switched to computation of Multidimensional Poverty Index for which the MPCE estimates are not required.</p> <p>Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO NITI Aayog, clarified that no formal decision on switching over has been taken on Head Count Ratio and the study on Multidimensional Poverty Index is being carried out with UNDP as part of SDGs achievement.</p>	Accepted	<p>A status note was prepared on the issues raised in the 121st meeting of NSC and the same was shared with all the members of NSC</p>

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	<p>DDG(SDRD), informed that the issue of missing households in subsequent visits, was flagged before the working Group, it was suggested that based on the information on households who reported for food, non- food and consumer durables can be considered as sets of three different households. As state level estimates would be generated, therefore considering these 3 different sets, computation of MPCE for food from those households who reported on food consumption, similarly, computation of MPCE for services and consumables and computation of MPCE on another set of households who reported information on durables can be done. These three figures would be combined by assigning appropriate weights to be decided based on the data of the survey. Further, the intersection of these households will give a full set of questionnaires for computing the MPCE at state level which would address the issue of comparability with the previous surveys in which full schedule was canvassed.</p> <p>Secretary, MoSPI suggested that officers of MoSPI can bring out a status report on the issues flagged in the discussion.</p>		
2.26	After deliberations, the Commission approved the launch date of the fieldwork for the survey on Consumption basket for Development of Chain Base Indices from July 2022-June 2023 subject to NSO officials would discuss the utility of the proposed survey data on MPCE /	Accepted	<p>(i) A meeting was held with NITI Aayog on 1st June, 2022 to discuss utility of the proposed survey data for compilation of poverty estimates as recommended in the 121st meeting of NSC.</p> <p>(ii) Subsequently, in the 124th</p>

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	Household Consumer Expenditure for compilation of poverty estimates with the concerned division of NITI Aayog and thereafter bring the revised methodology before NSC for approval before launching the survey in July 2022.		meeting of NSC held on 7 th June, 2022, the Commission was apprised about the outcome of the meeting held with NITI Aayog regarding the utility of the proposed survey data on Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) /Household Consumption Expenditure Surveys (HCES) for compilation of Poverty Estimates.
Appraisal of the developments and discussions with the Ministries and consequent modification suggested in the survey Plan of NSS 79th Round			
2.29– 2.30	<p>The Commission took note of the developments of NSS 79th Round and directed to proceed further.</p> <p>Taking into consideration the various aspects, the NSC desired that for the 79th Round survey on CAMS and AYUSH, the data of first sub-round may be presented before the NSC.</p>	Accepted	NSS 79 th round has been launched on 1 st July 2022 in CAPI/ eSIGMA platform. Recommendation of NSC to present data of first sub round of survey on Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS) and AYUSH has been noted for compliance.
Discussion on the survey instruments of CAMS and AYUSH survey of NSS 79th round			
2.33	After deliberations, both the schedules of CAMS and AYUSH have been approved by NSC. In case of item number 8, block 3.2 of CAMS schedule, Dr. G. C Manna observed that related question/code structure may be modified to account for the case on non-regular use of internet. It was decided that the related question/code structure will be modified suitably to accommodate the observation of Dr. Manna.	Accepted	The matter regarding 'regularity of internet use' (Item 8, Block 3.2) was taken up in the fifth meeting of Working Group (WG) held on 22.09.2021 and as decided in the meeting, discussions made with concerned line Ministries /Divisions of NSO to finalise the framing of the question. Accordingly, necessary modifications in the questionnaire have been done after taking concurrence of Working Group.
2.34	As the pre-testing study observed that canvassing time of CAMS schedule is on higher side, NSC recommended implementing randomisation of blocks for canvassing the CAMS so that any	Accepted	The matter was taken up in the fifth meeting of Working Group (WG) held on 22.09.2021 and the WG observed that the suggestion, being an operational issue, may

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	adverse impact of respondent fatigue can be reduced to some extent.		be examined within NSO (NSS). The matter has been discussed and the change in sequencing of blocks has been incorporated in the CAPI keeping in view the ease of canvassing of it in the field.
2.35	The sample design for both CAMS and AYUSH were presented before NSC. Dr. G. C. Manna enquired the reason of difference of duration for CAMS and AYUSH (1 year for CAMS and 6 months for AYUSH) survey. He opined that the survey period for AYUSH survey may be extended to 12 months from the proposed duration of 6 months, to capture sufficient number of samples for deriving reliable state level estimates. DDG, SDRD informed that since only all India level estimates will be generated for AYUSH survey so duration of 6 months will be sufficient for this survey.	Accepted	On the recommendation of the Commission, the duration of survey on AYUSH has been extended to 12 months.
2.36	Chairman, NSC suggested that DG, NSS may reconfirm from Secretary, AYUSH whether they required only all India estimates or state level estimates as well. If they required both the estimates, and also keeping in view the results of NSS 75 Round health survey that only around 5% of population is using AYUSH, the duration of AYUSH survey may need to be increased from 6 months to 12 months.	Accepted	On the recommendation of the Commission, the duration of survey on AYUSH has been extended to 12 months.
2.37	NSS proposed that no second stage stratification be made in CAMS as the survey aims to generate multiple indicators and use of stratification based on one indicator may not be desirable. However, Dr. G. C. Manna	Accepted	As suggested, provision for second-stage stratification in sampling design of CAMS has been made.

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	and Dr. Pulak Ghosh opined that since the case of hospitalisation at the household level is a rare event, a suitable second stage stratification strategy based on hospitalisation cases at the household level may be adopted in CAMS.		
2.38	Chairman, NSC enquired whether the suggested stratification is possible at this juncture of the survey. DG, NSS stated that it would be very difficult to incorporate the changes like SSS formation for CAMS as most of the work of CAPI software has been completed and changes in software at this stage can delay the launch of survey, also putting additional burden on survey can delay the timely release of results. The Chairman opined that NSS may examine the possibility of stratification in CAMS as suggested by NSC members.	Accepted	As suggested, provision for second-stage stratification in sampling design of CAMS has been made and incorporated in CAPI of CAMS.
Survey on Credit Linked Facilities available for MSMEs			
2.40– 2.41	DDG (SDRD) made a presentation on Survey on Credit Linked Facilities available for MSMEs. Key points of the presentation are as follows: i. M/o MSME decided to conduct a survey from scratch. ii. Accordingly, a preliminary meeting was conducted virtually on 6 th April, 2021 with officers of M/o MSME where officers from SDRD, DQAD, FOD and SCD were also present. During meeting, it was decided that:	Accepted	The Survey on Credit Link Facilities available for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has been dropped.

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	<p>b. M/o MSME will share the list of 25 lakh units, as available in their Udyam Registration Portal, consisting of the details like address, pincode, state, district, contact number, capital, investment in plant & machinery, turnover, employment etc.</p> <p>c. The address of 1% (around 25,000) of those lists of units will be selected randomly and verified telephonically by DQAD and FOD.</p> <p>iii. Current status on this survey is that the list of 25 lakhs MSME units is still awaited from M/o MSME. NSO (SDRD) has designed a short schedule based on the deliberations made in the meeting dated 6th April, 2021. However, no further communication has been received from M/o MSME in this respect.</p> <p>After detailed deliberation on the matter it was decided that the agenda on Survey on Credit Link Facilities available for MSME may be dropped as Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has not made any further necessary communication with NSS for conduct of the survey.</p>		
Base Year Revision of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2011-12 to 2017-18			
3.2 (i)	DPIIT should ensure that the revised series of WPI with base year 2017-18 is released soon.	Accepted	Base revision methodology has been finalized and data collection necessary for release of news series is completed

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3.2 (ii)	In the revised series of WPI, some changes have been incorporated. The methodology followed for the new series of WPI should be placed in the official website of DPIIT for user's information.	Accepted	The instruction manual and other details related to the new series are prepared for dissemination on release of the new series.
3.2 (iii)	The system of WPI may also ensure that guidelines and instructions for collection of primary price data exist and staff engaged in collection of data is periodically trained and oriented to this activity.	Accepted	O/o Economic Adviser, DPIIT conducts regular trailing of the field staff.
3.2 (iv) a	As data of FY 2018-19 has been released, can we use the data of FY 2016-17/2017-18/2018-19 for considering middle year 2017-18 as base year.	Accepted	The weights of the new series are derived on the basis of triennium average of 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.
3.2 (iv) b	As demonetisation was implemented in November, 2016 whether there is any effect on base year 2017-18?	Accepted	No significant effect was seen in macro-economic indicators. The triennium average was taken to remove the volatility of any kind.
