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## **ANNEXURE - III**

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### **A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE INDIAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

India has a federal structure of Government and the Indian Statistical System functions within the overall administrative set up of the country. The division of responsibility for administration between the Union Government and the State Governments is on the basis of three-fold classification of all subjects, namely, the Union List, the State List, and the Concurrent List. The Concurrent list represents the subjects where both the Union and State Governments can operate, and it includes the subject Statistics. There is a further division of responsibility, by subjects or groups of subjects, among the different Ministries/Departments of the Union Government and among the Departments of State Governments, on the basis of their administrative functions.

The Indian Statistical System, therefore, may be treated as both decentralized and centralized system. For example, the large-scale statistical operations conducted all over the country like Population Census, Economic Census, Agricultural Census and Livestock Census, as well as nation-wide sample surveys including the Annual Survey of Industries and the Socio-Economic surveys is the responsibility of Central agencies. Similarly, compilation of national accounts, preparation of all-India Prices and Industrial production indices are also Central activities. In the case of States, the State statistical organizations collect and generate data on a number of variables. The Central Government acts as the coordinating agency for presentation of statistics on an all-India basis even in fields where the States have the primary authority and responsibility for collection of statistics. The State Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DESSs) carry out the responsibility of coordination of all statistical activities at the State level and keeping liaison with the MOSPI for the purpose of maintaining uniformity and consistency in the data produced and consolidated at different levels.

#### **Statistical System at the Centre**

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) is the nodal agency for planning and facilitating the integrated development of the statistical system in the country including laying down norms and standards in the field of official statistics, evolving concepts and definitions, suggesting methodologies of data collection, processing and dissemination of results. The Ministry has two wings viz. National Statistical Organization (NSO), commonly called 'Statistics Wing' and the 'Programme Implementation (PI) Wing'. The NSO consists of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) including Computer Centre and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). The Programme Implementation Wing has four Divisions viz. Twenty Point Programme Division, Infrastructure Monitoring Division, Project Monitoring Division, and Member of Parliament Local Area Development Division. In addition to a number of publications brought out by the MOSPI, both NSO and PI wing generate a lot of statistical information which is used by policy planners, researchers and other users. The MOSPI also has an autonomous Organization viz. the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) which is a premier statistical institute of international repute.

Besides the NSO, most of the line Ministries/Departments in the Government of India dealing with different subjects such as Agriculture, Water, Health, Rural development sectors etc. have statistical establishments to perform statistical activities for the respective Ministry/Department, and which are generally headed by senior level statistical functionaries to facilitate proper coordination with NSO. Most of these departments bring out respective statistical data/publications.

#### **Central Statistics Office (CSO)**

CSO is headed by a Director General with the headquarters located in New Delhi. It consists of five major Divisions viz. National Accounts Division (NAD), Economic Statistics Division (ESD), Social Statistics Division (SSD), Training Division, and Coordination & Publication Division (CAP). In addition, CSO has a premier training institute called National Academy of Statistical Administration (NASA) located near Delhi which has been conducting national/international statistical training programmes for last two years.

The Central Statistical Office is responsible for coordination of statistical activities in the country, and evolving and maintaining statistical standards. Its activities mainly include National Income Accounting; conduct of Economic Census and its follow up surveys, processing of data collected through Annual Survey of Industries and preparation of Reports, compilation of Index of Industrial Production, as well as Consumer price Indices, Gender Statistics, and imparting training on Official Statistics. CSO brings out a number of publications periodically including Statistical Year Book, Monthly Statistical Abstract, India in figures, Statistical Pocket book, Energy Statistics, Infrastructure statistics, Environment Statistics etc. besides disseminating various statistical data to various national and international agencies. The other activities include preparation of Five Year Plan and Annual Plans, holding conferences with the Central and State statistical agencies, revision of National Industrial Classification, preparation and implementation of Strategic Plans to make available data on key parameters, to improve the quality and reliability of existing data sets, to make available new data sets on emerging fields to meet increasing data demands, and, to reduce time lag in dissemination of data.

The Computer Centre under CSO, handles the data processing jobs of the MOSPI, provides training to statistical personnel on software, maintain the MOSPI's website ([www.mospi.gov.in](http://www.mospi.gov.in)) and the National Data Warehouse of Official Statistics.

#### **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**

The NSSO functions under the overall direction of a Steering Committee with requisite independence and autonomy in the matter of collection, processing and

publication of NSS data. In addition to the non-official Chairman, the Steering Committee is composed of academicians, data users from Central and State Government departments and senior officers of the Ministry. The NSSO is headed by the Director General and Chief Executive Officer (DG&CEO), who is also the Member-Secretary of the Steering Committee.

The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducts large scale sample surveys including socio-economic surveys, Annual Survey of Industrial, collection of price data for rural and urban sectors etc., besides carrying out sample checks on area enumeration and crop estimation surveys and prepares the urban frames useful in drawing of urban samples. The major activities of the NSSO pertain to Survey Design, Field Operations, Processing of NSSO data and Publication of NSSO Reports.

### **Statistical System in the States**

The Directorates of Economic and Statistics (DESS) in the States / UTs act as the nodal agencies for coordination of all statistical activities in the States/UTs. While most of the States/UTs have been formally declared by the State Governments as the Nodal Agencies on all statistical activities, the remaining few though not yet formally declared, continue to act as coordinating agency on statistical matters in the State/UT. Most of the States/UTs have District Statistical Offices (DSOs) which act as the field offices of the DESS for collection and compilation of statistical data for the districts. The DESS perform almost the same functions in the States/UTs as the NSO at the Centre viz. bringing out some key statistics, coordination with the Central and State statistical agencies, dissemination of statistics, etc.

### **Legal Support for Collection of Data**

Data collection in India has been largely based on a voluntary response except for the statutory support provided through the erstwhile 'Collection of Statistics Act, 1953' to collect industrial data. This Act has since been amended as the new 'Collection of Statistics Act 2008' which is much more comprehensive to enable collection of various socio-economic data. The 'Collection of Statistics Act 2008' is administered by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation while another Act viz. Census Act 1948 is administered by the Office of the Registrar General of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, to collect population and other demographic data. Besides these two important Acts, there are a number of other Acts, Rules and Procedures being administered by concerned subject Ministries/Departments, to collect statutory administrative returns which help in generating different subject related data.

### **Emerging challenges**

The Indian Statistical system has played an important role in facilitating informed decision-making, and greatly contributed in planned social and economic development in the country. A large variety of data is produced by the statistical system and extensive statistical data base have been created which helps in meeting the data requirements of not only the internal agencies but also the international agencies besides a large number of other users such as researchers. The system is undergoing steady transformation to meet ever increasing information needs following challenges arising out of the globalization and liberalization of economy. It involves many significant structural and operational changes in the statistical system both at the Centre and in the States. It includes constitution of National Statistical Commission (NSC) to revamp the statistical system in the country with a view to improving the credibility, timeliness and adequacy of data. A comprehensive India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) has been initiated with the collaboration of the World Bank to strengthen the statistical system in the States, in addition to an extensive programme undertaken to strengthen statistical capacity and infrastructure at sub-State level. Further, keeping in view the need to modernize the statistical system, there is an increasing thrust on deploying latest information and communication technology in data collection, data management and data dissemination for improving efficiency of statistical operations and activities. For example, e-collection of industrial and price data has been in operation already and e-system for dissemination of various data including e-publications initiated to facilitate wider and speedier access of such data. Steps are also being taken to accelerate e-governance to engage citizens' directly in the process of data sector reforms. Indeed, the official statistical system is relentlessly gearing up to meet growing aspirations of different stakeholders in the emerging fast-changing environment by providing requisite data as reliably and timely as possible besides undertaking appropriate measures to upgrade statistical skills and capacity through elaborate training programmes and promoting coordination between Central and State statistical agencies.