
ANNEXURE - IV

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF CHINA

Since the establishment of the Statistical System of People's Republic of China, after 50-year process of reformation, it has undergone the development and improvement during sustaining reform and adjustment to meet the demands of the new situation. The Statistics Law of the People's Republic of China stipulates that the State shall establish a centralized and unified statistical system, with a statistical administrative structure under unified leadership and with each level assuming responsibility for its own work.

The government statistical system comprises the government comprehensive statistical system (also known as the government statistics bureau system) and the departmental statistical system. The government comprehensive statistical system is consisted of the statistical institutions established through a top down model and comprised of statistical staffs from all levels. National Bureau of Statistics of China is established under the State Council, independent statistical institutions are established in local governments at or above the county level, and governments of townships and towns are staffed with full-time or part-time statisticians, who are responsible for the specific coordination and administration of the statistical work in their respective administrative areas. State superintendence of statistics implements under the model of "unified leadership and decentralized administration".

I. Government Comprehensive Statistical System

1) National Bureau of Statistics of China

As an organ directly under the State Council, the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) is responsible for directing and coordinating the statistical work throughout the country and national economic accounts. In the entire national statistical system, NBS is a main provider of national statistical data and a coordinator of government department statistics and local statistics. Pursuant to the Statistics Law of the People's Republic of China, the main function of NBS is to be responsible for organizing, directing and coordinating the statistical work throughout the country, to formulate statistical policy and planning, basic national statistical system and unified statistical standards, approve the statistical standards of departments, draw up a plan or scheme for important general surveys of the national conditions and strength jointly with the departments concerned, organize and conduct the important general surveys of the national conditions and strength such as Population Census, Economic Census and Agricultural Census, organize and conduct the statistical survey of key industries of the economy, collect, aggregate, collate and provide the statistical data related to the survey, and synthetically collate and provide the basic national statistical data, and to check, administer and publish the basic national statistical data and publish periodically the statistical data related to national economy and social development, and to administer the departmental and local statistical survey programs by law.

Like other countries in the world, NBS has, divided by professional and function, set up 18 administrative units at departmental level, 2 institutions operating as public management and 10 institutions (in Beijing) directly under NBS. According to the needs of its work, NBS establishes Survey Offices in each province (municipality, autonomous region) and a survey team in each prefecture (city, autonomous prefecture and league) and in one-third of counties (districts and banners), which are as agent organs of NBS and vertically administrated under NBS, and are mainly responsible for the survey of key statistical data required for the macroeconomic control and national accounts assigned by NBS mainly through sampling surveys.

2) Local Bureau of Statistics

Independent statistical institutions are established in local governments at or above the county level, and people's governments of townships and towns are established statistical stations or staffed with statisticians, who are responsible for carrying out their tasks of State statistical surveys and for organizing, guiding and coordinating the statistical work in their respective administrative areas. The statistical institutions of local governments at various levels are subordinated to the dual leadership of the government at their level and the statistical institutions at higher level, in statistical work, under the leadership of the statistical institutions at higher level.

II. Departmental Statistical System

The departments of the State Council and local governments at various levels do, according to the needs of their statistical work, establish statistical institutions and staffed with statisticians, these two aspects form a departmental statistical system. The main function of departmental statistical system is to organize and coordinate the statistical work of various functional organs of such departments, to execute the tasks of State and local statistical surveys, to draw up and carry out statistical survey plans of such departments and to collect, compile and provide statistical data, to make statistical analysis and exercise statistical supervision over the implementation of plans of the departments and of the enterprises and institutions under their jurisdiction.

As a main system of statistical work, the national statistical system has the power to direct and coordinate the departmental statistical system in statistical operation.

III. Statistical Laws

Whether statistical institutions or enterprises and institutions, must comply with the national statistical laws and regulations and conduct statistical survey

according to the statistical indicator systems, statistical survey methods and statistical system formulated by NBS.

Legal system of China's statistics comprises the statistics law ("Statistics Law of the People's Republic of China"), administrative regulations (including Regulations for Census and Regulations for Customs Statistics), administrative rules, regulatory documents (including the Interim Measures for Statistical Survey Programs of Departments, the Measures for Administration on Foreign-Related Survey and the Measures for Administration on Approval of Statistical Survey) and local rules. Pursuant to the Statistics Law of the People's Republic of China, State statistical survey programs are worked out by NBS, or jointly with the relevant department or departments of the State Council, and are submitted to the State Council for examination and approval, but important programs shall be reported to the State Council for examination and approval. Statistical survey programs of a department are worked out by the relevant department or departments of the State Council and are reported to the statistical institution at the same level for the record or approval. Local statistical survey programs are worked out by statistical institutions of local governments at or above the county level, or by statistical institutions of local people's governments at or above the county level jointly with the relevant department or departments, and shall all be reported to the statistical institution at the higher level for the record or approval. In drawing up a plan for statistical survey programs, it is necessary to draw up simultaneously appropriate statistical survey system, which shall be reported for examination or for the record. A statistical survey system shall stipulate survey objective, contents, methods, respondents, organizing form, forms, and submission and publication of statistical data. A statistical survey shall be organized and conducted under a statistical survey system. Any change of the contents of statistical survey system shall be submitted to the original examination and approval authority for warrant, or to the original registration authority for the record.

IV. Statistical Survey

NBS collects statistical data mainly through regular census and statistical survey, and sorts out statistical data through special survey, typical survey and administrative records. At present, the important general surveys of the national conditions and strength by NBS include Population Census, Agricultural Census and Economic Census, and 47 regular statistical surveys, including national accounts, agriculture, industry, energy, investment, construction, external economic relations, services, urban and rural households, price, society and science and labor wages, are organized and conducted. These surveys cover main aspects of economy, society, population, environment and resources.

Departmental statistics involves traffic, tourism, finance statistics, finance, import and export in customs, statistics of foreign capital utilization, culture, education, health, science and technology, registered permanent residence, social development, etc.

V. Publication and Provision of Statistical Material

NBS has established a system for regular provision and publication of statistical data and formed a series of statistical products, like the statistical yearbooks, monthly bulletin of statistics, statistical communiqués, concise statistical information, statistical reports for research and reference. The statistical institutions in 31 provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the central government and some selected cities and counties have all published their local statistical yearbooks which are largely consistent with the China Statistical Yearbook. In order to provide more detailed statistics, NBS jointly with the relevant ministries and commissions under the State Council has also published the relevant professional statistical yearbooks, published and provided statistical data through the network, television, radio, newspapers and magazines, and publications, and has opened the China Statistical Library and Information Service, established a national statistical database and systematically published statistical data so as to meet the needs of the users at different levels.

VI. Challenges and Development of Statistical System of China

The Chinese government is committed to promote sound and rapid development of economy and society, which raises more updated and much higher requirements of the Chinese statistical system and the statistical work are faced with an enormous challenge. Demand for statistics is a sharp increase and is characterized by diversification and complication, changes in economic and social environment make statistical survey more difficult and the current statistical system is still not perfect. Therefore, NBS has set forth the goals of statistical reform and development in the future period: to improve statistical capacity, the quality of statistical data and the credibility of government statistics; to reform the mode of statistical production, to achieve the unified design and arrangement of statistical survey plan and the direct collection, synchronized sharing and comprehensive monitoring of statistical data; to accelerate the construction of "Four Projects" (including the "Business Register of Basic Units", "System of A Unified Set of Table", "Software System of Data Collection and Processing" and "Direct Online Reporting System") that are interrelated and integrated, to realize computerization, networking and efficiency of statistical work from the design and the arrangement of tasks to the collection, handling, transmission, sharing, storage, processing and publication of data, and to basically build a modern statistical system and realize the modernization of statistics.