

# FOREWORD

Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) in the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOS&PI) is the nodal agency for coordination of statistical activities and integrated development of statistical system of the country. CSO has also the responsibility of dissemination of statistics on all subjects of importance. Statistical Abstract, India is a highly sought after publication of CSO, which provides statistics/indicators on various socio-economic aspects of the economy. The current 2006 issue of the Abstract includes statistics on several subjects both at the national and state level for the latest available years. For the benefit of the users, efforts have been made to provide explanatory notes showing the description of tables, methodology of data collection, coverage, definitions of the terms used, inter-alia.

2. The present issue of the publication is the 42<sup>nd</sup> edition in the series. It contains time series data for national aggregates generally for 1990-91 and onwards, up to the latest available year. The national aggregates are followed by State-wise data for the latest year so as to reflect the comparative development scenario amongst the States/Union Territories. Sources of data and footnotes, presented in various tables included in the publication, are indicated at the bottom of the tables.

3. The CSO is grateful to various Ministries/Departments and Public Sector undertakings under the Central and State Governments for their cooperation in supplying the data to CSO for bringing out this issue of the publication in a very comprehensive and informative form.

4. Data collection, its validation, compilation and updation, presentation of charts and graphs and generation of the manuscript have been carried out in the Research and Publication Unit. The Officers and staff of the Unit have done a commendable job in bringing out the publication under the guidance of Shri P.K. Ray, Additional Director General, Dr. V.K. Malhotra, Deputy Director General, Shri Rajesh Kumar, Director, assisted by Shri R. P. Srivastava, Assistant Director.

5. This is a combined issue for 2005 & 2006. I hope this publication will prove useful to the planners, policy makers, research workers and academicians. We, in this Organisation, constantly endeavour to improve the usefulness of the publication. Suggestions/comments for further improvement of the content and quality of the publication are welcome.

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