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FOREWORD

In the decentralized Statistical System of India where various entities both at Central and State Level are involved in the production & dissemination of statistics, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, being the nodal agency, has been bringing out consolidated reports on diverse socio economic indicators for a long time. The Statistical Year Book (earlier called Statistical Abstract) brought out by the Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation is one such publication that provides both time series and cross sectional data on various sectors.

In the present publication (46th in the series), in addition to the already existing all India time series data, inclusion of time series data at state level has also been initiated and the same is expected to provide a rich database on various indicators over the years. Further, to contextualize the performance of various sectors in India, global socio economic scenario has been included in the chapter wise commentary wherever feasible. References & sources of data have also been indicated for further research & analysis by users of the data.

In view of the size involved, the full publication including all the tables is being brought out in electronic format on a CD and the same is also uploaded on the website (www.mospi.nic.in) for wider accessibility. The print version of the Publication also which contains some important tables and graphs along with the commentary on various chapters.

I take this opportunity to thank all the Ministries/ Departments and other source agencies for their cooperation in supplying the data for the publication. I would also like to acknowledge and place on record the excellent work done by the team of Officers and staff of Research & Publication Unit.

Suggestions for improvement are most welcome.

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