

SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS

The Seventh Meeting of the Steering Committee of NSS was held on 21 May 2009 at Sardar Patel Bhavan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Member, National Statistical Commission and Co-Chairman, Steering Committee of NSS. The list of participants of the meeting is given in the Annex.

At the outset, DG&CEO, NSSO and Convener of the Steering Committee, gave a brief background and the context of the meeting and welcomed the members and other participants to the Seventh meeting of the Steering Committee. The important points which emerged from the discussions and decisions taken by the Steering Committee (SC), are as under.

DOC (2009) SC (7) (a): Action taken report on the recommendations of Steering Committee in its earlier meetings

Regarding the Report of the Group on Non-Sampling Errors in Enterprise Survey, the SDRD informed about their attempts to re-tabulate the data and indicated that the unit level data was available but multiplier files were not available due to which re-tabulation was not possible. It was decided that a letter with thanks giving note might be sent by NSSO to Prof. N. Bhattacharya for his outstanding contribution and the issue might be dropped.

(Action: CPD/SDRD)

DOC (2009) SC (7) (b): Disability Survey

As a follow up action of the decision of the SC in its earlier meeting, a group of officers under the Chairmanship of Shri Ashish Kumar, DDG, M/O Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E) was formed to look into issues relating to conducting the survey on disability. The group has prepared its report, which was part of the agenda for the present meeting of SC. The Chairman of the Group highlighted that there is need to change the perspective of collection of data on disabilities so as to focus more on functional capability of persons than just to identify their physical limitations. He emphasized that in order to identify persons with limitations in functioning and to arrive at an internationally comparable statistics, the proposed pilot survey in International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) framework may be accepted. This was followed by a power point presentation, highlighting the issues and recommendations.

The following were the decisions taken at the meeting:-

(i) There is a need to re-look at the proposed ICF format of collection of data so as to ensure its acceptability and assimilation in Indian context. The proposed changes should also ensure comparability of the disability statistics gathered in previous rounds;

(ii) Instead of collection of information from each individual of the household, a mechanism should be evolved to collect detailed information only from the persons with functional limitations. Furthermore, questions relating to functionality problems like 'sleeping disturbance' etc. on which categorical responses may not be forthcoming, may be dropped.

(iii) It was decided that the NSSO will get the pilot survey conducted based on revised schedules and instructions and the necessary funding will be provided by Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped (AYJNIHH) for conduct of pilots in all the six zones of FOD, NSSO.

(Action: CPD/SDRD/MoSJ&E)

DOC (2009) SC(7)(c): Feasibility Study for Undertaking Survey on Trading enterprises by National Sample Survey Organisation

ADG, SDRD informed that the Committee under his Chairmanship has prepared the report. Since the issues relating to trade survey were included in the agenda DOC (2009) SC(7)(e) on subject coverage of NSS 67th round, the detailed discussion on this agenda was not required.

DOC (2009) SC(7)(d): Feasibility Study for Undertaking Pilot Survey on Drug Abuse

ADG, SDRD gave a brief account of the work of the Committee to suggest appropriate methodology for undertaking Pilot Survey on Drug Abuse. He pointed out that since the survey of this kind is distinct on account of rarity of events, difficulty in identification of respondents and also collection of data due to social stigma and legal aspects, the alternative approach of network sampling has been considered as appropriate. The response of the pre-testing of the sampling design and schedules of enquiry has been found encouraging.

Director, SDRD gave a presentation about the methodology suggested by the Committee. According to the Committee, the sampling design and schedules of enquiry would cater to the requirements of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE), Government of India and the pilot survey is essential before launching nation-wide survey.

It was generally agreed that the methodology proposed is suited for the purpose and that it would be good to drop the idea of Adaptive Sampling and accept the method of Network Sampling. Clarifications were sought on whether alcohol and opium users would be under the coverage of the survey. It was clarified that only dependent alcohol and opium users would be covered as per the requirements of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E) which would necessitate some thinking on the logistics of the survey and in the identification of the sample individuals. It was agreed that the survey should involve the Officers of Narcotics Control Bureau, particularly in identifying the pockets of trading/consumption of drugs. However, there should not be too many items in the schedule on account of possible inadequacy of sample size. The Joint Secretary, MOSJ&E thanked the committee for suggesting the methodology and observed that the pilot survey should be launched as soon as possible and she assured that they would extend all possible cooperation for the survey. Finally, the Steering Committee suggested that the pilot survey may be carried out in 2-3 states and its modalities be worked out.

(Action: CPD/SDRD/MoSJ&E)

DOC (2009) SC (7) (e): Subject Coverage of NSS 67th Round

As a follow-up of the decision of the Steering Committee in its 6th meeting regarding taking up a Survey on Unincorporated Enterprise in the forthcoming NSS 67th round (July 2010 – June 2011), SDRD presented the agenda paper on Subject Coverage and related aspects. Accordingly, it was proposed to undertake integrated survey of all unincorporated enterprises covering manufacturing, services and trade sectors. Salient aspects deliberated on the issues are as follows:

(i) NSS enterprise surveys are being carried out as the follow up of Economic Census and are the primary source of various statistical indicators, particularly profiling of the unorganized and informal non-agricultural sectors of the economy. Besides, National Accounts Estimation, these indicators are used by a large number of organizations and stakeholders.

NSSO, in the process of conducting Enterprise Surveys in the past, has experienced wide divergence and distinctiveness in the characteristics of enterprises, particularly those in service sector. Often, very large private corporate entities in financial, hospitality, transport, education, medical services are included in the survey domain, along with small units. In view of heterogeneity in the nature of such big enterprises, the enterprise surveys are not considered appropriate to capture bigger units with a large number of workers and branches of operations. It was suggested that such large units would need the mechanism akin to ASI. With the enactment of Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, and the corresponding Rules on the anvil, the possibility of revamping of ASI into Annual Survey of Non-agricultural Enterprises extending the present coverage to all incorporated services and trading enterprises should be explored. The National Statistical Commission in its report has acknowledged that the existing Follow-up Enterprise Surveys on the Services and other sub-sectors leads to improper representation of bigger units in the sample which distorts the results, resulting in large sampling error. The Commission recommended separate survey of ‘bigger’ units in different sub-sectors other than manufacturing and repairing and the residual smaller units should be surveyed through the existing Follow-up Enterprise Surveys.

(Action: CSO)

(ii) The Committee also deliberated upon the issues raised by National Accounts Division of CSO that the efficiency of the Enterprise Survey is being compromised on account of large samples of OAEs, on which large field resources are deployed. It was argued that the data collected is of poor quality and hence the enterprise surveys might be focused only on non-corporate, non-public and non-OAE units. It was, however, pointed out that OAEs are diverse and multi activity enterprises, both in rural and urban areas and NSSO surveys are the only source to provide a detailed statistical profile which is used by diverse users beside NAD. It was also brought to the notice that estimated number of OAEs from NSS surveys is much larger than that of Economic Census. Further, the approach of data collection in respect of OAEs and NDEs/DEs is largely similar. Accordingly, it was resolved that the coverage of NSS 67th round would be unincorporated (Proprietary and Partnership enterprises) non-agricultural enterprises (Manufacturing, Services and Trade) other than those in public sectors. The survey would then cover NDEs, DEs and OAEs. No other subject may be integrated with this main subject of enquiry for the 67th round. Furthermore, the sample size, etc. might be suitably decided and efforts should be made to have as large coverage of FSUs as possible and simplify the schedules. The Steering Committee suggested to form the Working Group for the 67th Round under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. R. Hashim.

(Action: CPD/SDRD)

(iii) The Steering Committee also noted that with the integrated non-agricultural enterprise survey in the 67th round, the period for 68th round is released from the 10 year cycle of NSS and can be used to meet the requirement of other Ministries/Departments. It was informed that MoRD has requested for a nation wide survey on NREGA. While considering this request, Steering Committee noted that since NREGA will be confined to rural areas only, it may not be a stand alone survey and may be taken with some other subject. ADG, NAD, CSO informed that a request for Time Use survey will be sent to NSSO for consideration of inclusion in the 68th round. The precise subject coverage for NSS 68th round might be decided in the next meeting of the SC.

(Action: CPD/NAD)

(iv) The Steering Committee also endorsed the need to carry out a mid term survey on Household Consumer Expenditure and Employment & Un-employment between two quinquennial rounds with a smaller sample and accordingly, such a survey would be conducted along with other demography based designed survey in the 69th round.

(Action: CPD/SDRD)

DOC (2009) SC(7)(f): Miscellaneous Items

(i) Survey on Learning from NREGA

The SC was informed about the status of Survey on NREGA proposed by Ministry of Rural development.

(ii) Committee on under-estimation of Population in NSS

The decision of NSC on the report of the Committee on under-estimation of Population in NSS was informed to the SC.

The following items were also discussed :

(iii) Feedback on data processing on fractile classes from NSS 64th Round

Since there has been a paradigm shift in tabulation programmes from NSS 64th Round, a presentation was made by Data Processing Division of NSSO, highlighting the various issues relating to fractile based presentation and interpretation of results in future rounds of NSSO. Prior to NSS 64th Round, all tabulations relating to consumer expenditure were based on uniform MPCE levels for all India and states and the benchmark MPCE classification was derived from last quinquennial round preceding the current round of survey under tabulation. Since pattern of consumption vis-à-vis expenditure was widely divergent across the states, classification of households by uniform MPCE levels throughout the country did not appear to be much meaningful. As a result, fractile wise classification (by deciles and quintiles) to be worked out afresh for every round with Household Consumption Expenditure (Sch.1.0) was considered as more appropriate.

While tabulating Household Consumer Expenditure (Schedule 1.0) data for NSS 64th Round, it was observed that for smaller states with less number of FSUs, the decile

classification gave rise to erratic results viz. the share of estimated population in some decile classes were much above 10% while a few classes were void of any population. Quintile classification was, therefore, thought to be more or less stable with +/- 2-3% variation. Though it has been decided in the 5th meeting of the Steering Committee held in February, 2008 that quintile tabulation for the states and decile tabulation for all India would be adopted, this was not done inadvertently in respect of a few tables for schedule 1.0. It has now been decided that the tabulation plan already circulated should be got corrected in respect of such tables where state level tabulation was erroneously prescribed for decile classes and the corrected tabulation plan should be recirculated.

The methodologies for deriving household MPCE for three different schedules of NSS 64th round viz. 1.0, 25.2 and 10.2 vis-à-vis formation of fractiles was discussed at length. It was indicated during the presentation that while MPCE for 1.0 was based on detailed enquiry on various items of consumption, the same for 25.2 and 10.2 was based on five short questions and worksheet respectively. Accordingly, there has been significant under-estimation of average household MPCE as obtained from 25.2 & 10.2 when compared with that obtained from 1.0. This variation was observed not only between schedules but also between decile classes, leading to ambiguity in terms of the parity of the decile (or quintile) classes across the schedules. The committee decided that schedule specific fractile classes should be followed although in the summary report, decile classes as obtained from schedule 1.0 should be adopted in respect of some key parameters from schedule 10.2 and 25.2 so as to avoid any confusion on the part of the users.

The committee also agreed that thorough discussion on core tabulation programmes of each round should precede the discussion on structuring of schedules of enquiry.

(Action: SDRD/DPD)

(iv) Tabulation in respect of listing Schedules of NSS rounds.

The status of data entry and tabulation of listing schedules from NSS 51st round onwards was discussed by ADG (DPD). It was mentioned that the data for NSS 54th round was tabulated and the report was prepared by the SDRD. Data of the NSS 55th round have been entered in to the system but not yet tabulated. It was further noted that the data entry for NSS 51st to 53rd round is held up at Computer Centre as the staff are busy with the data entry work relating to Market Survey, 2006. In view of this it was proposed to drop the idea of data entry/tabulation of listing schedules from NSS 51st to 53rd round and also from 56th to 64th round particularly because repeat surveys on the subjects have already been conducted/planned and results of tabulated data on listing schedules may not be useful. However, the data entry work of listing schedules of NSS 65th round may be carried out along with the main schedules of the survey. Considering the importance of this decision, having a bearing on the decision in an earlier meetings of the SC, it was resolved that the issue would be taken up for detailed deliberation as a full agenda item in the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

(Action: CPD/DPD)

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name & Designation
	Chairman
1.	Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Professor of Economics, JNU, New Delhi
	Members (Non-official)
1.	Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Honorary Professor, CESS, Hyderabad
2.	Prof. S.P. Mukherjee, Retd. Professor, Calcutta University
3.	Prof. Dipankor Coondoo, Hony. Visiting Professor, ISI, Kolkata
4.	Prof.T.J. Rao, Former Professor ISI Kolkata, Vishakhapatnam
	Members (Official)
1.	Shri. S.C. Seddey, DG&CEO, NSSO, New Delhi
2.	Shri S.K. Das, D.G., CSO, New Delhi
3.	Dr. A.K. Yogi, ADG, FOD, NSSO, New Delhi
4.	Dr. Rajiv Mehta, ADG, SDRD, NSSO, Kolkata
5.	Shri. Partha Chattopadhyay, ADG, DPD, NSSO, Kolkata
6.	Shri A.S. Sachdeva, Director, Planning Commission, New Delhi
7.	Shri K.D. Vashi, Dy. Director, DES, Gujarat, Gandhinagar
8.	Shri Bhagabat Sethi, Director, DES, Orissa, Bhubaneshwar
	Special Invitees
1.	Dr. Pronab Sen, CSI & Secretary, S&PI, New Delhi
2.	Shri J. Dash, ADG (SSD), CSO, New Delhi
3.	Shri Ramesh Kolli, ADG(NAD), CSO, New Delhi
4.	Dr. Rajat Ray, Prof. & HOD, NDDTC, AIIMS, New Delhi
5.	Smt. Purnima Singh, Joint Secretary, MoSJ&E, New Delhi
6.	Shri Ashish Kumar, DDG,MoSJ&E, New Delhi
7.	Dr.R. Rangasayee, Director, AYJNIHH, Mumbai
8.	Shri S. Maitra, Director, ESD, CSO, New Delhi
9.	Smt Nidhi Srivastava,Dy.Director, Narcotics Control Bureau, New Delhi.
	Others
1.	Shri P.C. Mohanan, DDG, NSC Sectt., New Delhi
2.	Shri Servesh Kumar, DDG, NSSO (FOD), New Delhi
3.	Shri P.S. Bose, DDG, SDRD, NSSO Kolkata
4.	Shri P.C. Sarkar, DDG, SDRD, NSSO Kolkata
5.	Shri S. Mallick, DDG, DPD, NSSO, Kolkata
6.	Shri S.N. Singh, DDG, CPD, NSSO, New Delhi
7.	Dr. T.K. Saha, Director, DPD, NSSO Kolkata
8.	Shri Vidya Prakash, Director, CPD, NSSO, New Delhi
9.	Shri T.K. Sanyal, Director, SDRD, NSSO, Kolkata
10.	Shri S.K. Ray, Director, SDRD, NSSO, Kolkata
11.	Shri S. Mukherjee, Director, DPD, Kolkata
12.	Shri Ram Kripal, Director, CPD, NSSO, New Delhi
13.	Shri R.A. Dwivedi, Director, CPD, NSSO, New Delhi
14.	Shri S. Chandiramani, Joint Director, CPD, NSSO, New Delhi
15.	Shri Anindya Banerjee, Dy. Director, DPD, NSSO, Kolkata
16.	Shri Sunil Kumar, Dy. Director, MoSJ&E, New Delhi
17.	Smt. Sandhya Singh, Dy. Director, CPD, NSSO, New Delhi
18.	Smt. Indira Rajaram, Assistant Director, CPD, NSSO, New Delhi
19.	Shri Mitre Lal, SSO, CPD, NSSO, New Delhi.