

**SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS**

The list of participants is given in the Annex.

At the outset, Prof. S.D. Tendulkar, Chairman of the Steering Committee welcomed the members and the other participants for the third meeting of the Steering Committee of NSS and requested DG&CEO, NSSO and the Member Secretary to initiate discussions of the Agenda items. The discussion started with the first agenda paper on action taken report on the recommendations of the second meeting. The important points which emerged from the discussions and decisions taken by the Steering Committee (SC) are indicated in the succeeding paragraphs.

**DOC (2007) SC 3(a) : Action taken report on the recommendations of the second meeting of the Steering Committee of NSSO.**

(i) The issue relating to optimum sample size at district and state level with reference to North-Eastern States came up for discussion. A presentation was made by Shri G.C. Manna, DDG, SDRD. The analysis was based on the data of NSS 61<sup>st</sup> round. The agenda paper giving sample sizes required at district level for generating reliable estimates for MPCE-Non food and other variables was discussed at length. While appreciating the present exercise, the Steering Committee (SC) remarked that the agenda note did not highlight the findings of the earlier studies undertaken by NSSO in this regard based on other variables/NSS rounds. It was decided that an integrated note covering the findings of the earlier studies undertaken on NE States be placed in the next meeting. The note should also suggest the sample size requirements for obtaining reliable estimates of percentage of people in each of the five quintiles of MPCE classes as per mixed reference period of NSS 61<sup>st</sup> round.

**(Action: SDRD)**

(ii) The study on pooling of Central and State Sample Data of Uttar Pradesh had been taken up by the SDRD. For this purpose, data collected through Schedule 1.0 (household consumer expenditure) as per NSS 55<sup>th</sup> round were considered. The estimates of two indicators namely, sex ratio and monthly per capita consumer expenditure for food and non-food combined (MPCE) from the central sample & state sample data at district level for rural sector had been examined to study their closeness as well as their reliability in terms of relative standard errors (RSE). A presentation on the agenda was made by Shri G.C. Manna, DDG, SDRD. While noting the findings placed in the agenda paper, a view was expressed that it might not always be right to conclude the estimate (central sample or state sample or pooled) having the smallest RSE to be more reliable. One really needed to know its divergence from the 'true' value. As suggested in the agenda note, the Committee desired to see the findings of the pooling exercises based on the variable MPCE-Non food to be placed in the next meeting along with cross tabulation of degree of (central and state) sample divergences against the RSEs of central, state and combined samples.

**(Action: SDRD)**

(iii) The issue regarding the study to see whether there had been any improvement in estimate by using list frame in addition to area frame in 62<sup>nd</sup> round enterprise survey was taken up for discussion. It was decided that the study would be taken up and findings would be placed in the next meeting of SC.

**(Action: SDRD/DPD)**

(iv) With regard to the issue of attending to the clarifications on the queries raised by the users of unit level data of NSS, the Chairman found the ATR to be in general terms and enquired about the details on the queries received viz no. of queries, time taken to reply the queries etc. It was informed that the queries were being replied by the Computer Centre. The details on the queries received / replied would be placed in the next meeting of the SC. The Chairman also strongly suggested the revamping of the web site of MOS&PI in this connection furnishing details as to which officer would coordinate the queries and immediate acknowledgment indicating the time bound reply.

**(Action: CPD/Computer Centre)**

(v) The subject coverage for NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round was discussed and composition of the working group for the round was noted by the SC. The issue relating to the canvassing of a separate employment and unemployment schedule (Sch. 10) and consumer expenditure schedule (Sch. 1.0) during NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round was discussed. A separate schedule on employment and unemployment was canvassed during 60<sup>th</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> rounds. But, during NSS 63<sup>rd</sup> round similar separate schedule was not canvassed and information on public works was collected in a Block of Sch. 1.0. It was decided that a note would be prepared by the NSSO (FOD) and NSSO(SDRD) indicating the gains in terms of second stage units if Sch. 10 / Sch. 1.0 were dropped during the NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round. Possibility of holding combined meeting of Steering Committee and Working Group of NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round might also be explored.

**(Action: SDRD/FOD)**

(vi) The status of pilot survey on Drug Abuse was informed to the Committee. The results of the pre-testing of schedules were being analysed.

(vii) The status of the pilot survey on disability was informed to the Committee. A group under the chairmanship of DDG, M/o Social Justice and Empowerment was examining the details for the pilot survey including the schedules, agency and methodology taking due account of the respondent bias either by the drug addict himself or herself or by some other person from household.

(viii) The requirement of nation-wide survey on child labour to estimate the incidence at district level by the Ministry of Labour and Employment was informed to the Committee. It was informed that the NSSO was exploring a suitable methodology for undertaking the survey including the use of enterprise frame.

(ix) The status of impact evaluation study of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA ) proposed to be undertaken at the instance of World Bank came up for discussion. The role of the NSSO would be limited to conduct a survey “Socio-Economic Panel Survey on NREGA Beneficiaries ” and the modalities for the survey were being worked out in consultation with the M/o Rural Development and World Bank.

**DOC (2007) SC3 (b): Feasibility of conducting Annual Enterprise Survey: recommendations of the Committee.**

It was informed that the committee to examine the issue of conducting Annual Enterprises survey had submitted its report. A presentation on the agenda was made by Shri G.C. Manna, DDG, SDRD. The Steering Committee noted the findings of the committee on RSEs of GVA per worker (GVAPW) and sample size requirements for generating reliable estimates of GVAPW. But it did not agree fully on the recommendations regarding immediate launching of the proposed annual survey. It was suggested that, in future, the benchmark surveys should be confined to the unincorporated enterprises. For incorporated enterprises, NAD should develop a separate mechanism to collect information on GVAPW, turnover, expenses and other details required for national accounting through the data mandatorily submitted to Stock Exchanges by the listed companies. It was suggested that CSO might enter into an understanding with the Stock Exchanges for sharing the data. NAD may use the data collected through its own existing mechanism on DCUs and NDCUs. It was concluded that a panel survey would be more appropriate to collect the desired information required by NAD through annual surveys on unincorporated enterprises in respect of service activities. The SC agreed to the suggestion put forth by SDRD regarding the necessity of launching two independent surveys, namely, one for the household surveys and the other for enterprise surveys as part of normal NSS rounds.

**(Action: CSO (NAD)/CSO(ESD)/SDRD)**

**DOC (2007) SC 3(c): Proposal on revised guidelines for Urban Frame Survey.**

Shri G.C. Manna, DDG, SDRD made a presentation on the status of UFS work and the recommendations made by the group constituted by the DG&CEO, NSSO. The SC appreciated the exercise undertaken regarding the relationship between frame population and population as per the listing schedule in respect of the sample blocks of NSS 61<sup>st</sup> round. The representative of RGI explained the status of digitisation work undertaken by RGI on pilot basis in Janakpuri –urban New Delhi. They also informed that similar work is proposed to be taken up in all State Capital towns and would be completed by October, 2008. After detailed discussion, the committee agreed to look into the suitability of the digitisation of urban area-Wards and Enumeration blocks etc, being undertaken by the RGI in all State Capitals. As regards the suggestions to adopt the revised guidelines for formation of UFS blocks from the next phase (2007-12), the SC desired that a group under the chairmanship of Professor Dipankar Coondoo should examine the proposed revised guidelines and submit a report within three months. The other members of the group would be Dr. A.K. Yogi, ADG(FOD); Shri R.C. Sethi, Additional RG; and Shri G.C. Manna, DDG(SDRD). The Terms of Reference of the group would be as under:

- (a) To examine the revised guidelines suggested for the next phase of UFS and (i) suggest changes if any required, (ii) recommend a method for estimation of households/population by alternative approaches of sampling of households vis-à-vis their complete enumeration and (iii) suggest the time frame for the next phase of UFS under the revised scheme.
- (b) Examine the use of digital maps of State Capitals (under preparation by RGI) in UFS in its next phase and suggestions for UFS pending the availability of digital maps by RGI.

- (c) To recommend on the resource requirements for undertaking the next phase of UFS with revised guidelines.

**(Action: CPD)**

### **DOC (2007) SC 3(d): Miscellaneous Items**

The Steering Committee took up the following miscellaneous items for discussion. Three items viz. (i) conduct of survey on working and socio-economic conditions of the extra-departmental post offices and staff (Gramin Dak Sewaks) respectively (ii) feasibility study and price collection work for NHB Resi-index, and (iii) survey on power looms have been decided to be taken up in the next meeting, the following items were discussed:

1. Nation-wide Survey on Common Property Resources, Forest products and awareness of households on environmental issues.
2. Trade Survey
3. Price collection work for the whole sale price index number with the revised base.
4. Weeding of the main schedules of 59<sup>th</sup> round to 61<sup>st</sup> rounds.

#### **(i) National Survey on Common Property Resources, forest products and awareness of households on environmental issues**

The representative of the Ministry of Environment and Forests presented the requirement of the nation-wide sample survey on two issues viz. (a) collection of different types of Forest Produce including fuel, food, fodder, other non-timber forest products and use of Forests for animal grazing by households, (b) information on current status of awareness of public, their attitude and practice concerning various use of transport, use of electronic and print media for information on such issues. Both the surveys were requested to be conducted in all the States and Union Territories with more emphasis on areas near forests and river. It was pointed out that a survey on 'Common Property Resources' was conducted during NSS 54<sup>th</sup> round and reports of the survey were brought out by NSSO. Dr. S.P. Sharma, Statistical Advisor, Ministry of Environment & Forests requested to conduct a repeat survey on Common Property Resources so that the existing data gaps in estimating the share/contribution of Forest Sector in the GDP can also plugged in. However, on an enquiry regarding the use of the data collected during the NSS 54<sup>th</sup> round by ministry of Environment & Forest or NAD, no specific instance of its use by NAD and M/O Environment and Forests could be provided. It was observed that instead of nation-wide survey, a focussed survey on the subject would be more appropriate for which the M/o Environment and Forests might proceed by using their own resources.

**(Action: M/O Environment and Forests)**

#### **(ii) Trade Survey**

While highlighting the need for conducting Trade Survey, Shri Ramesh Kolli ADG(NAD) had explained the practices followed in other countries and suggested that the estimated values of Gross value added per worker, turnover, intermediate consumption, salary expenses and employment are important ones which were required for compilation of

GDP and other macro economic aggregates for the sector. Market-wise trade margins by different commodities at least in terms of percentages would suffice the immediate purpose of the NAD. He had intimated that the results of 46<sup>th</sup> round were not utilized as the estimated trade margins were found to be negative. However, he intimated that the results of trade sector in 53<sup>rd</sup> round were utilized.

The coverage of items necessary for NAD (turnover, intermediate consumption etc.) for collection of data to compile trade margin, methodology etc came up for discussion. Starting the discussion, one of the members suggested that the exact coverage of the trade survey, data items required for NAD's further compilation, formulae to be used for arriving at the trade margins etc might have to be specified. It was also opined that owner interview method might give incorrect estimates of trade margins (generally in the negative directions).

International practices on trade survey etc., various methodologies utilized for conducting the survey in the past, experiences of NSSO field staff for conducting the survey were informed to the Committee. It was suggested that the trade survey should be taken on its own merit rather than to fulfill the requirement of the NAD.

It was also suggested that what was required was a study of specific markets through which necessary trade margins could be arrived at rather than the nation-wide survey. It was informed to the Committee that data collection based on the books of accounts would be difficult especially from the Non-directory Trade and Directory Trade Establishments due to many operational difficulties. The Trader Unions were very strong and the traders were very busy in their trade activities and could not give sufficient time / cooperation to the Statistical Investigators. Moreover, generally they reported that most of their accounts / records were kept with the Auditors / Chartered Accountants.

It was also suggested to restrict the NSS trade survey only to unincorporated sector mostly dominated by the Own Account Enterprises where data was to be collected mostly by oral inquiry method. The incorporated trade sector whose quarterly, half-yearly results were available (including the turnover, income, salaries paid, employment etc.) might be collected from a different suitable mechanisms.

At the end of the discussion, it was decided that a Committee comprising of ADG (NAD), DDG (SDRD) and ADG (FOD) might look into the issue afresh and prepare a comprehensive report on conducting trade survey either a stand alone or with other service enterprises taking into account the experience of previous trade surveys and pilot study using alternative approaches from different set of trading enterprises.

**(Action: NAD)**

**(iii) Pilot Survey for Collection of Weekly data in respect of organised sector for new series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**

The SC was informed about the outcome of the meeting under the chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission to discuss the revision of base for WPI (2004-05) and the request made to FOD for undertaking regular price collection work for specific items in the selected districts. The ADG, NSSO, FOD informed that a comprehensive proposal from Economic Advisor, Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion to be sent to DG&CEO, NSSO was still awaited.

#### **(iv) Weeding of Schedules**

It was intimated to the Committee that the then Governing Council in its 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 had agreed to weed out the main schedules for 56<sup>th</sup> round, 57<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> rounds. It was also suggested to scan the listing schedules of the above rounds and then only a decision could be taken on weeding of the listing schedules. The exercise of weeding out and scanning of listing schedules is to be taken up by the DPD. DDG (DPD) had intimated that for weeding out schedules of the three rounds, listing schedule is to be separated from the bundles and this work has been completed in five Centres whereas in other three Centres, the work is under process. Only after listing schedule was separated and stored, the main schedules could be weeded out. Regarding scanning of the listing schedules, the process for scanning was not decided and the work was yet to be initiated. It was also pointed out that scanning the schedules would not be the correct solution as, for data entry and tabulation one would again require the print out of schedules or scanned sheets. As such, scanning might not be resorted to.

The listing schedules for the rounds 50<sup>th</sup> to 55<sup>th</sup> were forwarded to the Computer Centre. Data entry and tabulation was completed by the CC on their own for 54<sup>th</sup> round. For 55<sup>th</sup> round data entry work was completed but tables were not generated in the absence of a tabulation plan. For other rounds, the CC was expecting a detailed letter from SDRD for identification of blocks for data entry and tabulation programme. It was decided that DDG, Computer Centre might forward a list of tables generated for 54<sup>th</sup> round along with the tabulation programme to SDRD.

SDRD might expedite identification of blocks for data entry and dispatch of tabulation programme to the Computer Centre so that the data entry work of listing schedules could be completed by the Computer Centre. It was suggested that the Natarajan Committee on underestimation of population in NSS might be consulted about the tabulation of listing schedules. It was agreed by the Committee to weed out the schedules used in UNICEF's base line survey conducted by the NSSO as the digital file containing the raw data was available with the Project Officer, UNICEF. However, DPD may ensure that the unit level data is also available with them for record.

**(Action: DPD/SDRD/ Computer Centre)**

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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**Annex**

**List of Participants of 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Steering Committee of NSS**

Sl. No.	Name & Designation
1.	Prof S.D. Tendulkar, <span style="float: right;">Chairman</span>
2.	Prof. K. Sundaram,
3.	Prof. T.J. Rao, Retd. Professor ISI
4.	Prof. Dipankar Coondoo, ISI Kolkata
5.	Dr. S.K. Nath, DG, CSO
6.	Shri S.K. Sinha, DG&CEO, NSSO
7.	Shri P.K. Ray, ADG , CAD, CSO
8.	Dr. A.K. Yogi, ADG, NSSO (FOD)
9.	Shri Ramesh Kolli, ADG, NAD, CSO
10.	Shri R.C. Sethi, Addl. RGI, Office of the RGI
11.	Dr. S.P. Sharma, Stat. Advisor, Ministry of Env. & Forests
12.	Shri Rajendra Tiwari, Director, DES (UP)
13.	Shri S.G. Jagtap, Jt. Director, DES, Maharashtra
14.	Shri P.H. Khopkar, DDG, Computer Centre
15.	Shri P.C. Mohanan, DDG, NSC Seactt.
16.	Shri G.C. Manna, DDG, SDRD, NSSO, Kolkata
17.	Shri P.S. Bose, DDG, SDRD, Kolkata
18.	Smt. Mita Roychoudhory, DDG, DPD, Kolkata
19.	Shri B.K. Giri, DDG, DPD, NSSO, Kolkata
20.	Shri S. Mallick, DDG, DPD, Kolkata
21.	Shri T.K. Dutta, DDG, NSSO (FOD)
22.	Shri Sarvesh Kumar, DDG, NSSO (FOD)
23.	Shri K.S. Prasadarao, DDG, CPD, NSSO
24.	Shri M.V.S. Ranganadham, Director, MOS&PI.
25.	Shri Siladitya, Chaudhuri, Director, SDRD
26.	Smt. Gopa Sen, Director, CPD, NSSO
27.	Shri Vidya Prakash, Director, CPD, NSSO
28.	Shri R.A. Dwivedi, Director, CPD, NSSO
29.	Shri Ram Kripal, Director, CPD, NSSO
30.	Shri C. Chakarabarti, Jt. Director, ORGI
31.	Ms. Sandhaya Singh, DD, CPD, NSSO
32.	Smt. Indira Rajaram, Assistant Director, CPD, NSSO