

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 fourth 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 request for conduct of new surveys and publicity measures on NSSO surveys. 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 (4)(a): Request for conduct of new Surveys and Publicity measures on NSSO surveys

(i) The requirement of conducting a survey on working and socio-economic conditions of the Extra Departmental Post Offices and their staff (Gramin Dak Sewak) was discussed. It was informed that Deptt. of Posts, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has constituted a one man Gramin Dak Sewak (GDS) Committee to look into the question of examining the conditions of services and emoluments and other facilities available to the Gramin Dak Sewak with a view to suggesting changes as considered necessary in the system of extra departmental post offices, conditions of employment, wage structure, introduction of social security scheme etc. The GDS Committee for this purpose, has requested the NSSO for conducting a survey of (1) Branch Post Offices, (2) Panchayat Sanchar Kendra and (3) Public Opinion on services. It was informed that there would be three schedules of enquiries for three types of sample units. The Field Investigators would be provided by the Deptt. of Posts (GDS Committee) and the role of NSSO would be limited to the training of the field investigators, supervision of field work, processing of data and preparation of the Report. Regarding one component of the survey viz. Public Opinion on the services rendered by Branch Post Offices both in rural/urban areas, many members were of the view that the NSSO should not get involved in the evaluation of governance without proper sampling methodology for the survey which is not adhered to due to lack of adequate resources. As such, it would not be appropriate for the NSSO to conduct the Public Opinion Survey. It was decided that the NSSO might extend its support to Deptt. of Posts – technical inputs as indicated above for conducting the survey of Branch Post Offices and Panchayat Sanchar Kendra.

(Action:CPD)

(ii) The issue relating to feasibility study for undertaking pilot survey on drug abuse could not be taken up for discussion due to paucity of time. The issue will be discussed in the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

(Action:CPD)

(iii) The issue relating to the publicity measure for the surveys of NSSO was taken up for discussion. It was mentioned that the issue was also discussed with the Chairman, NSC and CSI where officers of NSSO were also present. It was highlighted that the Ministries whose requests are accommodated in a round of socio-economic survey of NSSO may actively participate in the publicity campaign through advertisements in mass media and they should bear the burden of cost etc as NSSO does not charge any cost for the surveys from them. It was opined that the advertisement through TV channels at prime time may be attempted through professionals in the field. It was noted that Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation and Ministry of Tourism would arrange for the wide publicity of the subjects which are being taken up during the NSS 65th round.

(Action:FOD/Min. of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation/Min. of Tourism)

DOC.2007 SC(4)(b) : The issue of coverage of Employment – Unemployment and Household Consumer Expenditure subjects during 65th round of NSS and in future surveys of NSS as annual rounds

A presentation was made by SDRD on the agenda item to facilitate the discussion on the issue as to whether independent schedules on household consumer expenditure (Schedule 1.0) and employment-unemployment (Schedule10), along with tourism, housing conditions and slums, need to be canvassed or not in NSS 65th round survey. The issue of integration of household consumer expenditure and employment-unemployment subjects into a single schedule forming part of NSS 65th round was also considered.

The following aspects were highlighted in the presentation:

- i. Year to year change in the broad parameters of employment and unemployment was not observed to be significant. An independent Schedule 10 on employment and unemployment may be canvassed only with better sampling design at the second stage, i.e., stratification and selection of households.
- ii. The estimates of worker population ratio (WPR) by sex and by rural/urban sector is generally reliable for major states based on quinquennial round surveys and fairly reliable based on annual round surveys. The estimates of proportions of unemployed (PU) is not fairly reliable even for the major states.
- iii. The NSS 50th round survey experience indicated that the activity status according to CWS could be determined better from the daily time disposition data (CDS) especially for obtaining female workforce participation. Therefore, integration for collecting data in usual status (US) and current weekly status (CWS) approach with the consumer expenditure survey, as was done in annual surveys prior to NSS 60th round, might not yield better results so far as CWS approach is concerned. However, the decision for collection of data will depend on the demand of the users for annual data on employment and unemployment indicators.

After the presentation, a detailed deliberation was held on the necessity of annual data on employment and unemployment and the use of such data. Prof. Sundaram mentioned that in the last quinquennial round, i.e., in NSS 61st round, detailed data on employment and

unemployment was collected and again in NSS 64th round, detailed data on employment & unemployment and migration particulars were being collected. Moreover, in the forthcoming 66th round, survey on household consumer expenditure and employment & unemployment is being planned. As such in NSS 65th round, there might not be an urgent need to collect data on this subject. Dr. N.S. Sastry, ex-DG & CEO, NSSO and member of the Working Group, was of the view that the data on consumer expenditure collected in the annual rounds, on the basis of thin sample, had very limited use for the Planning Commission and for other users. Dr. S.K. Nath., DG, CSO, mentioned the requirement of quarterly indicators of employment and unemployment for SDDS.

Considering all the points raised in the course of discussion, it was unanimously decided that in the 65th round (a) data on household consumer expenditure and employment-unemployment would not be collected through independent schedules 1.0 and 10 and (b) the additional resources so released would be utilized for the following:

- (i) to improve design and/or to increase the sample sizes for canvassing schedules on housing conditions and domestic tourism;
- (ii) to carry out pilot surveys on reference period for non-food items in consumer expenditure surveys.

The Working Group for the NSS 65th round was requested to deliberate on these alternatives and make suitable recommendations.

DOC (2007) SC (4) (c): Concept paper giving the coverage/sample design etc .in respect of the NSS 65th round: survey on domestic tourism and housing condition, slum, civic amenities and other facilities.

The Following Agenda Notes in respect of above were prepared by SDRD for consideration :

DOC WG 1.1: Sample Design and Listing Schedule

DOC WG 1.2: Survey on Housing Condition and Other Amenities

DOC WG 1.3: Survey on Urban Slums

DOC WG 1.4: Survey on Domestic Tourism

Prof. S.P. Mukherjee, Chairman, Working Group, NSS 65th Round, chaired the post-lunch session on 28.11.2007 to discuss the above said agenda items. The following salient points emerged from the discussions:

- (i) The concepts and definitions related to “Domestic Tourism” presented by SDRD were taken up for discussion. ‘Six month duration’ clause to define a trip in the proposed survey on “Domestic Tourism” versus 12-months norm in the earlier Domestic Tourism survey sponsored by Ministry of Tourism (MOT) was deliberated upon. It was decided that the six-month clause may be followed in the proposed survey in keeping with the traditional definition of ‘household’ as followed in NSS surveys. All the members agreed in principle regarding the materials prepared by SDRD for concepts and definitions on domestic tourism.

(ii) The sampling design and the listing block in Schedule 0.0 were discussed at length. Sample design of NSS 65th round was approved with the following modifications.

(a) *Rural*: Each district will form a separate stratum. There will be no further sub stratification within the stratum.

Urban: Strata will be formed within each NSS region as under:

Stratum	Composition (within NSS region)
1	All towns with population < 50,000
2	All towns with population 50,000 – 99,999
3	All towns with population 1,00,000 – 4,99,999
4	All towns with population 5,00,000 – 9,99,999
5, 6,	Each million plus city

Each urban stratum will be sub-stratified as under:

Sub-stratum 1: ‘slum area’ blocks

Sub-stratum 2: other blocks

(b) As per census arrangement, the villages will be arranged and FSUs will be selected by circular systematic sampling with probability proportional to population for all rural strata. For urban strata, the towns within the stratum will be arranged in ascending order of population; then FSUs will be selected by circular systematic sampling with equal probability.

(c) Apart from forming three second-stage strata for sampling of households as proposed in the agenda note, another stratum will be formed which will comprise households performing same day trips prior to last 60 days but within the reference period of last 365 days.

(iii) Dr. R.N. Pandey, ADG, MOT suggested that ‘shopping’ as a purpose of a trip may be kept separately. He also suggested that the term ‘tripper’ might be replaced by the term ‘visitor’.

(iv) On suggestion of some members regarding the items on expenditure on a ‘tour’ in the detailed schedule 21.1, the Chairman of the Working Group NSS 65th Round desired that a special meeting be convened in SDRD with representatives from Ministry of Tourism, FOD and NAD, CSO to discuss and sort out this issue before the forthcoming meeting of the Working Group .

(Action:SDRD)

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

List of Participants of 4th meeting of Steering Committee of NSS

Sl. No.	Name & Designation
1.	Prof S.D. Tendulkar, Chairman
2.	Prof. B.K. Sinha NSC
3.	Prof. K. Sundaram, DSE, Delhi.
4.	Prof. Dipankar Coondoo, ISI Kolkata
5.	Prof. Shubhashis Gangopdhayay IDF, Gurgaon
6.	Prof. S.P. Mukherjee Kolkata.
7.	Prof. R. Radhakrishna CESS, Hyderabad.
8.	Shri M.G. Sardana, Ex-DG, CSO.
9.	Dr. N.S. Sastry, Ex-DG&CEO,NSSO.
10.	Dr. Rajesh Shukla, Senior Fellow, NCAER.
11.	Dr. S.K. Nath, DG, CSO.
12.	Shri S.K. Sinha, DG&CEO, NSSO.
13.	Dr. P.K. Mohanty, Joint Secretary, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation.
14.	Dr. A.K. Yogi, ADG, NSSO (FOD).
15.	Dr. K.K. Pandey (Chief R&T), Human Settlement Management Institute.
16.	Dr. R.N. Pandey, ADG,Tourism.
17.	Shri J. Nagarajan, Senior Social Scientist, Town and Country Planning Organisation.
18.	Shri G. M. Boopathy, DDG, NAD,CSO.
19.	Shri P.C. Mohanan, DDG, NSC Sactt.
20.	Shri G.C. Manna, DDG, SDRD, NSSO, Kolkata.
21.	Shri P.S. Bose, DDG, SDRD, Kolkata.
22.	Shri B.K. Giri, DDG,DPD,NSSO,Kolkata.
23.	Shri S. Mallick, DDG, DPD, Kolkata.
24.	Shri Sarvesh Kumar, DDG, NSSO (FOD).
25.	Shri K.S. Prasadarao, DDG, CPD, NSSO.
26.	Shri M.V.S. Ranganadham, Director, MOS&PI..
27.	Smt. Prabha R. Khurana, Director (Transport&Tourism),Planning Commission
28.	Shri T.K. Sanyal, Director, NSSO (SDRD) Kolkata.
29.	Shri S. Prakash, Director, NISD, M/O SJ&E.
30.	Shri S.K. Jana, Director, NSSO (SDRD), Kolkata.
31.	Shri T.K. Saha, Director, NSSO(DPD), Kolkata.
32.	Shri A. Basu, Director, NSSO (SDRD) Kolkata.
33.	Shri D.S. Negi, Director&OSD, M/o Housing &Urban Poverty Alleviation.
34.	Smt. Gopa Sen, Director, CPD,NSSO.
35.	Shri Vidya Prakash, Director, CPD, NSSO.
37.	Shri Ram Kripal, Director, CPD, NSSO.
36.	Shri R.A. Dwivedi, Drector, CPD, NSSO.
38.	Shri S.K. Mukhopadhyay Jt. Director, NSSO (SDRD) Kolkata.
39.	Shri Sidhartha Kundu, Jt. Director, NSSO (SDRD) Kolkata.
40.	Shri O.P. Ghosh, Dy. Director, NSSO (SDRD) Kolkata.
41.	Shri A.K. Mishra, Dy. Director. NBO, M/o Housing &Urban Poverty Alleviation.
42.	Shri M.Sunil Kumar, Dy. Director, NISD, M/o SJ&E