

**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 all the members and other participants for the fifth meeting of the Steering Committee of NSS and requested DG&CEO (NSSO) and the Member Secretary to initiate discussions on the Agenda items. The items were taken up for discussion one by one. The important points which emerged from the discussions and decisions taken by the Steering Committee (SC) were as under.

**DOC (2008) SC(5)(a): Action taken report on the recommendations of Steering Committee in its earlier meetings**

**(i) Report on Non sampling error in Enterprise Survey**

It was reported that the draft report giving a detailed account of non sampling errors in enterprise surveys had been submitted to Prof. N. Bhattacharya, Chairman of the Group. Due to certain unavoidable reasons the Chairman could not attend to this so far and may not be able to attend to this in near future. Since copy of the report, as reported by SDRD, is not available with them, it was decided that a copy of the draft report could be obtained from the Chairman and kept in SDRD for record .

**(Action:SDRD)**

**(ii) Working group to suggest appropriate reference period for non -food items**

The Steering Committee was informed that the proposal for pilot survey had been prepared but not yet sent to FOD. About 30 Investigators would be required for the pilot survey in different regions of FOD in seven States. ADG, NSSO (FOD) informed that the investigators might be spared for the pilot study in the states other than in the States of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu where there had been acute shortage of investigators. It was decided that the proposal might be considered by Steering Committee in its next meeting.

**(Action:SDRD)**

**(iii) Trade Survey**

In the third meeting of the Steering Committee held on 04-05 October, 2007, it was decided that a Committee comprising ADG (NAD), DDG (SDRD) and ADG (FOD) might look into the issue and prepare comprehensive report on conducting trade survey either as a stand alone survey or integrating it with other survey on enterprises. ADG (NAD) informed that the Committee could not be formed and suggested that it would be more appropriate to form the Committee under the

chairmanship of ADG (SDRD). After deliberations, it was decided that the Committee might be formed under the Chairmanship of ADG (SDRD) with ADG (FOD), ADG (NAD), ADG (ESD), CSO and DDG (CPD) as members.

(Action:SDRD)

**DOC(2008) SC (5)(b1): Feasibility of providing absolute estimates in Household surveys with special reference to employment and unemployment indicators**

This issue was discussed in detail and it was observed that the concern of Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla, Member NSC regarding absolute estimates of various indicators was important. However, it was felt that considering the under-estimation of population in NSS Surveys, it was not advisable to provide the absolute estimates at various sub domain level. As such, it was decided that the present practice of providing the rates and ratios in NSS reports might continue. The estimates of employment rate with three different reference periods might also continue as against the suggestion of Dr. Bhalla to report only CWS estimates. However, Census or official projected population figures for the period corresponding to mid-point of survey period, might be presented in the concerned NSS reports, for the states and union territories with rural-urban and male-female break-ups, if available, to facilitate the users of NSS reports to calculate the estimates in absolute numbers. The source of population figures should invariably be mentioned.

(Action:SDRD)

**DOC(2008)SC(5)(b2): Tabulation plan and estimation procedure for NSS 64<sup>th</sup> round**

- (i) NSS 64<sup>th</sup> round tabulation plan on Schedule 0.0 (listing schedule) finalized by the W.G. was approved. As recommended by the Working Group, it was decided that a detailed and comprehensive report based on the tabulation of listing schedule be brought out for each round. This might also include relevant summary findings in other reports for comparison and as a perspective.
- (ii) The NSS reports on household consumer expenditure had been presenting the size distributions of MPCE based on MPCE class intervals. These class intervals broadly conform to 12 fractile groups -top and the bottom decile split into two 5% fractile groups each and the middle 80% of the population being divided into 8 decile groups. For computational convenience, the class-intervals derived from a quinquennial round of consumer expenditure at the all India level for the rural and urban population separately were also used in the subsequent annual rounds till the next quinquennial round. As computerization has made this practice unnecessary, it was decided to do away with this practice from the 64<sup>th</sup> round. The MPCE class intervals henceforth would be based on the size distributions estimated in the same round at the level of all India and the states. For presentation purposes, the class intervals for the states would relate to quintile groups of 20% each.

(iii) The Tabulation Plan for Schedule 1.0 (Household Consumer Expenditure, NSS 64<sup>th</sup> round) was approved with following modifications:

- a) Appropriate Re-sequencing of columns in Tables 5, 6,7 and 10.
- b) One table on the size distributions of households over Social Groups in each classes of MPCE is added with a suitable caution on comparability of estimates with the earlier estimates based on MPCE classes.

(iv) The Tabulation Plan for Schedule 25.2 (Participation and Expenditure in Education) was approved with following modifications suggested by Prof. K. Sundaram, Chairman, 64<sup>th</sup> round Working Group:

- a) Age-group in Table 3A is to be changed similar to that of Table 6A with 1<sup>st</sup> row as '0-5' instead of '0-4'.
- b) A set of new tables to be introduced on the lines of Table 17 for (i) each currently attending level and (ii) for each age group

(v) It was decided to generate some important tables for the household social groups. Accordingly, Table nos. 4, 9, 20, 22, 25 of the proposed report on 'Migration in India, 2007-08' and Table nos. 7, 8 and 9 of the proposed report on 'Employment and Unemployment Situation in India, 2007-08' might be generated for the household social groups.

(vi) It was suggested to generate tables using information from various schedules viz. employment & unemployment, migration and education and prepare a report based on these tables. It was informed that this type of analysis is made for publication in Survekshana and this practice will continue for results of NSS 64<sup>th</sup> round too. It was decided that the present practice of bringing out the reports separately for each schedule of the survey might continue. Further, it was decided that the results of various schedules of the survey would be properly linked and a comprehensive note be prepared by the SDRD and presented in the seminar on NSS 64<sup>th</sup> round.

(vii) Chairman, Working Group 64<sup>th</sup> round observed that some more important tables were required to be added in the tabulation plan for NSS 64<sup>th</sup> round. It was decided that the entire tabulation plan of 64<sup>th</sup> round will be reviewed by the Chairman of the W.G. in consultation with SDRD and final tabulation plan decided at the earliest.

**(Action:SDRD)**

### **DOC(2008) SC(5)(C1): Sample Design and Schedules of Enquiry for NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round**

(i) Sample design for NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round was approved. However, following changes were suggested:

- (a) Since there was deviation in sampling procedure for this round, the argument regarding change in the procedure could be recorded suitably in the instructions Volume 1.

- (b) In order to bring Ladakh and Kargil districts under the coverage of NSSO, first-stage sample units (FSUs) selected for state sample shall also be treated as central sample. The state DES might make available a copy of the filled-in schedules to the concerned Data Processing Centre of NSSO (DPD) for further processing.
- (c) Total number of sample FSUs (central sample) for Lakshadweep would be revised as 16 in place of 24. Out of 16 FSUs, the break-up for rural and urban would be 4 and 12 respectively. The Steering Committee observed that the UT of Lakshadweep had not been participating in the NSS for canvassing State Sample. A request might be sent to the UT Administration for their participation in the NSS programme with a view to improving the statistical database for the UT.
- (d) Considering the problem of under estimation of population during NSS surveys, it was decided that while selecting the two hamlet-groups (hg's)/sub-blocks (sb's) from large FSUs, the one having maximum population would be selected with probability one and from the remaining hamlet groups, one more will be selected at random.
- (e) For the rural areas of state of Uttaranchal, hg's would be formed with smaller population content as done for the rural areas of other hilly areas. Instructions be suitably incorporated in Volume –I
- (f) FOD might complete the 2002-07 phase of UFS work for the remaining new towns (164 towns) of Census 2001 along with the pending old towns (around 707 towns) on a priority basis so that UFS frames for all the towns of the country are available for sampling of FSUs in the NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round. In case, some of the towns were not found completed by March, 2008, separate stratum would be formed for such towns in the respective NSS region. Status would be discussed at the time of All India Training Conference of Trainers.
- (ii) Schedule 0.0 was approved with the following changes:
- (a) Format of Block 4.2 on hg/sb selection would be suitably modified since one hg/sb will be selected with probability one.
- (b) In Block 7, as per the decision of the Working Group in its second meeting, distance code for all the items up to serial number 35 would be filled-in only for rural samples. The remaining items 36 to 42 would be applicable for both rural and urban. However, it was suggested that the code structure for item 41 (electricity connection), - code for percentage (P) of households with electricity connection being less than 25% (i.e. code 1) would be split into two codes, namely,  $P \leq 10\%$ : Code 1, and  $10\% < P < 25\%$ : Code 2. Remaining codes might be changed accordingly.
- (c) The Committee desired that DPD should make all efforts to scan Schedule 0.0 for all rounds starting from 58<sup>th</sup> round for storage and processing of information as a preparatory exercise to use the ICR technology for processing of the schedule. For this purpose, high speed scanner might be procured by the DPD.

(d) Regarding the blocks containing the comments of supervisors and Investigators in the schedule, it was decided that attempts be made to structure/code the comments. However, it was found that the comments were basically given only when abnormal figure was observed in the schedule so that at the time of tabulation, confusion regarding inconsistencies might be avoided. It was decided that for NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round, there would be a table on this.

(iii) In Schedule 1.2 (Housing Condition), 65<sup>th</sup> round, the following changes were suggested:

**(a) Block 4:**

1. For households reporting non-availability of sufficient drinking water throughout the year, information would be collected on the months of the year during which availability of drinking water was not sufficient. For this, a new item (item 3), as given below, might be introduced:

3.	<p><b>If code 2 in item 2</b>, during which calendar months of the year availability of drinking water was not sufficient <i>(applicable month codes may be recorded in the box spaces: Jan-01, Feb-02, Mar-03, Apr-04, May-05, Jun-06, Jul -07, Aug-08, Sep-09, Oct-10, Nov-11, Dec-12)</i></p>						

2. Item 8 (whether has electricity for domestic use?) might be re-worded as: whether household has electricity for domestic use?

**(b) Block 5:**

For dwelling units constructed during the last 5 years, information on the ‘year of start’ and ‘year of completion’ was required to be collected. Therefore, for dwelling units with code 1 or 2 in item 4, information might be collected on the ‘year of start’ and ‘year of completion’, after item 4 as follows:

if code 1 or 2 in item 4,	5.	year of start	Y	Y	Y	Y
	6.	year of completion				

**(c) Block 7:**

1. In Block 7 (particulars of construction and repair for residential purpose), provision might be made to collect information for three ‘constructions’ at the ‘present premises’ and three ‘constructions’ at ‘elsewhere’.

2. In respect of items 10 to 20, the sub-heading 'source of finance (Rs.) for construction' might be replaced with 'amount (Rs.) financed for construction from different sources'.
3. In items 27 to 29 of Block 7, information might be collected for the 'first hand purchase of constructed house / flat' at the 'present premises' and 'elsewhere' during the last 365 days.

(d) To have an idea about the use of the remarks' blocks, viz. blocks 8, 9 and 10, it was suggested to record whether remarks had been recorded in these blocks. Accordingly, items in block 2 (particulars of field operation) might be suitably introduced to collect information on 'whether remarks are recorded' in codes (yes-1, no-2).

(iv) Schedule 21.1 (Domestic Tourism) was approved with a few edit points listed below:

1. The word 'household' will be replaced by 'house' in Block 3, item 10.
2. Re-sequencing of numbers in block 6.1 and 6.2.

**(Action:SDRD/DPD)**

**DOC (2008) SC (5) (C2):Data on household expenditure on transport equipment and transport services during NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round and survey on domestic tourism, housing condition, urban slums and civic amenities (NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round) - estimation procedure and tabulation Plan**

(i) The issue of collection of data on household expenditure on Transport Equipment and Transport Services (TE & TS) during 65<sup>th</sup> round was discussed. It was pointed out by SDRD that inclusion of such questions in the domestic tourism schedule might complicate the data collection process of the present round, since transport expenditure taken as a part of tourist expenditure, could be mistaken for amounts to be recorded in the suggested items of TE & TS instead of entire household (non-enterprise) transport expenditure. It was pointed out that the Working Group on NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round in their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 12.2.08 considered this issue in detail and decided that these items did not fit well in the NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round. The Chairman concluded the discussion with the remarks that the issue might be brought again to the Chairman, Working Group of NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round for appropriate decision which would be taken as the final decision on the issue. The decision should be taken at the earliest and informed to the NSC secretariat.

(ii) The tabulation plan for NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round as approved by the Working Group was taken up for discussion and the following decisions were taken:

- (a) NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round tabulation plan on Schedule 0.0 was approved with the only change that Table 11 suggesting per 1000 distribution of UFS blocks by distance from the nearest facilities be dropped as the relevant items would now be collected only for rural samples. The Committee desired that a comprehensive report based on the tabulation of listing schedule be brought out. The report might also give the summary of other reports which will be published.
- (b) Tabulation plan of Schedule 1.2 (Housing Condition) as approved by the Working Group on NSS 65<sup>th</sup> round was approved by the Steering Committee.

- (c) Tabulation plan of Schedule 21.1 (Domestic Tourism) was approved along with the changes suggested by the Working Group on NSS 65<sup>th</sup> Round in its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 12.02.2008. In addition, the word 'reporting' was to replace the word 'with' in some tables such as tables 5A, 6A etc., where such a re-wording was required.
- (d) Tabulation Plan of Schedule 0.21 (Particulars of Slum) was approved with the minor modification viz. Table 3 is to be modified by splitting the columns 'non-notified' into three parts viz., approximate number of households (n)  $\geq 20$  and n <60; n  $\geq 60$  and all.

**(Action:SDRD)**

**DOC (2008) SC(5) (d): Working Group for NSS 66<sup>th</sup> round (July 2009 - June 2010)**

It was informed that the NSS 66<sup>th</sup> round will be the quinquennial survey on Employment & Unemployment and Household Consumer Expenditure. It was suggested by Prof. Kundu that the Working Group may be constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. Radhakrishna after ascertaining his availability. It was agreed that the issue might be left to the Chairman of the Steering Committee.

**(Action: CPD)**

**DOC(2008) SC(5) (e):Report of the group to examine proposed revised guidelines for the urban frame survey**

The Committee accepted the recommendations of the group constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dipankar Coondoo. The use of digitised maps of Census towns in UFS for forming UFS blocks was recommended. Since Supervisory Circles in the population census were proposed to be fixed by RGI, in future, the Investigator Units (I V Units) of UFS might coincide with the Supervisory Circles of population census. It was decided that the revised instructions manual for UFS and schedules etc. might be prepared by the NSSO (FOD) and NSSO (SDRD) urgently so that the work of UFS might start from July, 2008. As recommended by the said Group, efforts might be made to complete the UFS work within two years viz. July 2008 - June 2010 by engaging 600 contract investigators. However, ADG (FOD) expressed his doubt on the recruitment of contract investigators so early as it involved approval of Ministry of Finance and also it was a lengthy process. As such, it was decided that FOD, as an alternative, might take up the UFS work in the usual manner. It was also decided that the DPD might immediately take up the feasibility study for digitization of UFS maps.

**(Action: SDRD/DPD/FOD)**

**DOC (2008)SC(5) (f):Optimum sample size for North Eastern States**

The Committee appreciated the study and advised that the study be completed by working out sample size requirements for estimating the state level proportion of persons below poverty line with reasonable degree of accuracy. The final report might be submitted at an early date.

**(Action:SDRD)**

**DOC (2008) SC (5) (g): A note on effectiveness of using list frame in NSS 62<sup>nd</sup> round**

The Committee noted the findings about insignificant improvement in the estimates of GVA per worker of NSS 62<sup>nd</sup> round where the list frame was used. One probable reason identified was the use of only a few list frame units for survey purpose. SC advised that the feasibility of using the directory of big establishments as per fifth Economic Census as the list frame in the next enterprise survey be explored.

**(Action:SDRD)**

**DOC (2008) SC(5) (h): Miscellaneous items**

The items relating to ‘Committee on underestimation of population in NSS’, ‘Replacement of States of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra in the Steering Committee for National Sample Survey’, ‘Socio Economic Survey of Gramin Dak Sewak’, and ‘Collection of weekly data in respect of organized sector for new series of Whole Sale Price Index (WPI)’ could not be discussed due to paucity of time and it was decided that these items could be taken up during the next meeting of the committee. The following items were, however, discussed:

**(i) Feasibility study for undertaking pilot survey on drug abuse**

The Committee recognized the importance of carrying out the survey on drug abuse as requested by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. However, it was unanimous in its opinion that the traditional household approach of data collection as adopted in the NSS needed to be modified suitably with a view to eliciting reliable information on the subject. As there were serious methodological issues, it was decided that a committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Arijit Chaudhuri might be formed to suggest the appropriate survey methodology including the schedules for collection of data through a pilot survey. Other members of the committee would include one representative each from (a) four divisions of NSSO, (b) social statistics division of CSO, (c) ministry of social justice and empowerment, (d) ministry of health and family welfare, (e) NACO, and also a medical expert.

**(Action: CPD)**

**(ii) Weeding of Schedules**

It was decided that the detailed schedules for the NSS 59<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> and 61<sup>st</sup> round might be weeded out. However, listing schedules for these rounds might be retained. Further, it was decided that the detailed schedules in respect of NSS 62<sup>nd</sup> round might be weeded out after release of unit level data of this round. However, the listing schedule of NSS 62<sup>nd</sup> round could also be retained.

**(Action:DPD)**

**(iii) Proposal for Revision of the composition of the Editorial advisory Board of Sarvekshana.**

The Committee was informed about the decision regarding supply of hard and soft copies of the publication “Sarvekshana” to Hon’ble members of Parliament (both Lok Sabha and Rajya

Sabha). Keeping this in view, the necessity of publishing Sarvekshana with the latest information was noted/recognized. It was also felt that appropriate time schedule for release of 92<sup>nd</sup>, 93<sup>rd</sup> and 94<sup>th</sup> issues of Sarvekshana might be followed so that timely release of the publication with the latest results is ensured. The proposal on composition of Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) of Sarveskshana was discussed. It was decided that DG (CSO) might be included as a member (official) in EAB. Composition of the board may be examined and reconstituted board formed.

**(Action: CPD)**

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

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**List of Participants of fifth meeting of Steering Committee of NSS**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name &amp; Designation</b>
1.	Prof S.D. Tendulkar, Chairman
2.	Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Co-chairman
3.	Prof. K. Sundaram, Chairman, WG on NSS 64 <sup>th</sup> round
4.	Prof. T.J. Rao, Retd. Professor ISI, Kolkata
5.	Prof. S.P. Mukherjee, Chairman, WG on NSS 65 <sup>th</sup> round
6.	Dr. N.S Sastry Ex-DG&CEO, NSSO
7.	Dr. S.K. Nath, DG, CSO
8.	Shri P.K.Ray, DG&CEO, NSSO
9.	Dr. A.K. Yogi, ADG, NSSO (FOD)
10.	Shri P. Chattopadhyay, ADG, NSSO (DPD) Kolkata
11.	Shri Rajendra Tiwari, Director, DES (UP)
12.	Shri S.G. Jagtap, Jt. Director, DES, Maharashtra
13.	Dr. Arbind Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
14.	Shri P.C. Mohanan, DDG, NSC Sectt.
15.	Shri G.C. Manna, DDG, SDRD, NSSO, Kolkata
16.	Shri P.S. Bose, DDG, SDRD, Kolkata
17.	Shri B.K. Giri, DDG, NSSO (DPD), Kolkata
18.	Shri S. Mallick, DDG, NSSO (DPD), Kolkata
19.	Shri P.H. Khopkar, DDG, Computer Centre
20.	Shri Serves Kumar, DDG, NSSO (FOD)
21.	Shri K.S. Prasadarao, DDG, CPD, NSSO
22.	Shri Satyendra Prakash, Director, NISD
23.	Shri A. Basu, Director, NSSO (SDRD) Kolkata
24.	Smt. Gopa Sen, Director, CPD, NSSO
25.	Shri Vidya Prakash, Director, CPD, NSSO
26.	Shri Ram Kripal, Director, CPD, NSSO
27.	Shri R.A. Dwivedi, Director, CPD, NSSO
28.	Shri S.K. Mukhopadhyay, Jt. Director, NSSO (SDRD) Kolkata
29.	Shri S. Kundu, Jt. Director, NSSO (SDRD), Kolkata
30.	Shri O.P. Ghosh, Dy. Director, NSSO (SDRD), Kolkata
31.	Smt. Indira Rajaram, Assistant Director, CPD, NSSO