

The Genesis of NSSO

National Sample Survey (NSS) was set up in 1950 on the recommendations of National Income Committee, chaired by late Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis to fill up large gaps in statistical data for computation of national income aggregates, especially in respect of unorganized / household sector of the economy. Initially statistical work of NSS except for fieldwork used to be carried out by Indian Statistical Institute under the guidance of Prof. Mahalanobis, while NSS Directorate was created and assigned the fieldwork.

NSS was reorganized as National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in March 1970 on the recommendation of Review Committee Chaired by Sh. B. Sivaraman, when all aspects of NSS work was brought under a single organization under Government of India. However full integration was not possible until June, 1972 (on the eve of launching of NSS 27th round). In a way, this marked the end of an era in the history of NSS. In the new set-up Governing Council (GC) of NSSO with a non-official Chairman to guide all the activities of NSSO came in as the apex body of the new organization and NSS surveys were given a new perspective. In 2006, consequent to formation of National Statistical Commission, GC of NSSO was dissolved and a Steering Committee of National Sample Survey came in its place. In India and abroad NSSO has become synonymous with reliable estimates on various aspects of economic and social life in India based on large scale sample surveys.