Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Summary of Proceedings of 27th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) held during 11 -12th November, 2019 at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata

I.   Introduction

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) organized a two day Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) at Kolkata, West Bengal during 11-12th November, 2019. So far 26 such Conferences had been organized and this COCSSO was 27th in the series. The theme of 27th Conference was **"Sustainable Development Goals"**. The major objective of the conference was to expedite finalization of the State Indicator Frameworks (SIFs). The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Bimal Kumar Roy, Chairman, National Statistical Commission in presence of Shri Pravin Srivastava, Chief Statistician of India-cum-Secretary, MoSPI. Representatives from Central Government Ministries, State/UT Governments, international agencies, academic institutions, corporate sector, community organizations and other stakeholders participated in the Conference.

2.   The programme of the Conference is annexed. A number of presentations were made during the Conference relating to the theme, by Central Ministries/Departments as well as representatives from various national and international agencies. These included, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, UNDP, ILO, NITI Aayog, Tata Trusts, PwC, etc. In addition, various States/UTs, Directorate of Economics and Statistics also shared their experiences in this area. Discussions on the role of technology in real time monitoring of SDGs, data challenges and National Indicator Framework (NIF) and State Indicator Framework (SIF) for SDGs were also held.

3.   MoSPI has developed NIF for monitoring of SDGs at national level. The conference deliberated on developing and customizing SIF as per the local needs and priorities of the States/UTs. The States/UTs shared their experiences and status on the development of Policy Framework, Vision Document on SDGs, mapping States Programmes/Schemes to SDG goals/targets, institutional arrangements on localization of SDGs, challenges/issues in bridging the data gaps on SDGs. Breakout sessions were organized wherein States/UTs were divided into various groups for focused discussions in such a manner that each group included some States/UTs which had made considerable progress and some which needed to do so. The aim was to have meaningful discussions in smaller groups of State /UT participants so that the experience of the States/UTs which had developed their SIF could facilitate the other States. These discussions were facilitated / guided by senior officers from MoSPI, SDGs experts from UN Agencies and Research Organizations, NITI Aayog and officers from Central Government Ministries/Departments.

4.   The highlights of the 27th Conference are summarized in the following paragraphs.

II.   Session-1 : New initiatives of MoSPI

5.   The first session was chaired by Prof. Bimal Kumar Roy, Chairman, National Statistical Commission. During the session four presentations were held on the following topics:-

i.   National Integrated Information Portal (NIIP)/National Data Warehouse in Official Statistics - by Data Informatics and Innovation Division (DIID), NSO.

ii.   7th Economic Census - by Economic Statistics Division (ESD), NSO

iii.   Computer Assisted General Survey Instrument (CAGSI): A General Survey Solution - by Data Quality Assurance Division (DQAD), NSO.

iv.   Bridging the gap of availability of skilled enumerators/Specialists in socio-economic surveys - by Survey Coordination Division, NSO.

The topic-wise summary of the session is as under:

6.   The presentation on "**National Integrated Information Portal (NIIP)/National Data Warehouse in Official Statistics"** made by Shri Hansraj Yadav, Director, highlighted the background and initiatives of MoSPI for creation of an IT platform, including a National Data Warehouse for Official Statistics, with the aim to strengthen statistical system for providing inputs for policy formulation as well as for general public. The proposed data warehouse would begin with legacy data for last 10 years. Subsequently, in collaboration with other Ministries and State Governments efforts would be made for making available their data in the warehouse. It is expected that starting from a volume of total 32 TB data, MoSPI will be able place at least 200 TB of data on the NIIP platform which can be scaled up in future. It was explained that the creation of this platform will involve intensive use of IT Solutions and core statistical functions would be automated. Data dissemination practices would also be rationalized to make data easily available to authorized users. The initiatives will cover adoption of best IT Technology/Solutions, Automation of core Statistical Functioning, National Integrated Information Portal (NIIP), Generalized Survey Solution (GSS) and Data Innovation Lab (DI-L).

7.   NIIP would address ever-growing demand for reliable and credible data at one place for real time monitoring of impact of socio economic programmes and interventions. NIIP would also enable access to latest technologies to the Official Statisticians and Statistical Community, Researchers and Public at large. This new initiative will adopt best Technologies and will be Cloud based. This will include reporting and analytical tools, besides Survey Instruments and tools for Data Management. NIIP Platform will include dashboard, Learning Management System (LMS), Geographic Information System (GIS), data exchange platform, E-book, data acquisition, document management system and dynamic pricing engine. The NIIP would also allow State Governments to access various IT solutions / software applications and state specific dashboards / statistical products could also be brought out.

8.   The presentation on **"7th Economic Census"** was made by Dr. Pankaj Srivastava, Deputy Director General, NSO. The presentation was focused on the objectives of the 7thEconomic Census (EC) and its current progress. He informed that 7thEC will provide disaggregated information on various operational and structural variables of all establishments of the country, valuable insight into geographical spread/clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern, persons engaged at various establishments and updated sampling frame for follow- up enterprise surveys undertaken for detailed and comprehensive analysis of all establishments in the country. EC will provide count of all establishments along with some of their operational and structural characteristics. It will also provide sampling frame for subsequent sample surveys to be conducted by MoSPI/other agencies. The field work of EC, being done through Common Service Centre (CSC) involves extensive use of IT tools throughout its various stages of implementation namely, app-based enumeration and supervision, geo-tagging and time stamping of data, real time data validation, data benchmarking, etc. Till date, EC had been launched in 23 states and 1.25 crores structures had been enumerated. The field work is expected to be completed by March, 2020.

9.   The presentation on **"Computer Assisted General Survey Instrument (CAGSI)- A General Survey Solution"** was made by Shri Arindam Modak, Deputy Director General, NSO. It is an Android based survey instrument embedded with Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning. This would provide end-to-end solutions for data collection, processing, tabulation and generation of reports, besides having modules for self-learning and training of enumerators and supervisors. The proposed solution was envisaged to be menu driven, equipped for real-time data validation, capable of collection of para-data and having facilities of helpline and shooting SMS alert. It was informed that CAGSI would be implemented in a phased manner. In first phase it will be used within MoSPI to bring all NSS surveys under its domain. The second phase envisaged for providing access to all the State Govts within the domain of CAGSI to enable them to collect quality and timely in survey Data. In phase three, CAGSI would be extended to all the line Ministries for giving them all the survey support for the surveys carried out by them, and in the final and 4th phase CAGSI could be released as an open source application.

10   The presentation on **"Catalysing Availability of Skilled Enumerators/Specialists in Socio-Economic Surveys: Initiatives of MOSPI"** was made by Shri Pankaj KP Shreyaskar, Director, NSO. He emphasized on the need to engage skilled manpower for conducting various socio-economic surveys by MoSPI. He explained that the Ministry is undertaking various surveys and demand for surveys is rising day by day; and for meeting the data needs, various field functionaries namely, Field Survey Enumerators, Field Supervisors, Data Quality Assistants, Data Quality Supervisors, Data Analysts needs to be well equipped with the understanding of surveys and its various aspects. Also improved data quality consciousness, time bound release, digitally enabled survey instruments, etc are required for surveys. In order to meet these requirements customized courses for enumerators, supervisors, data quality assistants are required to be created and enumerators, skill providers,

certifiers can be potential collaborators in this endeavor. Beneficiaries of the skilled manpower so generated may include Government, other survey agencies, Civil Society organizations and NGOs.

III.   Session-2

11.   The session was chaired by Shri Pravin Srivastava, Secretary (S&PI)& Chief Statistician of India. In his opening remarks, Secretary (S&PI) emphasized on involvement of trusts, research institutions and use of social media for better outreach and popularization of SDGs. During the session, presentations were held on the following topics:-

   i.   **ICT in SDG Monitoring**
   ii.   **Monitoring of SDGs – DELTA- a new approach**
   iii.   **Technology in real time monitoring of SDGs**
   iv.   **Presentation by State of Assam, Uttarakhand and Gujarat**

The topic-wise summary of the session is as under:

12.   The first presentation of the session was made by Shri Ankur Seth, representative of PwC on **"ICT in SDG Monitoring".** He stated that currently India stands 115 out of 162 in SDG Ranking 2019. Within India, Currently southern states are front runners in some of the major SDG indicators. He emphasized on the following four aspects for better coverage of SDGs:

   i.   Whole of Government approach
   ii.   Smart system leveraging emerging technologies
   iii.   Citizen centric governance
   iv.   Digital inclusion and accessibility

13.   He emphasized the importance of the role of the ICT and its use by Statistical Bodies of the Union as well as States for better monitoring of SDGs. Statistical agencies of several countries are investing in technology platforms to monitor the SDGs. The initiatives, like, *SDG Data Hub* by Canada, *SDG Knowledge Platform* hosted by Denmark, *Science Platform Sustainability 2030* developed by the Germany and *One Data Platform* of Indonesia were pointed out as country examples of best practices on technological innovations & IT solutions. Secretary (S&PI) in his comments added that crowd sourcing of data can be used as an important tool for additional Data Input.

14.   The next presentation on **"Monitoring of SDGs – DELTA- a new approach"** was made by Ms. Poornima Dore, Head- Data Driven Governance of TATA Trusts. In her presentation, she explained in detail the importance of harnessing Big Data, integrating technologies with traditional Government planning and the importance of moving towards data reliant culture for better informed decision making. She introduced DELTA (data evaluation, learning technology and analysis), a new approach being adopted by TATA

Trusts in the case of aspirational districts for NITI Aayog, and advocated its use to bridge the data gaps. She emphasized the importance of having localised estimates and capacity building at the Panchayat and Ward Level for collection of quality data and efficient implementation of programmes.

15.   During the third presentation, Alen John, Consultant, NITI Aayog, explained the role of technology in real time monitoring of SDGs. Outlining the technological interventions for preparation of indicators, he pointed out certain themes, like disaggregation, Granularity, Divergence, Frequency of surveys for further improvement in the system. He also stated that the dashboard for aspirational districts was in operation and on similar lines a dashboard for SDGs for real time monitoring could be made. He also emphasized upon use of tablets for faster and easier data collection. He shared the experience of making the rankings on the basis of District Indicator Framework (DIF) as was done in the case of aspirational districts and advocated a similar methodology for SDGs.

16.   Three States namely Assam, Uttarakhand and Gujarat also presented their experiences and practices being followed for monitoring of SDGs and its implementation. Representative from Govt. of Assam highlighted the achievements of the State in preparing vision document, finalizing the SIF and establishing a mechanism for outcome monitoring as well as progress monitoring. Representative of Government of Uttarakhand mentioned that Working Groups had been formed at the highest levels for monitoring of SDGs and its implementation. Further, several workshops had been organized for capacity building and the State Government had also appointed nodal departments for aligning targets with indicators. The State, besides preparing Vision document 2030, has developed a total of 550 indicators out of which 175 indicators could be monitored regularly. The Indicators had also been aligned with outcome budget of the Departments. In addition, the Government of Uttarakhand had adopted a C_2N Model (Convergence, Coordination and Networking) for smooth implementation of SDGs. Representative of Government of Gujarat, highlighted that the State had identified 328 indicators and had mapped 750 schemes with the 17 Goals. The dashboard prepared by the government (dashboard named as SWIFT) was in operation and was live for 65 indicators. State level and District level framework for monitoring &localization of SDGs had been prepared, and Training of Trainers (ToT) for all districts had been organized on 29.06.19.

IV.   Session-3

17.   The session was chaired by Dr. Shailja Sharma, Additional Director General (SSD), NSO. The first presentation was made by Ms. Sanyukta Samaddar, Advisor, NITI Aayog on "Accelerating SDG Localisation in India". Observing that SDGs presented a complex agenda which placed an unprecedented demand on Centre and State level Data, she emphasized that the global achievement on SDGs depended on the progress of India through the development of 1.3 billion people, which in turn is dependent on the progress made by States/UTs, and hence recognizing sub-national contexts in the achievement of the 2030 agenda was important. It was also important because it enabled the various levels of Government to understand their responsibility and work at providing solutions at various levels and facilitate the Central Government in policy making. Further, it was informed that NITI Aayog had

been coordinating with Central Ministries, States DES, etc. in helping them develop their own SDG indicator frameworks. The SDGs are not merely a Govt. Agenda, but require partnership with Inter Governmental agencies, UN agencies, Civil Society & Corporates.

18.   The contributions made by the MoSPI in developing the National Indicator Framework (NIF), Dashboard for SDGs & Baseline Report was highlighted. The dashboard developed by MoSPI in coordination with UNRC was observed as one of the thriving initiatives for observing the progress and getting data for decision making. While discussing scope of further improvement for system of monitoring of SDGs, issues like; Real time data monitoring, Enhancement of statistical capacity for bridging the data gaps, Data Integration through a single & transparent platform and Maintaining data security & privacy were pointed out.

19.   The next presentation on "Support for SDG Monitoring under SSS Scheme" was made by ShriRajesh Bhatia, Deputy Director General (SSSP), NSO. The presentation outlined the overview of National Indicator Framework (NIF) and State Indicator Framework (SIF) for SDGs and its alignment with State Statistical Strengthening Programme (SSSP). It was informed that the SSS scheme provides financial support to States/UTs for undertaking activities under components like enabling IT environment, Human Resource Development, advocacy issues, data quality & efficiency improvement measures, user producer dialogues, innovative methods of data collection, etc. Support is given to DES of States/UTs after signing of MOUs. The following activities of SDGs can be incorporated in the MoUs of the States/UTs.

-   Preparation of vision document
-   Mapping of schemes of various department.
-   Development of SIFincluding Meta data structure
-   Undertaking Studies on bridging of data gaps in availability of SDG Indicators
-   Capacity Building workshops
-   Linking the State Budget with SDGs

20.   In the next presentation, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, SSD, NSO spoke about "Rapid Assessment Survey on preparedness of State/UTs for monitoring of SDGs". It was informed that the questionnaire for this survey consisting of 21 questions was developed by MoSPI circulated to States / UTs in May, 2019. The summary of findings based on the responses received from 22 State/UTs were as under:

-   Almost all the States had done some preliminary work such as designating Nodal Departments for monitoring of SDGs.
-   Prepared vision document & mapped schemes with SDGs.
-   Majority of the States had prepared SIF by taking indicators from NIF, prioritised indicators of NITI Aayog& State specific indicators.

21.   On the basis of the Rapid Survey, the following points were made by the MoSPI:

- MoSPI expects the States to finalise the SIF at the earliest; undertake district & sub-district level monitoring of SDGs, release baseline reports & progress reports on SDGs.
- Extensive use of ICT be made &best practices of other States/UT be adopted
- Publicity & awareness on SDG be increased.

22.   At the end of the Session-3, all the States / UTs were divided into 3 groups for further interactions in break-out sessions so that each group included:

- States which had finalised their SIF
- States which were near finalisation of SIF
- States which were in initial stages of preparing SIF.

23.   The following guiding principles for development of SIF were shared with the participants:-

- SIF should be prepared in a participatory manner.
- SIF should complement the overall development strategy of the State
- SIF should map all the Govt. schemes.
- SIF would be in sync with NIF.
- SIF needs to maintain a balance between social economic & environmental indicators.
- SIF should take into account existing efforts by MoSPI in related policy areas to minimise their data burden.
- additional indicators in the SIF would be those where the state is producing data through sample surveys or Monitoring systems of the schemes / programmes

24.   The three parallel breakout sessions were devoted to, on the context of developing SIFs, sharing of the Best Practices, strategies adopted, achievements and challenges being faced. The officers of field offices of NSS joined the groups in which the representatives of their respective States were participating. Representatives of other organizations also joined one or the other group as per their choice.

25.   On Day 2, two parallel breakout sessions were organized. In these parallel sessions the issues that emerged in the break-out sessions on Day 1 were discussed. To facilitate discussion on the specific issues and experience sharing, sub groups of States were formed during this break-out session. Each subgroup consisted of States/UTs with different levels of advancement in preparation of SIF in order to provide better learning opportunities to the lagging States.

26.   For enabling the States to develop their SIF, they were provided three lists of SDGs:

(i) NIF indicators namely list of Core indicators,

(ii) List of State Specific Indicators and

(iii) The list of indicators for which data are not available at Central Level.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

27.   The major points emerging in the plenary and breakout sessions of the Conference are summarized below:

- For poverty related indicators, BPL Surveys, SECC data etc. are being used by States as data source, Dr. G. C. Manna, Member, NSC suggested for pooling of NSS data for getting reliable disaggregated level estimates.

- For indicators relating to banking sector, SLBC Report/RBI data may be utilized for district level information.

- Representatives of the UN Agencies conveyed their interest in joining hands with States/UTs.

- Representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO) suggested to include all the global indicators in SIF for which the data is available. ILO also suggested that PLFS unit level data may be used for generation of key employment related indicators.

- Representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) suggested that universal health coverage may be adopted from GIF and appropriate index may be developed. Data from Aayushman Bharat may also be used for health related indicators in SIF.

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) suggested that Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) may be computed based on data source from different surveys like NFHS etc.

- Different Central Ministries requested to circulate the revised NIF finalized by MoSPI.

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) suggested that States are not aware of the data availability on several indicators and they should explore the existing databases for preparing SIF. NSO data may be used for calculation of GER.

- The deliberations of the Conference also pointed out areas which require additional support and attention for various aspects of the monitoring of SDGs. These include;

    - Strengthening co-ordination of different Ministries, Institutions and other Stakeholders to share / adopt best practices and monitoring of the SDGs. More assigned roles of the line Ministries are needed for developing the NIF and SIF.

    - Regular interactions of States /UTs with MoSPI are required on various technical issues relating to development of Dashboard, integration of State modules, on the SDG India Dashboard of MoSPI, Organizing workshops and

training programmes. Uniformity of concepts and definitions, standardization of methodologies are also to be addressed.

- Capacity building at State level and lower administrative levels for organizing trainings /workshops, assistance for publicity to create awareness on SDGs, more involvement of States to review data to improve quality etc.

- The States / UTs (recently initiated the process) are required to take necessary steps to finalize the SIF at the earliest and District and sub-District level monitoring framework may be evolved.

- States /UTs who have prepared SIF may expedite preparation and release of the Baseline Report, Progress Report on SDGs, Development of Dashboard, mobile apps etc.

The conference ended with Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

*****