




QUALITY ASSURANCE IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS

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INTRODUCTION

- Official Statistics are statistics published by Government agencies or other public bodies as a public good by providing quantitative or qualitative information on all major areas of citizens' lives, such as economic and social development, living conditions, health, education, environment, etc.
 - Official Statistics are useful for; Policy formation for public authorities, assessing the impact of policies of the Government, Socio-Economic comparison between regions and different social groups and categories of people, improving the accountability of Government, research, etc.
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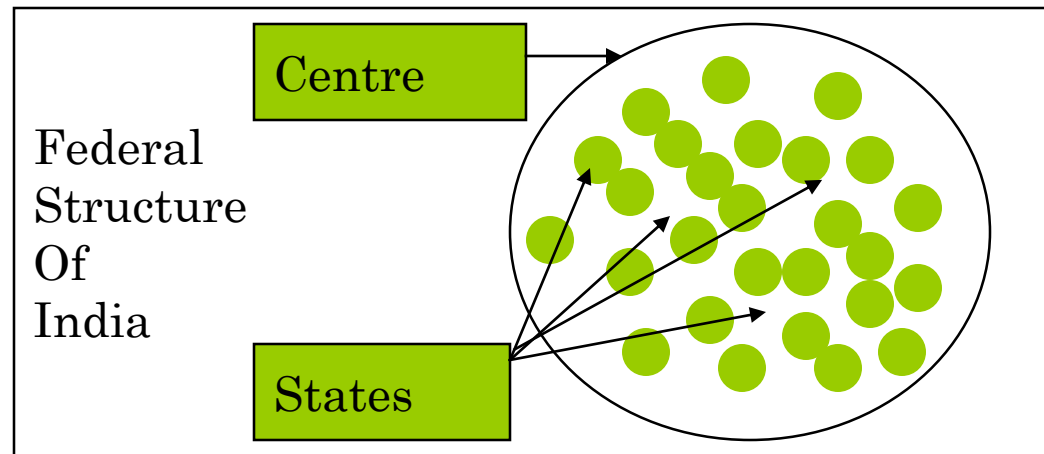
DEFINITION

- It refers to all planned activities necessary in providing confidence that a product or service will satisfy its purpose and the users' need. For example, in the context of conducting survey activities, this can take place at any of the major stages of survey development: Planning, Design, Implementation, Processing, Evaluation and Dissemination. It also attempts to move quality upstream by anticipating problems before they occur and aims at ensuring quality via the use of prevention and control techniques.



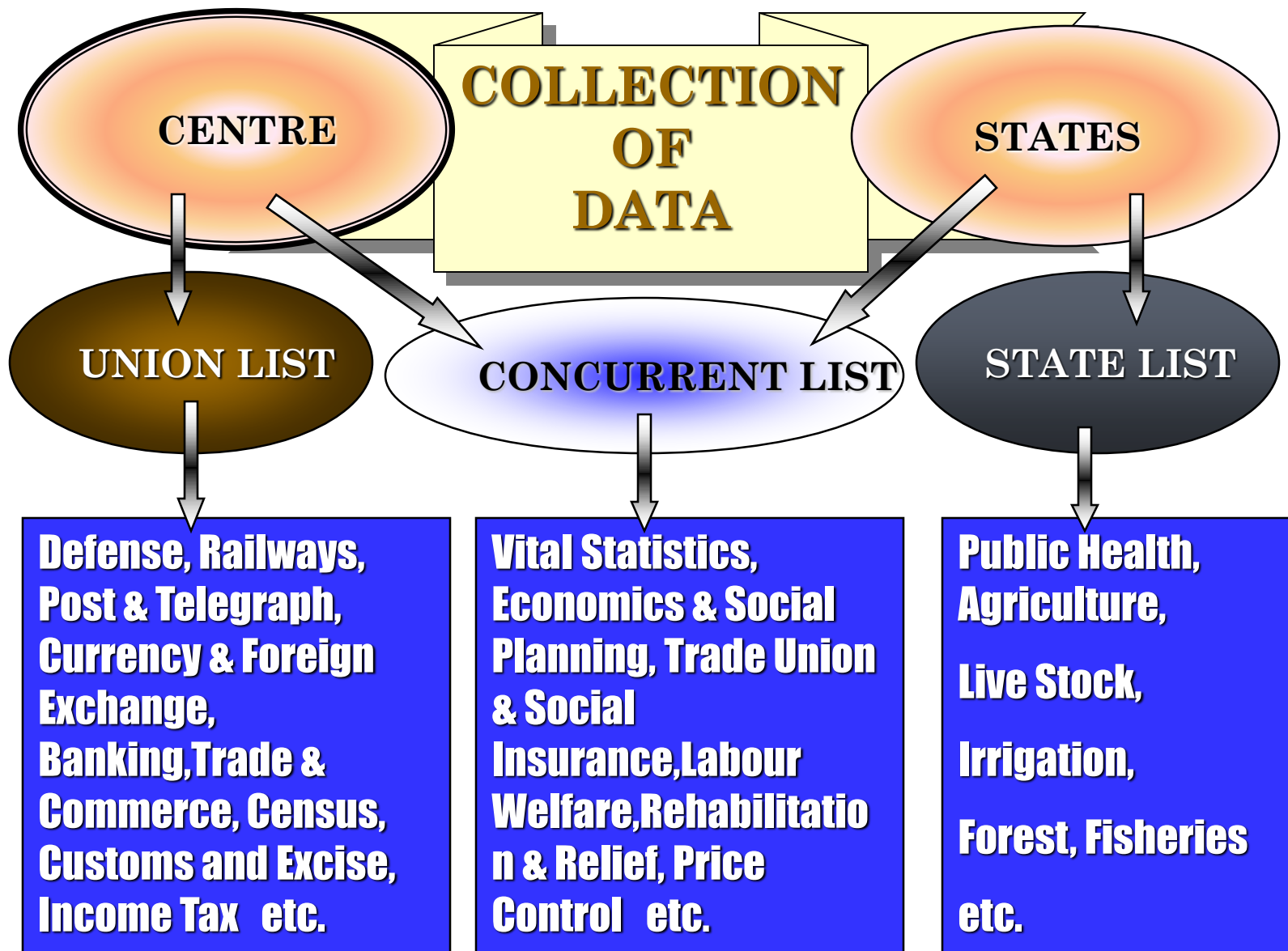
INDIAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM

- Present Statistical System is Modeled on Federal Structure of Indian Constitution



- The Division of Administrative function between Centre and States are based on the Subject Classification under:
 - The Union List
 - The State List
 - The Concurrent List





STATISTICAL SYSTEM – NODAL AGENCIES

- **At Centre**

- Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

- **At States**

- Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) or State Statistical Bureau (SSB)



CHARACTERISTICS

- Should be Authoritative. It must be Trusted.
- Should be describe socially important Phenomena.
- Should meet the needs for a variety of users and the public.
- Should have professional and ethical Standards.



QUALITY OF OFFICIAL DATA

The Data should be:

- Relevance
- Impartiality
- Accessibility or Dissemination
- Independence
- Transparency
- Confidentiality
- Interpretability
- Coherence
- International Standards



QUALITY OF OFFICIAL DATA

● **Relevance**

- ✓ Most important principle.
- ✓ Should be relevant in order to fulfil the needs of users as well as both public and private sector decision makers.
- ✓ Production of official statistics is relevant if it corresponds to different user needs like public, governments, businesses, research community, educational institutions, NGOs and international organizations.
- ✓ it satisfies basic information in each area and citizen's right to information.



QUALITY OF OFFICIAL DATA

● Impartiality

- ✓ The data should be disseminated no matter what impact they can have on some users, whether good or bad.
- ✓ Users need to perceive the results as unbiased representation of relevant aspects of the society.
- ✓ Use understandable terminology for statistics dissemination, questionnaires and material published so that everyone can have access to their information.



MEDIA – SENSATIONALISM

Goa tops list of crimes against and by foreigners

Lisa Monteiro | TNN | Sep 3, 2015, 04:51 IST



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PANAJI: With 73 cases, Goa stands unflatteringly at the top of the list of India's 28 states for crimes committed against foreigners in 2014. It has also topped the list for the highest number of foreigners, 27, arrested under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act last year.



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TABLE 130.1

Crime Committed by Foreigners - 2014-2016

S. No.	State/UT	2014	2015	2016	Percentage State share to All India (2016)	Rank Based on Incidence/ % share (2016)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
STATES:						
1	Andhra Pradesh	6	5	7	0.6	20
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	3	1	0.1	28
3	Assam	3	12	8	0.7	19
4	Bihar	3	5	4	0.3	22
5	Chhattisgarh	1	2	4	0.3	23
6	Goa	77	69	80	6.5	4
7	Gujarat	7	6	11	0.9	17
8	Haryana	20	25	38	3.1	7
9	Himachal Pradesh	23	10	12	1.0	14
10	Jammu & Kashmir	7	15	12	1.0	15
11	Jharkhand	1	1	1	0.1	29
12	Karnataka	130	90	91	7.4	3
13	Kerala	18	9	34	2.8	8
14	Madhya Pradesh	3	3	2	0.2	24
15	Maharashtra	102	87	56	4.6	6
16	Manipur	3	4	2	0.2	25
17	Meghalaya	39	32	9	0.7	18
18	Mizoram	44	45	13	1.1	13
19	Nagaland	0	1	1	0.1	30
20	Odisha	4	1	2	0.2	26
21	Punjab	14	15	17	1.4	11
22	Rajasthan	3	4	2	0.2	27
23	Sikkim	0	0	0	0.0	-
24	Tamil Nadu	48	50	64	5.2	5
25	Telangana	10	12	25	2.0	10
26	Tripura	20	6	17	1.4	12
27	Uttar Pradesh	14	9	12	1.0	16
28	Uttarakhand	0	5	1	0.1	31
29	West Bengal	689	597	520	42.4	1
TOTAL STATE(S)		1290	1123	1046	85.3	
UNION TERRITORIES:						
30	A & N Islands	1	0	0	0.0	-
31	Chandigarh	3	9	6	0.5	21
32	D&N Haveli	0	0	0	0.0	-
33	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0.0	-
34	Delhi UT	176	146	143	11.7	2
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0.0	-
36	Puducherry	3	0	31	2.5	9
TOTAL UT(S)		183	155	180	14.7	
TOTAL ALL INDIA		1473	1278	1226	100.0	

Note : i) Accused foreigners belong to Afghanistan, African, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, British, Burma, Cameron, Chilean, China, Congo,

QUALITY OF OFFICIAL DATA

- **Accessibility or Dissemination**

- ✓ Statistics should be presented in a way that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons.
- ✓ To reach the general public and non-expert users. It should have explanatory comments to explain the significance of the results released and make analytical comments when necessary.
- ✓ There is a need to identify clearly what the preliminary, final and revised results are, in order to avoid confusion for users.
- ✓ All results of official statistics have to be publicly accessible.
- ✓ There are no results that should be characterized as official and for the exclusive use of the government.



QUALITY OF OFFICIAL DATA

● Independence

- ✓ Users can be consulted by NSOs/SSOs but the decisions should be made by statistical bodies.
- ✓ Information and activities of producers of official statistics should be independent of political control.
- ✓ NSOs/SSOs have to be free of any political interference that could influence their work and thus, the results.
- ✓ Statistical Authorities should not make any political advice or policy-perspective comments on the results released at any time, even at press conferences or in interviews with the media.



QUALITY OF OFFICIAL DATA


● Transparency

- ✓ Transparency is essential to gain the trust of the public.
- ✓ There is a need to expose to the public the methods use to produce official statistics.
- ✓ Accountable for all the decisions take and the results publish.
- ✓ Statistical producers should warn users of certain interpretations and .
- ✓ If errors in the results occur before or after the data revision, It should be directly corrected and information should be disseminated to the users at the earliest possible time.



QUALITY OF OFFICIAL DATA

● Confidentiality

- ✓ All data collected by the National/State Statistical Office must protect the privacy of individual respondents, whether persons or businesses. But on the contrary, government units such as institutions cannot invoke statistical confidentiality.
- ✓ All respondents have to be informed about the purpose and legal basis of the survey and especially about the confidentiality measures.
- ✓ The statistical office should not release any information that could identify an individual or group without prior consent.
- ✓ Data processing implies that filled-in paper and electronic form with full names should be destroyed. 

QUALITY OF OFFICIAL DATA

● Interpretability

- ✓ Reflects the availability of the supplementary information and metadata necessary to interpret and utilize it appropriately.
- ✓ It normally includes the underlying concepts, variables and classifications used, the methodology of data collection and processing, and indications or measures of the accuracy of the statistical information.



QUALITY OF OFFICIAL DATA

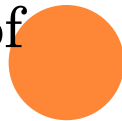
● Coherence

- ✓ Reflects the degree to which it can be successfully brought together with other statistical information within a broad analytic framework and over time.
- ✓ The use of standard concepts, classifications and target populations promotes coherence, as does the use of common methodology across surveys.



QUALITY OF OFFICIAL DATA

● International Standards

- ✓ It aims to improve international comparability for national users and facilitate decision-making, especially when controversial.
 - ✓ The overall structure, including concepts and definitions, should follow internationally accepted standards, guidelines or good practices.
 - ✓ International recommendations and standards for statistical methods approved by many countries provide them with a common basis like the two standards of the International Monetary Fund, SDDS for Special Data Dissemination Standards and GDDS for General Data Dissemination System.
 - ✓ The aim is to guide countries in the dissemination of their economic and financial data to the public.
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SUGGESTION FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY ASSURANCE IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS

- Co-ordination of Statistical Activities/Work among/between different Departments of Government of India, State Government, Nodal Departments/Agencies, etc.
- Statistics should be presented in such a way that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparison.
- Improving Survey frame for timely completion and compilation of data collection.

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- Timely revising/modifying the design of the questionnaire so that the field enumerator and the respondent can easily understand the subject. In simple words, the entire process of data collection needs to be respondent friendly.
- Proper training should be given to the field enumerators/supervisors in order to minimize errors/duplication including field visits and refresher trainings.
- Software for each surveys or for regular report submission should be formulated for timely presentation of data interconnecting respective line departments or Ministries to avoid data duplication.

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- Central Ministries should impress upon the State Governments not to indulge in frequent transfers of staff appointed for national programmes such as estimation of State Income and Quinquennial Census and Surveys such as Agriculture Census, Minor Irrigation Census, Economic Census, etc.



THANK YOU

