



# **Quality Assurance in Official Statistics**

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# Official Statistics

## Background

- Official Statistics is Statistics derived by the Government agencies from
  - Statistical surveys
  - Administrative and registration records
  - Other forms and papers
- Primary aim of Official Statistics is to provide
  - Accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and empirical picture of the society and economy
  - Support formulation and monitoring of economic and social policies

# Issues in respect of official Statistics

- Data quality
- Data gaps
- No consistency
- Duplication leading to conflicting statistics
- Inordinate delays in transmission and publication of data
- Inadequate information on socio-economic indicators required for micro-planning
- No reliable/sustainable system to capture data at district/tehsil level
- Data compiled by the Central and State agencies do not tally eg. Data compiled by KVIC (GoI) and KVIB (GoM), MoA&FW (GoI) and Commissioner of Agriculture (GoM), National Horti. Board (GoI) and Directorate of Horti. (GoM) etc

# Measures to resolve issues w.r.t Official Statistics

- Concerned departments are required to be sensitised to ensure quality and timeliness with respect to user needs
  - Scrutiny
  - Inbuilt validation checks in the MIS system
  - Minimum 5 – 10 per cent inspection of units
  - Regular capacity building of the officials involved
- Timely dissemination of the data and reports
- Conduct surveys at regular intervals
- Data captured should be comparable with earlier data; preferably in the MIS

# Measures to resolve issues w.r.t Official Statistics

(contd.)

- Sharing of data
- Release of calendar of statistical activity
- Integration of data collected by various Govt. agencies
- Establishing statistical system at district level physically or digitally
- Independence of the statistical system has to be ensured
- Creation of Public awareness
- Standardisation of concepts, definitions and methods of compilation of data
- Authorise the nodal agency to carry out statistical audits

# Measures to resolve issues w.r.t Official Statistics

(contd.)

- Uniformity of units of a given item all across
- Co-ordination of Central agencies with their State counterparts
- Single data warehouse for all
- Data Sharing Policy to be framed and it should be compatible across all States

# Initiatives in the State

- State Data Bank (SDB) created during 2014
  - Decision Support System for policy makers
  - Serve as knowledge repository for various information seekers
  - Consolidated information
  - One point access for all information
- Efforts are being made to sensitise the departments to use the data bank for generating data
- At present, District Statistical Abstract, Price Statistics, Indicators related to GSDP are available in SDB

# Initiatives in the State (contd.)

- MIS systems have been developed in various departments of the State and many are in process of developing their MIS
- Preparation of Data Sharing Policy of the State is in process
- DES has its statistical cell in 75 departments and is proposing additional 43 statistical cells in line departments
- Forest, Health, Agriculture & Home departments have their own statistical cell
- Under restructuring of DES, it is proposed to post officers of DES in each Mantralayan departments who will report directly to the Head of the departments viz Add. Chief Sec., Prin. Sec., Secretary) regarding the statistical work of the department



# Suggestions

- More use of information technology to collect survey data
  - introduce web-based survey
  - extensive use of handheld devices
  - generation of real time statistics
- Need to capture the unorganised/informal sector and trade sector more extensively

# Expectation from MoSPI

- Instruction to all departments to prepare manuals containing information of official statistics generated with them using their metadata
- Preparation of such manuals should be done in consultation with their respective DES
- Such manuals be disseminated at MoSPI website
- Yearly conference of the line departments of Central & States to be held
- Data sharing should be two-way i.e Mospi  $\iff$  States



**Thank You...**