

STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA, HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION IN THE LOK SABHA REGARDING THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE **THIRTY SIXTH REPORT** OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE IN PURSUANCE OF DIRECTION 73A OF THE HON'BLE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA.

I am making this statement on the implementation status of the recommendations contained in the Thirty Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance in pursuance of Direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on Finance examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2011-12 and presented / laid their Thirty Sixth Report to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 02.08.2011. There were 16 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action was called for on the part of the Government. The major recommendations mainly related to:

- 1) The Ministry to undertake an effective exercise for identifying the shortcomings in the mechanism of the budgetary planning and ensuring proper utilization of funds.
- 2) The concern of the Committee regarding less than 50% expenditure of the Ministry against allocated budget on Plan Scheme and un-warranted demand of Rs.600 crores.
- 3) The concern of the Committee that its advice regarding undertaking effective exercise for identifying the shortcomings in the mechanism of budgetary planning and ensuring proper utilization of fund has not been converted into concrete effort on the part of the Ministry.
- 4) The concern of the Committee regarding the preliminary work concerning the Sixth Economic Census though had started in 2009-10 but Ministry has to take action without any further delay related to the work of Sixth Economic Census so as to ensure the same is completed during the 11th Five Year Plan itself.
- 5) The concern of the Committee regarding the slow momentum of ISSP which was aimed to build up sound capacities at the State / U.T. level to collect,

compile and disseminate relevant and reliable official statistics for planning and policy making at the State and Sub-State level.

6) The concern of the Committee to expedite the pace and progress of the ISP Project during 11th Plan Period and suggestion that Project Steering Committee of the Ministry to monitor the scheme periodically and to address the deficiencies noticed in the project.

7) Appreciation of the Committee regarding setting up Statistical Cell in the Ministry of Justice by the Ministry. The Committee desired that Government should expedite the process of establishing the Statistical Cell in the Ministry of Justice during 11th Plan period itself.

8) The concern of the Committee regarding the Centrally sponsored schemes of BSLLD to develop the decentralized data bases at village / block level. The Committee observed that Govt. should ensure availability of qualified and competent manpower at the local level for the scheme as the Panchayati Raj Institution are not capable of handling the quality data by ensuring reasonable quality.

9) The concern of the Committee that statutory status be given to national Statistical Commission to function in an independent manner for strengthening the statistical system in the country.

10) The suggestion of the Committee that the recommendations of National Statistical Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan be implemented by the concerned implementing agencies in a time bound manner and monitoring of the same.

11) The concern of the Committee with regard to the process of identifying core statistics and the desire of the Committee that a list to be recast in a sequential and a concept paper may be prepared in view inter-alia the statistics in the form of indicators, economic parameters, etc. The desire of the Committee that preparation of the concept paper and list of core statistics to be expedited as per the recommendations of the Commission.

12) The concern of the Committee regarding the shortage of man power in ISS and SSS cadre which is affecting the quality of the data collected by NSSO and NASA. The quality of data adversely affecting the functioning of the prestigious

schemes of the Ministry. The Committee expected that suitable action will be taken for filling up the vacant vacancies.

13) The concern of the Committee that lack of promotional avenues leading to large attrition and subsequent shortage of manpower and need on the part of the Ministry to take suitable action to check the attrition rate and hence the shortage of manpower.

14) The recommendation made by the Committee in their 14th Report of Demands for Grants (2010-11) regarding reason for inability to achieve the set targets by infrastructure sectors. The Committee desired the reason for inability to achieve should be properly examined and analysed for taking proper remedial measures.

15) The concern of the Committee regarding cost overrun of the project costing more than Rs.150 crores. The Committee is expected that recommendation of the Group of Ministry constituted at the behest of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary be implemented by Govt. in a time bound manner so as to resolve the issues related to time and cost overrun of central sector projects.

16) The concern of the Committee regarding time overrun by the projects of value based which also leads to substantial cost overruns. The Committee has expressed his concerned regarding pathetic situation which needs to be addressed quickly. The Committee also desires that its displeasure in this regard be communicated to the Ministry of Railways for taking corrective measures.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Hon'ble Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement which is laid on the Table of the House.

I would not like to take the valuable time of the house in reading the contents of the Annexure. Hence, I would request that this may be considered as read.

Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2011-2012) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Rec. No.	Recommendation/ Observation of the committee	Reply
1.	<p>The Committee are constrained to note the persistent underutilization of allocated funds in the Plan Expenditure of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation during the last five years. The unspent balance in the Plan Expenditure as compared to the Budget Estimates has been to the tune of Rs. 27.76 crore (33%) in 2006-07, Rs. 26.00 crore (28%) in 2007-08, Rs.66.15 crore (51%) in 2008-09, Rs. 143.60 crore (63%) in 2009-10 and Rs. 145 crore (54%) in 2010-11. This persistent and rising trend of underutilization of funds in the Plan Expenditure shows the inability of Ministry to absorb the allocated funds and depicts poor management of budget planning on the part of the Ministry.</p>	<p>The shortfall in the plan expenditure during the last three years is mainly on account of implementation of India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) and Economic Census. The main reasons for the shortfall in the expenditure are as under:</p> <p>II Processes involved in approvals of competent authorities for ISSP took a considerable amount of time to get completed due to the following reasons:</p> <p>a) Such a complex and large project for strengthening of the National Statistical System primarily through the strengthening of the State Statistical Systems in all their dimensions has been taken up for the first time ever in India.</p> <p>b) Significant difficulties faced in assigning monetary values to expected project costs and the envisaged project benefits, since most the targeted benefits, such as improvement in data quality, reduction in time lags in the compilation and dissemination of various types of socio-economic statistics etc., by their very nature, are not easy to quantify.</p> <p>c) The CCEA approved the project on 19th March, 2010.</p> <p>d) The process of approval by the World Bank for the Project and the accrual of funds (as a loan from the World Bank) for the</p>

	<p>Project got completed in July, 2010.</p> <p>e) Seed Money, for preparation of the required detailed State Strategic Statistical Plans (SSSPs) could be commenced only during Second Quarter of 2010-11.</p> <p>f) States/UTs, were eventually found to consume much more time (than had been earlier anticipated by MOSPI) to complete their SSPs and the required approvals at the State Levels despite several earlier held regional workshops on SSSP.</p> <p>g) A fairly long list of prescribed procedural requirements, at the State/UT level before the requisite approvals can be accorded at the State/UT level.</p> <p>h) Since such a project, under an instrument of a detailed MoU, has been taken up for the first time ever in India, the process of securing required approvals at the ends of both the concerned State Governments and Government of India has also added to the time required for completion of the required formalities which are to precede implementation.</p> <p>III In case of Economic Census (EC), Govt. decided to conduct Caste and BPL Censuses during June-Sept, 2011, the period earlier planned for Economic Census. Further dovetailing of EC with Population Census was not found feasible. In order to reduce pressure on State resources and ensure availability of manpower, it was decided in consultation with Ministry of Rural Development and Registrar General of India (RGI) to conduct EC after the conduct of both the Censuses preferably during Jan-June, 2012. Hence no money, involving printing of schedules, instruction manuals and training</p>
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		<p>programmed, could be spent.</p> <p>IV To ensure proper utilization of fund in respect of various schemes of the Ministry, stringent monitoring mechanism has been put in place. Towards this end, it has been decided to adopt a two-pronged approach to monitor the expenditure in the Ministry. At the initial level, the expenditure would be reviewed by Director Generals of CSO and NSSO/Additional Secretary, as the case may be, on monthly basis; and corrective measures taken so as to ensure pro-rata expenditure vis-à-vis the budget allocations. Thereafter, on quarterly basis, the expenditure would be reviewed at the level of Secretary(S&PI) along with the physical monitoring of activities proposed, as part of the Annual Action Plan of the Ministry.</p>
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Rec. No.	Recommendation/ Observation of the committee	Reply
2.	<p>The Committee feel that keeping in view the fact that during the last three years, the Ministry were able to expend less than 50% of allocated budget on Plan Schemes, the demand of Rs. 600 crore for the year 2011-12 is unwarranted.</p>	<p>The consolidated Annual Plan 2011-12 proposals of the Ministry were prepared after the detailed discussion with the senior officers of the Ministry before they were sent to the Planning Commission so as to project realistic assessment of financial resources. Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs.600 crore (excluding MPLADS) for the Annual Plan (2011-12) of the Ministry after the proposals were examined by Planning Commission in a Plan Meeting. The rise in Plan allocations of the Ministry for the year 2011-12 is mainly on account of allocation of Rs. 200 crores for the scheme “India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP)” , which is basically meant to improve the capacity of States Statistical System, and; allocation of Rs. 220 crores for the scheme “Economic Census”, to be launched during the year, which has the main objective of preparing a frame of enterprises in India, and to generate basic entrepreneurial data.</p> <p>II In case of ISSP, plans for 2011-12 are as follows:-</p> <p>In case of three States viz. Karnataka, Rajasthan and Gujarat, wherein MOUs have been already signed with GOI, all possible efforts are being made to ensure proper timely and effective implementation and release of funds.</p>

		<p>(i) In at least 10 States/UTs, it is proposed to commence the implementation of the project based on State Specific MOUs and release first installment of funds. Thus it would be possible to fully utilize the Plan budget for the year.</p> <p>III As regards Economic Census, it is proposed to take up the finalization work regarding conduct of census like finalization of census schedules, finalization of manual of instructions, finalization of tabulation plan, conduct of All-India conference of State Planning Secretaries and All-India training of trainers and state level training during July-Feb. 2011-12, and start the field work in 6-7 states from March, 2012. EFC under the chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure) has approved the proposal in its meeting held on 21.6.2011. The proposal is under submission for consideration of CCEA. Efforts are being made to obtain financial approval of scheme by Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and thereafter by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). It is expected that full allocation of funds would be utilized during the year.</p>
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3.	<p>The Committee had in their earlier reports on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation emphasized the need for undertaking an effective exercise for identifying the shortcomings in the mechanism of budgetary planning and ensuring proper utilization of funds. The Committee are dismayed to note that this advice has fallen on deaf ears and no concrete efforts have been made by the Ministry in this regard. The Committee, time and again, recommended that the Government should devise an effective mechanism for identifying and overcoming the deficiencies in the existing system of budgetary planning for assessment of funds required and in ensuring proper utilization of allocated funds. The Committee would like to be apprised of the concrete steps taken in this direction.</p>	<p>To ensure proper utilization of fund in respect of various schemes of the Ministry, stringent monitoring mechanism has been put in place. Towards this end, it has been decided to adopt a two-pronged approach to monitor the expenditure in the Ministry. At the initial level, the expenditure would be reviewed by Director Generals of CSO and NSSO/Additional Secretary, as the case may be, on monthly basis; and corrective measures taken so as to ensure pro-rata expenditure vis-à-vis the budget allocations. Thereafter, on quarterly basis, the expenditure would be reviewed at the level of Secretary(S&PI) along with the physical monitoring of activities proposed, as part of the Annual Action Plan of the Ministry.</p> <p>2 In respect of schemes which are operated by more than one Divisions of the Ministry, during 2011-12, Division-wise allocations have been made by DG, CSO /DG, NSSO before the beginning of the year. Each Division has been instructed to maintain an expenditure register, activity –wise and Head-wise, which should be put up to DGs on regular basis for perusal and for suggesting remedial measures. It is hoped that these measures would yield results.</p>

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4.	<p>The Committee note that some preliminary work concerning the Sixth Economic Census has been taken up during the Annual Plans 2009-10 and 2010-11. The main work for conducting the census would start in January-June 2012 at a total cost of Rs. 750 crores. The Planning Commission has tentatively allocated Rs. 220 crore for the year 2011-12. Since the results of the Economic Census generate huge amount of information, which has immense value for the purpose of planning, development and research especially for the unorganized sector of the economy, the Committee desire that without any further delay the work concerning the Sixth Economic Census should be expedited and completed during the 11th Five Year Plan itself.</p>	<p>During 2010-11 it was decided to conduct Sixth Economic Census in the Second Quarter of 2011-12 namely June-Sept. 2011 so that the field work is completed during 11th Five Year Plan period. Therefore all preparations like printing of schedules, instruction manual, procurement of kits and training in few states were proposed. Meanwhile, Government decided to conduct Cast census as well as BPL Census during May-Sept. 2011. Since involvement of same states and district administration for the conduct of three censuses during the same period would put pressure on them, it was decided in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development and Registrar General of India held on 27-01-2011 to defer the field work of Sixth Economic Census to avoid overlap. In the meanwhile the Govt. decided to dovetail the two Censuses and renamed it as Socio Economic & Cast Census (SECC), and to undertake the field work during June-December 2011. Keeping this in view and also recommendation of the EFC for Sixth Economic Census, the Government decided to carry out the field work of Sixth Economic Census during January to June 2012, after completion of the SECC only.</p> <p>However, in view of non-completion of SECC by June 2012, it was decided in the meeting with the Ministry of Rural Development and Registrar General of India</p>

		<p>held on 08-02-2012 to conduct the field work of Sixth Economic Census (EC) during October 2012- June 2013. It would be conduct in two phases. In the first phase Economic Census would be conduct in 21 States/ UTs during October 2012- March 2013, as these States are like to finish SECC by August 2012. In the second phase EC would be conduct in the remaining 14 States/UTs during April-June 2013, subject to availability of around Rs. 500 crore during 2013-14.</p>
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5.	<p>The Committee note that India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) is aimed to build up sound capacities at the State/UT level to collect, compile and disseminate relevant and reliable official statistics for planning and policy making at the State and Sub-State level. The Committee also note that the ISSP could not gain momentum as desired for being a project of complex and large nature, delay in the approval by the World Bank, (since the project is 80% funded by the World Bank), delay in the release of seed money for preparation of the required detailed State Strategic Statistical Plans (SSSPs).</p>	<p>Apart from various measures/initiatives mentioned in the earlier reply given in the Recommendation No. 5 of the 36th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demand for Grants (2011-2012) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOS&PI), a High Level Steering Committee (HLSC) on ISSP Chaired by Secretary (Statistics & Programme Implementation) has been assessing the progress of the Project viz. ISSP of all the Project participating States/UTs from time to time.</p> <p>As a result of these measures/initiatives undertaken by MOSPI, especially over the past few months, the required activities to be undertaken in this regard by the participating States have since started acquiring considerable momentum. As of now (viz. as on 24-08-2012), all the States/UTs, except Chandigarh & Goa, are participating in this Project and conveyed their decision to participate in this project through their Letters of Participation (LoPs). Consequently, Seed Money has been released to all the 33 States/UTs for the preparation of their comprehensive State Strategic Statistical Plans (SSSPs). The required individual State/UT specific Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on the ISSP, based on the duly approved SSSPs, have since been signed between the Government of India and the concerned State Governments on a case-specific basis in regard to Thirteen States viz. Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu,</p>

		<p>Kerala, Sikkim, Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand. All these States/UT, except Jharkhand, have also received their first installment of funds to commence effective implementation of the project in accordance with the relevant MoU. The State Karnataka has received their Second installment of funds as well after the utilization of the first installment of funds which had been released earlier by the Government of India. It is expected that shortly, MOS&PI would be in a position of release the corresponding first installment of funds to Government of Jharkhand. Apart from these, The SSSPs of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have been prepared, finalized and approved by the respective State Governments. The SSSP of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have also since been finalized by the concerned States and SSSP related works have since progressed to significant levels of completion in three other States/UTs, namely, Maharashtra, Delhi, and Haryana. The remaining States/UTs (viz. Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chattisgarh, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Puducherry, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh) have also since initiated work on the preparation of respective SSSPs, but are yet to finalize the same. Encouraged by the momentum acquired by the project and the levels of success achieved so far over the last two years, in particular, MOSPI would be taking all the required and possible measures to ensure that the momentum, which has since been gathered under the project, is not only sustained but also stepped up and accelerated further in the months to come</p>
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Rec. No.	Recommendation/ Observation of the committee	Reply
6.	<p>The Committee feel that since the ISSP is the first project ever of its kind being implemented in India for the primary purpose of strengthening of the National Statistical System, it requires strengthening and improvement in all aspects. To expedite the pace and progress of the project during the 11th Plan period the Project Steering Committee of the Ministry should monitor the scheme periodically. Deficiencies noticed in the project should be addressed so as to build up a sound Statistical System and data support mechanism in the country. The Committee recommend that ISSP should be focused on building a strong statistical system with adequate and trained manpower at the Center, State and Sub-State level for maintaining and disseminating credible and reliable statistics. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.</p>	<p>The ISSP uses the following institutional mechanisms among other things, to build a strong statistical system with adequate and trained manpower at the Centre, State and Sub-State levels for maintaining and disseminating credible and reliable statistics:</p> <p>A High Level Steering Committee (HLSC) on ISSP is constituted under the Chairmanship Secretary (Statistics & Programme Implementation) has been meeting periodically inter-alia, to monitor the scheme viz. ISSP and issue necessary directives/directions for expediting the pace of progress of the project. The aforesaid Steering Committee has so far held ten Meetings during which, among other things, the MoUs on ISSP for the thirteen States viz. Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Sikkim, Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand have been discussed in detail and approved by the said Steering Committee to facilitate the next stage of signing of the MoUs on ISSP between the Government of India and the concerned State/UT.</p> <p>As per the directions and guidance of the Steering Committee, some Workshops also have been conducted inter-alia, to review and monitor the progress of the Project. Recently viz. during July 20 & 21, 2012, a</p>

		<p>National level Workshop was conducted to take stock of the progress so far on the implementation of the India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) in the participating States/UTs, as at the commencement of the 12th Five Year Plan period and to share varied experiences gained so far in this regard by the different States/UTs.</p> <p>Apart from these, a Joint Review Mission (JRM) on ISSP on State/UT-specific basis has also been recently decided to be constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Statistics & Programme Implementation) to examine the pace, progress and manner of implementation of SSSP vis-à-vis respective MoU and issue suitable guidelines/instructions, if any found required, to effect further improvements in the implementation of the ISSP.</p>
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Rec. No.	Recommendation/ Observation of the committee	Reply
7.	<p>Considering the importance of statistics in respect of delivery of justice system, the Committee are happy to note that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is in the process of setting up a Statistical Cell in the Ministry of Justice and the National Statistics Commission has also set up a Committee to look into various matters related to the judicial system. The Committee desire that the Government should expedite the process of establishing the Statistical Cell in the Ministry of Justice during the 11th Plan period itself. The Committee expect to be apprised of the Ministry's plan of action and progress in the direction.</p>	<p>As stated earlier, the issue of establishing of permanent full-fledged Statistical Cell in the Ministry of Justice with suitable component of ISS officers like 1 HAG, 2 SAG, 2 JAG , 2 STS and 2 JTS (as in the major ministries) will be taken up by ISS Division along with the proposed comprehensive cadre review which is presently under process. To expedite the process of Cadre Review, a sub-committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri M.V.S. Ranganadham, DDG, National Statistical Commission. The committee has submitted their report by the end of October 2012. ISS Division will take further follow-up actions viz., consultations with the concerned ministries, seeking approval of Indian Statistical Service Board under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary and moving a note for the approval of the Cabinet etc on top priority. However, the entire process may take some more time. As far as creating the Statistical Cell in the D/o Justice immediately by loaning 1 SAG, 1 JAG, 4 SSS officers, it is informed that, D/o Justice has subsequently intimated that, the project has been converted into Mission Mode headed by SAG level officer and they require ISS officer at JAG level only. D/o Justice further intimated that, officer may be posted only after they make available office space / office</p>

		<p>accommodation etc to the Statistical cell by the D/o Justice. This Ministry has not received confirmation of office space by D/o Justice so far. Suitable officers will be posted immediately on receipt of communication from D/o Justice. The D/o Justice is being reminded separately.</p>
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8.	<p>The Committee note that Basic Statistics for Local Level Development (BSLLD) is a centrally sponsored scheme with the objective to develop the decentralized data bases at village / Block level for Local Level Planning in all States. The scheme envisages generating village level statistics at the Gram Panchayat level by compilation of information through Panchayat Secretary in coordination with the village level functionaries. The Committee further note that Panchayati Raj Institutions are fully involved in implementation of the Scheme. However, at present the PRIs are not capable of handling data and ensuring reasonable quality. Since the success of BSLLD would depend upon the extent to which the Panchayati Raj institutions are able to organize the continuing data collection, which, they are not capable of handling by ensuring reasonable quality, the Committee desire that the Government should ensure availability of qualified and competent manpower at the local level for the Scheme. Capacity building for the PRI personnel and other local level institutions for compilation work should be made a major part of the Scheme. The</p>	<p>At present, Basic Statistics for Local Level Development (BSLLD) scheme is being implemented as a large Centrally Sponsored pilot scheme covering around 500 Panchayats in one or two districts each of the 33 States/UTs through the Directorate of Economics and Statistics(DES) of the State/UTs which are implementing the scheme. The BSLLD pilot scheme (Rural) has been implemented in two phases; in phase-I, data for 2008-09 has been compiled while in phase II, data for 2009-10 will be compiled.</p> <p>The observations made by the Standing Committee revolves around mainly two issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Panchayat Secretaries, who compile village level statistics with the help of village level functionaries, are not qualified enough to compile quality data and therefore capacity building at the level of PRI is essential. 2. Under-Utilization of the allocated budget is also a concern of the Committee. <p>As regards the first issue, it is informed that, sufficient budget provision was kept for training at different level including PRI officials during implementation of the pilot scheme. At the time of formulation of the full fledged scheme, sufficient fund provision will be kept for capacity building at different levels of PRIs/functionaries. On the basis of the findings of the pilot scheme, the</p>

<p>Committee are not happy with the existing trend of utilisation of budgetary allocations. Budget estimates are revised southwards continuously but these are not being spent fully. The Committee also desire that realistic assessment of budgetary requirements for the Scheme should be projected so as to avoid underutilization of funds. The Committee expect to be apprised of the specific action taken in this regard.</p>	<p>States/UTs are categorized according to the level of statistical capability for compiling and processing of data. For the States/UTs which are relatively less capable in collection/compilation of quality data, special efforts will be made for their capacity building. If Panchayat Secretaries are not in a position to compile data, then DESs had engaged either unemployed youth(eg. Sikkim) and other village level functionaries(e,g. Kerala). Further, for scrutiny of data compiled by the compiler (Panchayat Secretary/ Local Youth/ Other village Level Functionaries), the staff of DES are engaged for field level and table level scrutiny separately.</p> <p>3. As regards the second issue, i.e., the under utilization of budget allocation in last three years, proposals for Phase-II could not be materialized during 2010-11 due to delayed completion of Phase-I of the pilot scheme. In fact, many of the States/UTs could complete phase I only towards the last two quarters of 2010-11. As a result, the States/UTs have started sending proposal for phase-II only during 2011-12. The position has improved during the FY 2011-12, as against BE of Rs.12 Crore, more than Rs.10 Crore has been utilised.</p>
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Rec. No.	Recommendation/ Observation of the committee	Reply
9.	<p>The Committee note that with regard to conferring statutory status to the National Statistical Commission, the Commission appointed a Committee on 8th November, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon to look into legislative measures on statistical matters, including a Bill to provide statutory status to the Commission. However, no timeframe has been fixed for introducing the Bill in Parliament. The Committee reiterates that conferring statutory status would enable the National Statistical Commission to function in an independent manner for strengthening the statistical system in the country. The Committee hope that the Committee, under the Chairmanship of Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon would submit their report on conferring statutory status to the NSC within the period of six months and the related Bill, which would enable the National Statistical Commission to function independently is brought before Parliament accordingly.</p>	<p>The Committee appointed by the National Statistical Commission under the chairmanship of Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon to look into legislative measures on statistical matters has submitted its report to the Commission on 27th October 2011. The Commission in its 45th meeting held on 29th & 30th October 2011 appreciated and adopted the report of the Menon Committee. The report of the Menon Committee along with the recommendations of the Commission thereof was received in this Ministry on 9th November 2011 with a request to take urgent steps to implement the recommendations. The recommendations have been processed in this Ministry and a draft National Statistical Commission Bill has <i>inter alia</i> been circulated on 22nd December 2011 to Central Ministries/ Departments and to States/ UTs for their comments. Based on the comments received, a draft cabinet note has been circulated on 9th August 2012 to all the concerned Ministries/ State Government replies received are being compiled for preparing the comments of the Ministry</p>

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10.	<p>The Committee note that the National Statistical Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan has made 623 recommendations covering 11 sectors of the economy. 261 recommendations have been implemented and the remaining 362 recommendations are being processed by the various implementing agencies. The Committee desire that the remaining 362 recommendations should be implemented by the concerned implementing agencies in a time bound manner and the Committee, which has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sudipto Mundle, member, NSC should monitor the progress of implementation of remaining 362 recommendations on priority basis for their implementation.</p>	<p>Continuous efforts are being made to get all recommendation of Dr. C. Rangarajan Commission implemented. All concerned implementing Agencies (Central & State) are being continuously pursued. The Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sudipto Mundle, Member, NSC is also regularly monitoring the progress of implementation. As per the latest status, some information about implementation is available with respect to 520 recommendations.</p>

Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2011-2012) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Rec. No.	Recommendation/ Observation of the committee	Reply
11.	<p>The Committee note that with regard to the process of identifying core statistics, a statement indicating the views of different Central Ministries /Departments and a suggestive list of core statistics were placed before the National Statistics Commission in its 39th meeting held in December, 2010. The Commission desired that the list is to be recast in a sequential way and a concept paper may be prepared, keeping in view inter-alia the Core statistics in the form of indicators, economic parameters etc., and the statistical processes through which and the periodicity by which the core statistics are presently produced and the agencies that are presently involved in the production. The Committee further note that after notification of core statistics by the Government, the Commission would lay down standards in respect of methodology. The Committee desire that Government should expedite the preparation of the concept paper and list of core statistics as per the suggestions of the Commission so that the list of Core Statistics is notified and the Commission could formulate the standards in respect of methodology for collection of such statistics without any further delay.</p>	<p>The National Statistical Commission recommended a list of 120 statistical products as core statistics. The Commission, on the basis of the Report of Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon Committee, also recommended for mandatory regulation (including laying down statistical standards in respect of concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies etc.) of core statistics. The list of core statistics has been included in the draft National Statistical Commission Bill as the First Schedule to the Bill and the draft Bill has been circulated to Central Ministries/ Departments and to States/ UTs for their comments. Based on the comments received, a draft cabinet note has been circulated on 9th August 2012, to all the concerned Ministries/State Government. Replies received are being compiled for preparing the comments of the Ministry.</p>

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Rec. No.	Recommendation/ Observation of the committee	Reply
12.	<p>The Committee notes that there are about 117 vacancies in Indian Statistical Service (ISS) and 1138 vacancies in the Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS). Shortage of manpower has been affecting the quality of data collected by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and National Academy of Statistical Administration (NASA) besides adversely affecting the functioning of prestigious schemes of the Ministry. The Committee are given to understand that the vacancies in Indian Statistical Service (ISS) are mainly dependent on promotion which is within the purview of the Ministry. The Committee note that Ministry has drawn a programme to fill the vacancies. Hence, the Committee expect that suitable action will be taken expeditiously for filling up the vacant promotional posts so as to address the problem of shortage of manpower. As regards manpower shortage in Subordinate Statistical Services (SSS), Staff Selection Commission has initiated steps for recruitment of Investigator Grade-II. Recruitment Rules have been sent to Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) for their approval. The Committee expect the Ministry to pursue the matter with DOPT for early</p>	<p><u>Reply (In respect of SSS)</u></p> <p>As regards shortage of Manpower, in Subordinate Statistical Service is concerned, it is stated that all the vacant posts in Statistical Investigator Gr.I as on 31.3.2012 have been filled-up by making Adhoc promotions from Statistical Investigator Gr.II. However, this has caused further vacancies in S.I Gr.II. As on 1-7-2012 about 1238 posts in S.I Gr.II were lying vacant. SSS division is taking all possible measures to fill up existing vacancies by recruiting statistical investigators Gr.II through SSC. Out of 643 candidates recommended by Staff Selection Commission against 2011 examination, about 600 dossiers have been received and offers of appointments are expected to be issued shortly on completion of pre-appointment formalities. 700 vacancies in S.I. Gr.II have been reported to SSC against CGLE 2012. It is expected that by the end of 2013 shortage of Manpower in SSS may be removed. The Draft RRs have been got approved from D.O.P&T and the same are under consideration in UPSC. It is expected that by the end of 2012 the RRs will be finalized where educational qualification has been provided as general graduate and thus SSC will be able to recommended required number of candidates for appointment to the post of S.I. Gr.II.</p>

	<p>approval of the revised Recruitment Rules.</p>	<p><u>Reply (In respect of ISS)</u></p> <p>Out of the 117 vacancies reported earlier, majority of them are at the JTS and STS level. With the approval of DOPT for relaxation in qualifying service, all the 65 vacancies at STS level were filled in July 2011. On promotion of 65 JTS officers to STS, the resultant vacancies were also filled from the feeder grade officers by granting ad-hoc promotion in August 2011 itself. Based on the recommendations of UPSC, 39 candidates at JTS level joined the service in December 2011 as a result of ISS Exam 2010. UPSC has recommended another 33 candidates based on ISS Exam 2011 and are expected to join the service by December 2012. Therefore, the problem of large vacancies in Indian Statistical Service (ISS) has been solved and this issue may be closed.</p>
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Rec. No.	Recommendation/ Observation of the committee	Reply
13.	<p>The Committee have noted that large attrition rate due to lack of promotional avenues and lower grade are major reasons for shortage of manpower. The Committee want that the matter relating to the revision of grade pay for certain posts should be pursued with the Ministry of Finance for an early decision so as to check the attrition rate thereby overcoming the shortage of manpower.</p>	<p>As noted by the Committee the high rate of attrition in SSS, is mainly due to lower grade pay in comparison to other Group B Central Services. The issue was taken up with Ministry of Finance at ministerial level but unfortunately the proposal of this Ministry for enhancement of Grade pay was turned down. The, Finance Ministry was again approached for revising the Grade Pay as a part of Cadre Review of SSS. This too has not been agreed to Department of Expenditure is again being approached to reconcile the request.</p>

Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2011-2012) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Rec. No.	Recommendation/ Observation of the committee	Reply
14.	<p>The Committee note that the overall infrastructure sectors performance during 2010-11 (April – November) has shown moderate growth. However, as compared to the targets set for this period, except refinery production and highway up gradation, most of the sectors have lagged behind their targets. The Committee in their targets. The Committee in their 14th Report on Demands for Grants (2010-11) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation inter-alia recommended that the reasons for inability to achieve the set targets should be properly examined and analyzed to impress upon the concerned Ministries/ Departments/ PSUs for taking appropriate remedial measures for meeting the targets and improving the growth rate. The Committee expects the Ministry to pursue the matter with the concerned Ministries/ Departments/PSUs in the right earnest.</p>	<p>The shortfalls in the achievements of performance are being brought to the notice of the concerned Ministries regularly through D.O. letters for corrective action and also discussed during MoU meetings, QPR meetings etc. The concerns of the Standing Committee on Finance in this regard have also been conveyed to the administrative Ministries</p>

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15.	<p>The Committee are dismayed to note that 563 projects costing Rs. 150 crore and more which are on the monitor of the Ministry have experienced cost overrun of 20.3% and time overrun of 51%. 83 ongoing projects have both time and cost overrun, 54 projects have only cost overrun and 193 projects have only time overrun. The reasons attributed by the Ministry for time and cost overruns include, land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement, forest/ environment/ wildlife clearances, delay in shifting utilities, removal of encroachments, law and order problems, lack of proper co-ordination at State level, lack of resources/ fund constraints, change in scope, technology selection, geological surprises etc. The Committee are of the firm opinion that persistent problems of time and cost overrun in the infrastructure projects, could be avoided if pro-project activities including clearance are completed before sanction of projects or before award of contract. Evidently, the Ministry has been lagging behind on this issue. The Committee expect that the recommendations of the in-house Group of the Ministry constituted at the behest of the Committee, under the Chairmanship of an Additional Secretary would be</p>	<p>The observations of the Committee have been communicated to all the concerned Ministries. The concerned infrastructure Ministries have been requested to take follow up corrective action and report. It may be noted that this Ministry has always been emphasizing on the completion of pre-project activities and clearance while giving comments for appraisal of the projects for PIB/EFC etc.</p> <p>On the advice of this Ministry, State Governments are now setting up a “Central Sector Projects Coordination Committee (CSPCC)” under the Chairmanship of respective Chief Secretaries which is expected to remove various impediments like delays in land acquisition, rehabilitation & re-settlement, forest/environment/wildlife clearances, delays in shifting of utilities, removal of encroachments, law and order problems etc. so that time and cost overrun in Central Projects is minimized. This is expected to speed up execution of Central Projects within the approved cost.</p> <p>The Central Sector Projects Coordination Committee (CSPCC) have already been constituted in 14 States and meetings have so far been held in five States (in some of the States multiple meetings have been held).</p>

	<p>implemented by the Government in a time bound manner so as to resolve the issues related to time and cost overruns of Central Sector Projects. The Committee desire to be apprised of the outcome in this regard on quarterly basis.</p>	
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Rec. No.	Recommendation/ Observation of the committee	Reply
16.	<p>The Committee are constrained to note that a large number of projects have been initiated by Railways without adequate funds and without definite date of completion. The projects of Railways have time overruns ranging from 03 to 225 months with substantial cost overruns. The Committee feel that this is a very pathetic situation and needs to be addressed quickly with regard to conceptualizing the projects especially. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation convey the Committee's displeasure in this regard to the Ministry of Railways and take corrective measures for addressing issues which contribute to delays and cost escalation. The Committee wants the dates should be fixed without further delay for commissioning the projects of Railways and ensure that the projects take off within time. The Committee desire to be apprised of the outcome in this regard.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Railways had been conveyed the observations of the Committee.</p> <p>Secretary, MOSPI during Expanded Board of Railways (EBR) meeting on 30th December, 2012 conveyed the observations of the Committee and emphasized for the reply of Railways. A letter from the level of Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), MOSPI was also addressed to Hon'ble Minister for Railways in this regard.</p> <p>The Ministry of Railways has replied on 24th August, 2012 wherein it has been mentioned that Railway Projects viz. New Lines, Gauge Conversion and Doubling are having a very long gestation period due to a number of reasons like less availability of funds, large shelf of ongoing projects, land acquisition problems, tardy forest clearances, law and order problems, etc. They have also mentioned that there is no assured funding for their projects, therefore, it is not possible for Railway Ministry to fix targets in advance. Thus, targets are fixed every year depending on the progress of various projects and availability of resources. Projects which are at an advanced stage of completion are only included in the targets for the year.</p>