1. On the Statistics side, we released monthly Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the estimates of GDP for Q1 of 2016-17. The salient features of these are:

- As per the Quick Estimates (QE) of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base year 2004-05 the general index for the month of June 2016 stood at 183.0, which is 2.1% higher as compared to the level in the corresponding month of previous year.

- The General Consumer Price Indices (CPI) for the month of July 2016 for rural, urban and combined showed an annual inflation rate of 6.66%, 5.39% and 6.07% respectively. The corresponding inflation rates (final) for rural, urban and combined for June 2016 were 6.29%, 5.26% and 5.77% respectively.

- The Consumer Food Price Indices (CFPI) for July 2016 for rural, urban and combined showed an annual inflation rate of 8.25%, 8.80% and 8.35% respectively. The corresponding inflation rates (final) for rural, urban and combined for June 2016 were 7.69%, 8.16% and 7.79% respectively.


- As per the Press Note, GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q1 of 2016-17 is estimated at ₹ 29.17 lakh crore as against ₹ 27.24 lakh crore in Q1 of 2015-16, showing a growth rate of 7.1 percent.

- GDP at current prices in Q1 of 2016-17 is estimated at ₹ 35.05 lakh crore, as against ₹ 31.75 lakh crore in Q1 of 2015-16, showing a growth rate of 10.4 percent.

2. Our monitoring of the infrastructure sector highlighted the following:

- As per the latest Flash Report for the ongoing Central Sector Projects costing ₹ 150 crore and above of June 2016, there are 1132 such ongoing projects, out of which 268 have cost overruns, with average cost overrun being 103.03% of original cost, which is a matter of concern. Also, 350 projects (30.92% of total ongoing projects) are delayed and the average delay/time overrun of the delayed projects is about 43.07 months. During June 2016, only 1 project has reported completion. 72 projects have reported additional delays vis-à-vis the date of completion reported in the previous month.
3. Under MPLADS, ₹ **237.50** crore have been released during the Month of **August 2016** and the total fund released during the financial year 2016-17 **up to 31st August 2016** is ₹ **1335.50** crore.

4. Status report on Minimum Government, Maximum Governance:
   - A new integrated MPLADS website, developed on state-of-the-art Microsoft technology platform with built in security features is under implementation. This new website will provide single point of reference for all stake holders including Members of Parliament and District Authorities. Since 1st April 2015 all MPLADS funds releases are being made only through this website. The Ministry is regularly organizing training programme for the district officials on the new website.

5. International Cooperation:-
   - The 8th Meeting of Heads of SAARC Statistical Organizations (SAARCSTAT) was held during 29-31 August 2016 in New Delhi. The meeting was inaugurated by Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Hon’ble Minister for Statistics and Programme Implementation. The meeting was hosted by India and attended by delegates from all SAARC member states except Afghanistan. Besides member States, representatives from SAARC Secretariat Kathmandu and International Organizations viz., FAO, PARIS 21 (Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century) and ADB also attended the meeting. The theme of this year’s meeting was “Trade Statistics-Merchandise & Services”. The objective of the SAARCSTAT is to support regional cooperation and Initiatives in the field of official statistics among SAARC member States.

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