

CHAPTER VI

INDIAN STATISTICAL SERVICE

- 6.1. The Indian Statistical Service (ISS) was constituted on 1.11.1961 by encadring statistical function posts in various Ministries, which were offered for inclusion into the Service. The initial constitution of the Service was made on 15th February 1964 and the posts were encadred into four grades, namely, Grade IV, Grade III, Grade II and Grade I of the ISS. The strength of the Service at initial constitution stood at 185.
- 6.2. The Department of Personnel and Training had been functioning as the Cadre Controlling Authority of ISS up to October 1984. Thereafter, this responsibility was entrusted to the erstwhile Department of Statistics presently the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. As Cadre Controlling Authority, the Ministry is concerned with the centralized aspects of managing ISS and all matters pertaining to recruitment, promotion, training, career planning and manpower planning for the Service. Day-to-day administrative matters of ISS officers are taken care of by the concerned Ministries/ Departments in which the officers are posted at a given time.
- 6.3. In the initial constitution of the service, there were only four grades, the highest grade being Grade I in the pay scale of Rs.1800-2000 (Third Central Pay Commission Scale). Thereafter, the posts in Super Time Scale Level I (Rs.2500-2750 Third Central Pay Commission Scale), Super Time Scale Level II (Rs.2250-2500) and Selection Grade (Rs.2000-2250) were encadred into the Service. Pursuant to the decision taken on the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission, Super Time Scale levels I and II were merged into the Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) (Rs.5900-6700, Fourth Central Pay Commission Scale) and Grades I & II were merged into the Junior Administrative Grade (JAG) (Rs.3700-5000). Simultaneously, Grades III and IV of the Service were redesignated as Senior Time Scale (STS) and Junior Time Scale (JTS) respectively and thirteen (13) Functional Selection Grade posts were abolished by upgrading eight of them to the Senior Administrative Grade and downgrading remaining five to the Junior Administrative Grade. Moreover, as a part of this exercise, in May 1990, the post of Chief Executive Officer, NSSO, which was in Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) was upgraded to the Higher Administrative Grade (HAG) (Rs.7300-7600).
- 6.4. Consequent to the implementation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission's (CPC) recommendations, the post of Director General, CSO in the Ministry was encadred into the service with the upgraded status of Ex-officio Special Secretary with the pay scale of Rs.26000 fixed; the existing post of Chief Executive Officer, NSSO was upgraded to a new higher pay scale of Rs.22400-26000 and redesignated as DG & CEO, NSSO; two SAG level posts and two JAG level posts in the Ministry, one each in Field Operations Division of the NSSO and National Accounts Division of the CSO, were upgraded to HAG level and SAG level respectively. Necessary orders regarding revised designations, nomenclatures of the six HAG level posts obtaining in the Ministry have been issued. The strength of ISS cadre in different Grades, at the time of initial constitution and at present are given in Table 6.1:

Table 6.1: Distribution of posts in different Grades in ISS

Grade	Number of posts	
	As on November 1961	As on September 2002
OHAG	-	6
SAG	-	19@
Grade I / JAG\$	8	-
Grade II / JAG\$	7	136#
Grade III / STS	54	213
Grade IV / JTS	116	243*
Total	185	617

* *Exclusive of 73 leave, deputation and training reserve.*

@ *Includes 2 disputed posts in SAG of ISS, one in the Ministry of Rural Development and the other in the Ministry of Tourism.*

Includes 112 posts (30% of Senior duty posts) operated in NFSG scale of Rs.14300-400-18300/-

\$ *Both the grades, namely, Grade II and Grade I are merged to Junior Administrative Grade (JAG).*

6.5. The ISS Rules initially provided for appointment in Grade IV of the Service to the extent of 75 per cent by direct recruitment and 25 per cent by promotion from recognized feeder posts. The Rules were amended subsequently to provide for 60 per cent of the vacancies in Grade IV to be filled up by direct recruitment and 40 per cent by promotion from the recognised feeder posts. There were also provisions earlier for providing lateral entries (i.e. direct recruitment) in Grade III, and in erstwhile Grades II and Grade I. However, presently there is no direct recruitment at any level except in Grade IV (JTS) of the Service. All the vacancies in other grades are required to be filled up only by promotion.

6.6. The first examination for direct recruitment to Grade IV of the Service was held in 1967 and the first batch of direct recruits to Grade IV of the Service was appointed in 1968. No direct recruitment was made in the years 1968, 1974, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990. Examinations for direct recruitment were subsequently held in the years 1991 and 1992. Thereafter, there was again a gap of two years, i.e. 1993 and 1994. Once again examinations were conducted in 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001. Till date, 26 batches of Direct Recruits have joined the service. On the basis of ISS Examination 2001, seven probationary officers were appointed in the service.

6.7. An integrated eligibility list of holders of feeder posts for effecting promotions from feeder category to Grade IV (JTS) of the ISS in terms of Rule 8(1) a(ii) of ISS Rules, 1961 was issued in March 1997. Based on this eligibility list, 201 feeder post holders were appointed to Grade IV (JTS) of the Service on *ad hoc* basis. Regular promotions of 56 feeder post holders has been made to Grade IV (JTS) of ISS against the 40% promotee quota on the basis of recommendations of the DPC.

6.8. During the period, 12 JAG officers of the ISS were appointed to the NFSG scale in the Service. Work on building up of database to facilitate better cadre management is under progress. The Task Force, which was constituted to suggest suitable amendments in ISS Rules, has submitted its report to the Government in July 2001. Further appropriate follow up action is being taken.

6.9. The Task Force which was set up to look into the structure of the ISS with a view to reorient the service to the needs of the emerging socio-economic order of the new millennium and to suggest steps

for restructuring the service has submitted its report in December 2001. Further appropriate action on the second cadre review is being taken.

- 6.10. The NSC, set up under the chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, to identify the deficiencies in the statistical system of the country and to recommend suitable measures for its revamp, has also examined the career prospects of statistical service officers. Considering the acute stagnation in the service, the Commission considered it imperative to boost the morale of ISS officers in order to avoid an adverse effect on the statistical system. To overcome the problem of acute stagnation, the Commission, in its report, has, inter-alia, recommended that "as a one-time ameliorative measure, ISS officers should be given the benefit by awarding the Senior Time Scale, Junior Administrative Grade and Non-Functional Selection Grade in the 5th, 9th and 14th year of their service".
- 6.11. A meeting of the Indian Statistical Service Board was held in October 2002 under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary to discuss certain important issues concerning the ISS. The guidance given by the Board has led to a breakthrough on a number of long pending issues, such as notification of amendments to ISS service rules and amelioration of the stagnation prevailing in the lower echelons of the Service.
- 6.12. In the context of the need to meet the functional requirements of the statistical system prevailing in various Ministries/ Departments, the junior and middle level posts of the Indian Statistical Service have been re-structured in selected Ministries. In this process, 27 posts of the JTS upgraded to the STS, 102 posts of the STS to the JAG and 14 posts in the JTS were abolished in December 2002.
- 6.13. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, a Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) has been constituted in 2002, comprising 3839 Group B and C statistical function posts located in different Ministries/ Departments/ Organisations. The SSS comprises the following grades.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Pay Scale</u>
Statistical Investigator Gr.IV	Rs.5000-8000
Statistical Investigator Gr.III	Rs.5500-9000
Statistical Investigator Gr.II	Rs.6500-10500
Statistical Investigator Gr.I	Rs.7450-11500

- 6.14. While the first and third grades of the Service, namely, Statistical Investigator Grade IV and Grade II, are functional grades, the remaining grades, are non functional. The exercise of initial constitution of the Service is in progress.