

Economic Census in India and Sixth Economic Census

1. GENESIS

The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), since its inception, has been instrumental in creation of database for various sectors of the economy and its periodic updation so as to meet the requirements of the planners for sound and systematic planning both at the macro as well as micro level. While data requirements may be enormous in various sectors, the judicious collection and maintenance of data for various sectors within the available resource is a challenge. Our economy can broadly be classified into two sectors namely Agricultural and Non-Agricultural sectors. Fairly reasonable database exists for Agriculture Sector where as such data base for Non-Agricultural sector is much to be desired. Keeping in mind the importance of the non-agriculture sector in the economy and the non-availability of basic frame for adoption in various sampling techniques for collection of data and estimation of various parameters, Economic Census was felt necessary. The Economic Census is a small attempt of the CSO for preparing frame of establishments which could be used for various censuses as well as surveys for collection of detailed data particularly on non-agriculture sector of the economy.

2. ECONOMIC CENSUS

The first coordinated approach was made by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Government of India, by launching a plan scheme 'Economic Census and Surveys' in 1976. The scheme envisaged organising countrywide census of all economic activities (excluding those engaged in crop production and plantation) followed by detailed sample surveys of unorganized segments of different sectors of non-agricultural economy in a phased manner during the intervening period of two successive economic censuses.

The basic purpose of conducting the economic census was to prepare a frame for follow up surveys intended to collect more detailed sector specific information between two economic censuses. In view of the rapid changes that occur in the unorganized sectors of non-agricultural economy due to high mobility or morbidity of smaller units and also on account of births of new units, the scheme envisaged conducting the economic census periodically in order to update the frame from time to time.

3. FIRST ECONOMIC CENSUS (EC -1977) AND FOLLOW UP SURVEYS

The First Economic Census was conducted through-out the country, except Lakshadweep, during 1977 in collaboration with the Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES) in the States/Union Territories (UT). The coverage was restricted to only nonagricultural establishments employing at least one hired worker on a fairly regular basis. Data on items such as description of activity, number of persons usually working, type of ownership, etc. were collected.

Based on the frame provided by the First Economic Census, detailed sample surveys were carried out during 1978-79 and 1979-80 covering the establishments engaged in manufacturing, trade, hotels & restaurants, transport, storage & warehousing and services. While the smaller establishments (employing less than six workers) and own account establishments were covered by NSSO as part of its 33rd and 34th rounds, the larger establishments were covered through separate surveys. Detailed information on employment, emoluments, capital structure, quantity & value of input, output, etc. were collected and reports giving all important characteristics on each of the concerned subjects were published.

4. SECOND ECONOMIC CENSUS (EC-1980) AND FOLLOW UP SURVEYS

The Second Economic Census was conducted in 1980 along with the house-listing operations of 1981 Population Census. This was done with a view to economizing resources, manpower, time and money. The scope and coverage were enlarged. This time all establishments engaged in economic activities - both agricultural and non-agricultural whether employing any hired worker or not - were covered, except those engaged in crop production and plantation. All States/UTs were covered with the sole exception of Assam, where Population Census, 1981 was not conducted.

The information on location of establishment, description of economic activity carried out, nature of operation, type of ownership, social group of owner, use of power/fuel, total number of workers usually engaged with its hired component and break-up of male and female workers were collected. The items, on which information were collected in Second Economic Census, were more or less the same as those collected in the First Economic Census. However, based on experience gained in the First Economic Census certain items viz. years of operation, value of annual output/turnover/receipt, mixed activity or not, registered/ licensed/recognized and act or authority, if registered were dropped.

The field work was done by the field staff consisting of enumerators and supervisors employed in the Directorate of Census Operations of each State/UT. The State Directorates of Economics & Statistics (DES) were also associated in the supervision of fieldwork. Data processing and preparation of State level reports of economic census and their publication were carried out by the DES.

Based on the frame thrown up by EC-1980, seven follow-up surveys were carried out, one in 1983-84 on hotels & restaurants, transport, storage & warehousing and services, second in 1984-85 on unorganized manufacturing and third in 1985-86 on wholesale and retail trade. Remaining, four follow-up surveys were conducted during 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 covering the subjects of hotels & restaurants and transport, unorganized manufacturing, wholesale & retail trade and medical, educational, cultural & other services respectively.

5. THIRD ECONOMIC CENSUS (EC-1990) AND FOLLOW UP SURVEYS

The Third Economic Census was synchronized with the house listing operations of the Population Census 1991 on the same pattern as EC- 1980. The coverage was similar to that of EC-1980. All States/UTs except Jammu & Kashmir, where Population Census 1991 was not undertaken, were covered.

Based on the frame thrown up by EC-1990 four follow up surveys were carried out: (i) Establishment Survey covering sectors of mining & quarrying, storage & warehousing in 1992-93; (ii) Establishment Survey covering sectors of hotels & restaurants and transport in 1993-94; (iii) NSS 51st round covering directory, non-directory and own account establishments in unregistered manufacturing sector in 1994-95 and (iv) Directory Trade Establishments Survey in 1996-97. NSS 53rd round covered the residual part of the unorganized trade sector in 1997.

6. FOURTH ECONOMIC CENSUS (EC-1998) AND FOLLOW UP SURVEYS

With a view to meeting the demand of various user departments for the data on unorganized sectors of the economy and considering the nature of large number of small units which are subjected to high rates of mobility and mortality, it was felt that the economic census must be brought back to quinquennial nature so that an up-to-date frame can be made available once in five years for conducting the follow up surveys. Fourth economic census was planned during 1996. But due to various reasons the scheme could be launched only in 1998.

The overall responsibility for organization and conduct of the economic census rested with the CSO. The DESs of States/UTs were made responsible for conducting the field work and preparing the report for their respective States/UTs.

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Based on the frame thrown up by Economic Census 1998, the following follow-up surveys were carried out:-

- (i) Special establishment survey in unorganized sector 1998-99.
- (ii) Survey on Unorganized Manufacturing sector: 2000-01
- (iii) Survey on Unorganized establishments in services sector(excluding trade and finance) : 2001-02
- (iv) Survey on Unorganized Manufacturing sector: 2005-06
- (v) Survey on Unorganized establishments in services sector(excluding trade) : 2006-07

7. FIFTH ECONOMIC CENSUS

The Fifth Economic Census was conducted in 2005. Quinquennial nature of the census could not be given effect to. The overall responsibility for organization and conduct of Economic Census rested with the CSO. The DESs of respective States and UTs were made responsible for conducting the field work and preparing the report concerning to their States.

8. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The Fifth Economic Census was conducted in all the States/UTs. All economic activities (agricultural and non-agricultural), except those involved in crop production and plantation, related to production and/or distribution of goods and/or services other than for the sole purpose of own consumption were covered.

However, as were done in earlier censuses, the following activities were kept out of the purview of the Fifth Economic Census.

- (v) Household members engaged in household chores.
- (vi) Persons doing different types of jobs depending on the availability of work e.g. loading, unloading, helping a mason or a carpenter, doing earthwork for a contractor.
- (vii) Household members working for other households and earning some money which is insignificant.
- (viii) Households in which none of the members is engaged in any gainful activity i.e. households depending on remittance, rent, interest, pension etc.
- (ix) Owners of tube-wells, tractors, bullock carts, etc. who utilize their spare capacity to earn extra money, if the spare capacity utilization is occasional and not on regular basis.

9. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

A Standing Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Director General, Central Statistical Organisation to look into various aspects relating to the conduct of Fifth Economic Census. The Members of the Committee included Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Adviser (FR) and Adviser (PP) both from the Planning Commission, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, representatives from various concerned Central Ministries/Departments like Ministry of Small Scale Industries, Commerce and Industry, Women & Child Development and Labour; and Six State Governments represented by their respective Directors, Directorate of Economics & Statistics. The Committee was assisted by three Working Groups for development of concepts & definitions, strategy for conduct of field work, tabulation of data, publicity & dissemination of results. All the technical and secretarial assistance were provided by the Economic Statistics Division of CSO.

10. CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE AT STATE HQ./DISTRICT HQ. LEVEL

State Level Co-ordination Committees (SLCC) under the chairmanship of Chief Secretaries and District Level Coordination Committees (DLCC) under the chairmanship of District Collectors were constituted to review the progress of work and take appropriate measures for smooth conduct of the Census within the prescribed time frame for different activities. Overall coordination at all India level and guidance were provided by the CSO.

11. NEW INITIATIVES

- v Separate "Address Slip" of the establishments employing 10 workers or more were canvassed for compilation of a Directory of larger establishments.
- v ICR technology was used for the first time to process the data.

12. ALL- INDIA CONFERENCE

An All-India Conference of State Secretaries in-charge of Planning and Statistics and Directors of Economics & Statistics to discuss various issues relating to implementation of the scheme was

13. WORKSHOP ON INTELLIGENT CHARACTER RECOGNITION (ICR) TECHNOLOGY

A workshop on ICR technology in processing of Economic Census data was conducted on August 2005 at New Delhi. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the State/UT Government officers to the concept of ICR technology step by step. Detail demonstration and discussion of the ICR technology was conducted by the officers of RGI in presence of senior officers of CSO, State/UT Governments including some invitees from other Ministries/Deptt. of Government of India.

14. TRAINING

Four regional workshops for core group of Trainers consisting of officers from CSO, NSSO and senior officers from Directorates of Economics & Statistics of State/UT Governments were organized at Kolkata, Lucknow, Chandigarh and Bangalore. Subsequently, two officers, one officer from CSO/NSSO and one officer from State/UT Governments, imparted training to the State and district officials who in turn organized training to the lower level officials like Charge officers, enumerators and supervisors.

15. FORMATION OF ENUMERATION BLOCKS

The State/UT Governments were advised to carve out Enumeration Blocks (EB) broadly covering 200-230 households in rural areas. Each UFS block was treated as one EB for urban areas. The above criteria of forming EB were relaxed in hilly and difficult terrains. Data were collected on voluntary basis by contacting head of the unit/household or from responsible persons.

16. PUBLICITY

In order to give wide publicity the MOS & PI televised a 30-second video/audio clippings in electronics media on television channels and issued advertisement seeking public cooperation in about 100 newspapers in various languages throughout the country through the Directorate of Audio and Visual Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, prior to the commencement of fieldwork. In addition to this, publicity measures were also undertaken by the State/UT Governments.

17. FIELD OPERATION

The fieldwork of Fifth Economic Census started in April 2005 and was over by December 2005 except in Bihar and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Because of elections in Bihar and Tsunami rehabilitation work in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the fieldwork was completed by early March 2006. About four (4) lakh enumerators were deployed to collect information from about 42 million establishments. Establishments with fixed premises were covered at the place of their operation. On the other hand, economic activities that are carried out without any fixed premises or location were covered through households.

All types of establishments (both perennial and seasonal) were covered in the census. The reference period for data collection in respect of perennial establishment was the last calendar year (i.e. Jan-Dec.2004) and for seasonal establishments, it was last working season. For the establishments that have started operation recently, (i.e. operated less than a year for perennial establishments and did not complete a season for seasonal establishments), the information as on the date of the census was collected. The work of the enumerators was supervised by high level officers.

18. SCHEDULES CANVASSED

The schedules namely (i) House List (Annex.I), (ii) Establishment Schedule (Annex.II), (iii) Address Slip (Annex.III) were canvassed in Economic Census. Separate schedules were used for rural and urban areas. The fourth schedule namely, the Establishment Abstract (EA) (Annex.IV) was completed from the entries contained in the Establishment Schedule.

19. POST ENUMERATION CHECK

Post Enumeration Check (PEC) was conducted in all States/UTs immediately after completion of the field work. Two villages and two urban blocks were selected at random in each district throughout the country. Same schedules were canvassed by the Field Operations Division of National Sample Survey Organisation in the selected villages/ blocks in all States/UTs, except Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, where PEC was done by the DESs of respective States. It was an administrative internal exercise, which would provide managerial input for experience building, improvement in future operations and extent of error in the data.

20. RELEASE OF PROVISIONAL RESULTS AND ALL INDIA REPORT

In order to meet the immediate needs of various users, arrangements were made for quick tabulation of Economic Census data. The important parameters of the census data compiled through establishment abstract schedule like number of establishments, employment, adult female workers, hired workers, etc. classified according to agriculture/non-agricultural activities, rural/urban and State/UT-wise were released on 12th June, 2006. There after detailed All India Report was released in January 2008.

21. DATA PROCESSING

Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) technology, which is also known as Automated Forms Processing, was used for the first time to process the EC-2005 data. The schedules of the Fifth EC were scanned/digitized at the fifteen regional Data Processing Centres of RGI. After running the edit programme, the error list files were handed over to the State Governments for corrections.

The DES officials of the State Government corrected the error files in two/three cycles and then sent the data files to RGI Headquarters to give final touch before sending to Computer Centre, MOSPI. The data files were made completely error free by applying auto corrections at the Computer Centre.

Unlike earlier census where data were processed by the individual State/UT Government, this time the data processing work was done centrally by the Computer Centre, MOSPI using the software developed in house for all the States/UTs. The final tables required for writing the State/UT level reports were provided to respective State/UT Governments.

21. TABULATION PLAN

As decided, the series of tables were generated: (a) main tables and (b) special tables. The main tables were to provide State/UT-wise results in respect of principal characteristics of the establishments and employment therein classified by major activity groups, type of establishments, ownership type, social group of owner, size class of employment, power/fuel used, source of finance, etc., The special tables were to reflect major characteristics of data at all India level.

22. CLASSIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

Economic activities are assigned 4-digit codes as per National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2004. To facilitate quick coding of economic activities, for the first time Alphabetic Index was prepared and made available to State/ UT Governments.

23. RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Results of the Economic Census 2005 are available on the Ministry Website

24. SIXTH ECONOMIC CENSUS:

24.1 INTRODUCTION:

The Sixth Economic Census (EC) is scheduled to be conducted during Oct, 2012- June,13 in all the States and Union Territories of the country in collaboration with States/UT Governments.

The Sixth EC proposes to provide up to date information on number of establishments and number of persons employed therein, activity wise, of all the sectors (excluding crop production, plantation, public administration, defense and compulsory social security) of the country including its distribution at all-India, State, district, and at village/ward levels for comprehensive analysis of the structure of the economy (macro, micro, regional Levels).

24.2 Objective:

In the fast developing Indian economy the necessity for a reliable, comprehensive and timely data pertaining to various sectors including the services sector and especially the unorganized components of the respective sectors at regular intervals, for planning and policy formulations needs no emphasis. In a vast country like India with more than 56 million establishments likely to be in operation, filling up with the data gaps that do exist particularly for the unorganized segment of the economy is a real challenge.

Main objectives for conduct of the Sixth Economic Census are as under:

- a) To provide detailed information on operational and economic variables, activity wise, of all the establishments(excluding crop production, plantation, public administration, defence and compulsory social security) of the country including its distribution at all-India, State, district, and village/ward levels for comprehensive analysis of the structure of the economy (macro, micro, regional Levels) and for benchmark purposes;
- b) To provide similar data at lower geographical levels like *tehsils* /villages in case of rural areas and wards in case of urban areas for decentralized planning required under 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments;
- c) To generate information on number of exporting establishments, employing 10 or more workers, activity wise and area wise in operation;
- d) To provide information on number of workers working in establishments, activity wise and area wise in operation;
- e) To provide information on number of workers working in unorganised sector (i.e. establishments employing less than ten workers);
- f) To provide updated Directory of Establishments employing 10 or more workers for local level planning purposes; and
- g) To provide an up to date frame (list) from which samples could be drawn for collecting detailed information.

The activities being covered in the Sixth Economic Census have a share of about 86 % in total GDP of the country.

24.3 INTER-MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS/ APPRAISAL

The Ministries/Departments/Organizations consulted are as under:

- i. Ministry of Labour and Employment;
- ii. Registrar General of India;
- iii. Ministry of Commerce & Industry (DIPP);
- iv. CEA, Department of Economic Affairs;
- v. PF-II, Ministry of Finance(Deptt. of Expenditure);
- vi. Ministry of Corporate Affairs;
- vii. Ministry of Rural Development;
- viii. Ministry of Panchayti Raj;
- ix. Planning Commission;
- x. Ministry of Women and Child Development; and
- xi. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Most of the Ministries consulted are the members of Standing Committee formed under the chairmanship of CSI & Secretary (S&PI) for Sixth Economic Census to provide overall direction and guidance for conduct of Sixth EC.

24.4 SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The Sixth Economic Census is being conducted in all the States/UTs. All economic activities (agricultural and non-agricultural), except those involved in crop production and plantation, public administration, defense and compulsory social security, related to production and/or distribution of goods and/or services other than for the sole purpose of own consumption were covered.

However, as were done in earlier censuses, the following activities are being kept out of the purview of the Sixth Economic Census:

- (i) Establishments of shelter-less and nomadic population, which keep on moving from place to place and camp either without shelter or with makeshift shelter.
- (ii) Establishments engaged in some activities like smuggling, gambling, beggary, prostitution, etc.
- (iii) Domestic servants, whether they work in one household or in a number of households, drivers, etc. who undertake jobs for others on wages.
- (iv) All wage-paid employees of casual nature.
- (v) Household members engaged in household chores.
- (vi) Persons doing different types of jobs depending on the availability of work e.g. loading, unloading, helping a mason or a carpenter, doing earthwork for a contractor.
- (vii) Household members working for other households and earning some money which is insignificant.
- (viii) Households in which none of the members is engaged in any gainful activity i.e. households depending on remittance, rent, interest, pension etc.

24.5 COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

A Standing Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary(Statistics and Programme Implementation) and Chief Statistician of India, to look into various aspects relating to the conduct of Sixth Economic Census. The Members of the Committee included Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Adviser (FR) and Adviser (PP) both from the Planning Commission, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, representatives from various concerned Central Ministries/Departments like Ministry of Small Scale Industries, Commerce and Industry, Women & Child Development, Panchayti Raj, Ministry of Rural Development and Labour, Officers from Ministry of Statistics &PI heading Training Division, Field Operations Division, Computer Centre, Data Processing Division, National Accounts Division, Social Statistics Division, CSO(IS Wing); and Six State Governments namely, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are being represented by their respective Directors, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, other experts from the field of Statistics and Economics and Ex DGs of CSO and NSSO.

The Committee is assisted by a Working Group headed by Prof. S.P.Mukherjee, Rtd. Professor and Head, Department of Statistics, Calcutta University for development of concepts & definitions, strategy for conduct of field work, tabulation of data, & dissemination of results. All the technical and secretarial assistance is being provided by the Economic Statistics Division of CSO.

24.6 CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE AT STATE HQ./DISTRICT HQ. LEVEL

State Level Co-ordination Committees (SLCC) under the chairmanship of Chief Secretaries and District Level Coordination Committees (DLCC) under the chairmanship of District Collectors has been constituted to review the progress of work and take appropriate measures for smooth conduct of the Census within the prescribed time frame for different activities. Overall coordination

24.7. CHANGES MADE IN THE SIXTH EC

i) Coverage:

- All agriculture activities (excluding crop production and plantation): It is being followed since Second EC as such information is being collected in Agricultural Census;
- All non agricultural establishments (excluding public administration, defense, compulsory social security activities): These activities have been excluded as such information is already available with the govt.

ii) Changes made in the schedules:

In Sixth EC two schedules would be canvassed, viz., i) House and Establishment Listing Schedule and ii) Directory of Establishment Schedule in place of three schedules canvassed during Fifth EC. House and Establishment Listing schedule has been formed by merging 'House list' and 'Establishment Schedule'. Further the 'Address Slip' Schedule has been modified and renamed as **Directory of Establishment Schedule** for developing **Business Register**.

The third schedule 'Establishment Abstract' Schedule is a derived schedule based on the information contained in House and Establishment Schedule, which is required to be prepared by each enumerator.

iii) Inclusion of new items/ changes made in main schedule i.e., House and Establishment Listing Schedule:

- a. Number of members in the household;
- b. No. of wage earners and /or salaried employees in the HH;
- c. No. Of establishment owned by HH members with fixed structure outside the house;
- d. No. Of establishment owned by HH members outside the HH without fixed structure;
- e. No. Of establishment owned by HH members inside the HH
- f. Two digit Broad activity code (all activities divided into 24 broad activities)
- g. Three digit NIC Codes to be taken in place of 4 digits
- h. Religion of the owner of proprietary establishment (with male female break up)
- i. Separate data collection for handicraft establishments
- j. Nature of operation: 'Non perennial' has been divided into casual and seasonal

iv) Items excluded from the main schedule i.e., House and Establishment Listing Schedule:

- a. Information on subsidiary activity (only information major activity collected)
- b. Power used in entrepreneurial activity (shifted to Directory of Establishment schedule)
- c. Registration code (shifted to Directory of Establishment schedule)
- d. Number of children(m/f) usually working

v) New items added in Directory of Establishment Schedule:

- a. Do computer and internet facilities exist in the establishment?
- b. "Whether an exporting unit?"
- c. Using power in production of goods and services
- d. Address of main office and Branch offices with PAN and TAN numbers
- e. Registration information under 9 codes.

OTHER IMPORTANT CHANGES MADE/ DECISIONS:

i) Enumeration Blocks of Population Census 2011 to be used as area frame for both urban and rural areas. Up to Fifth EC NSSO, UFS Blocks were taken as the primary units for urban areas.

ii) Reference period for counting number of workers:

In Fifth EC, Last year / season was taken. For Sixth EC number of workers working on the last working day to be taken.

iii) Minimum qualification for enumerators and supervisors have been prescribed for the first time:

- Qualification of Enumerators : Higher Secondary
- Qualification of Supervisors: Graduation

iv) Schedules in 15 languages have been designed through National Institute of Design, Ahmadabad. Further NID also developed a LOGO for Sixth EC.

- v) Schedules would be got printed by CSO and would be supplied to DSO for maintaining uniformity in the schedules to facilitate proper scanning
- vi) Information contained in Directory of Establishment Schedule would be entered by trained officials of DSO for ensuring correct and complete addresses
- vii) KIT containing plastic folders for each of the three schedules, Board, pencils, ball pens, sharpener, eraser, markers, clip box, calculator and chalk box would be provided for safe keeping and facilitating proper collection of information.
- viii) Publicity would be made through all media. Seminars at district levels would be organized by involving students to communicate the masses about the importance of Sixth EC.
- ix) Data collected would be inspected at all levels and also validated by using information available with alternative sources such as DIC, KVIB and Bank Committees etc. In order to increase credibility of the information collected in the Census.
- x) Computer Centre , CSO is purchasing a COGNOS Soft ware for Sixth EC, its connectivity would be provided to all the State/ UT DESs so that all State Specific/All India specific tables, of Sixth EC may be generated with drag and drop operations

24.8 ALL- INDIA CONFERENCE

An All-India Conference of State Secretaries in-charge of Planning and Statistics and Directors of Economics & Statistics to discuss various issues relating to implementation of the scheme was organized.

24.9 TRAINING

Four regional workshops for core group of Trainers consisting of officers from CSO, NSSO and senior officers from Directorates of Economics & Statistics of State/UT Governments were organized at Guwahati, Shimla, Bhopal and Puducherry during August-September, 2012. Subsequently, two officers, one officer from CSO/NSSO and two officers from State/UT Governments would impart training to the State and district officials who in turn organized training to the lower level officials like Charge officers, enumerators and supervisors.

24.10 PUBLICITY

In order to convey and spread information for the economic census and especially to ensure that all corporate units, establishments and self-employed persons in the primary(excluding crop production and plantation), secondary and tertiary industries are fully aware of its importance, participate actively in it and cooperate well with the enumerators, the economic census agencies and departments, it is planned to advertise at different levels and fully utilize the media like newspapers, radio and TV stations, internet and outdoor advertising to carry out the propaganda respondents, thus providing impetus to the census operation and spreading knowledge about it.

To have proper impact on the masses 40/30/20/10 second video/audio clippings is being prepared separately for both rural and urban areas. Further these audio clipping would be dubbed in all regional languages. Moreover, 4 video clipping are being developed separately in 4 regional areas would be thereafter dubbed in the regional languages spoken in that areas. This apart a documentary for imparting training consisting of 25/30 minutes is also being developed in Hindi, which would be dubbed in all regional languages thereafter.

This apart, advertisement seeking public cooperation will be issued in all the important TV channels during prime time and in about 100 newspapers in various languages throughout the country through the Directorate of Audio and Visual Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, prior to the commencement of fieldwork. In addition to this, publicity measures would also undertaken by the State/UT Governments, so as to provide popularity to the census operation and spreading knowledge about its utility. It is also planned to conduct Seminars in Colleges at State/District level to appraise the masses about the utility of Economic Census data for local level planning besides use of Economic Census frame in conducting sample surveys.

24.11 FIELD OPERATION

The fieldwork of Sixth Economic Census would be started in October, 2012 and it would be was over by June, 2013. About 8.24 lakh enumerators 4.12 lakh supervisors would be deployed to collect information from about 25 lakh households and 56 million establishments. These enumerators and supervisors would be provided comprehensive training. About 21, 000 training programmes each of 60 persons would be organized. Establishments with fixed premises would be covered at the place of their operation. On the other hand, economic activities that are carried out without any fixed premises or location would be covered through households.

All types of establishments (perennial, seasonal and casual) would be covered in the census. The data would be collected from all the entrepreneurs and usual households. The reference period in

respect of perennial establishment would be the last calendar year and for seasonal establishments, it was last working season. For the establishments that have started operation recently, (i.e. operated less than a year for perennial establishments and did not complete a season for seasonal establishments) the information as on the date of the census would be collected. The work of the enumerators would be supervised by high level officers. For collection of information on number of worker employed information as on last working day would be collected during visit by the enumerator. For information on sources of finance, the outstanding loan against the agency on the day of visit would be collected.

24.12 SCHEDULES TO BE CANVASSED

The schedules namely (i) House and Establishment Listing Schedule (Annex.I), (ii) Establishment Abstract (Annex.II), (iii) Directory of Establishment Schedule (Annex.III) would be canvassed in Economic Census.

24.13 CONCURRENT DATA VALIDATION:

The quality of Census results hinges upon seriousness, dedication and honesty of enumerators and supervisors. To ensure the quality of work carried out by the enumerators, i.e. to guarantee that all establishments get listed in the instant case, additional information may be collected and made available to the supervisors. The sources for additional information are:

- a) District Industries Centre;
- b) State level Banking Committees; and
- c) Industrial and commercial connection given by the Electricity Department.

Further, to strengthen concurrent data validation, sample inspection by CSO/NSSO/State DES Officials is being put in place at the time of fieldwork. This apart, Post Enumeration Check (PEC) would be undertaken in a certain proportion of EBs to ascertain the extent of divergence in the total number of units identified during the two operations viz. the fieldwork and the PEC.

24.14 RELEASE OF PROVISIONAL RESULTS AND ALL INDIA REPORT

In order to meet the immediate needs of various users, arrangements are being made for quick tabulation of Economic Census data. The important parameters of the census data compiled through establishment abstract schedule like number of establishments(with fixed premises, without fixed premises and inside households), employment(female workers, male workers hired as well as not hired at State/UT-wise, district wise with rural urban break up would be released within two months of the completion of the Field work. A soft ware for data entry at district level for Establishment abstract has been developed by the Computer Centre in this regard. This apart, All India Report would be released within 12 months of the completion of the field work.

24.15 DATA PROCESSING

The method adopted during the Fifth EC is being proposed to be used for data processing work. In Sixth EC in place of Registrar General India, who has expressed its inability to undertake the work, some private agency would be assigned the work. The selected agency and the Computer Centre of the Ministry would undertake the complete data processing work.

24.16 TABULATION PLAN

As decided, the series of tables were generated: (a) main tables and (b) special tables. The main tables were to provide State/UT-wise results in respect of principal characteristics of the establishments and employment therein classified by major activity groups, type of establishments, ownership type, social and religion group of owner, size class of employment, source of finance, etc. The special tables were to reflect major characteristics of data at all India level. Further a soft ware COGNOS is being procured which would facilitate generation of tables using drag and drop method. The access of the software would be made available at 50 locations.

24.17 CLASSIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

Economic activities are assigned 3 -digit codes as per National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2008. The State Govt would undertake the coding at district level by training their personnel.

Economic Census: An over view of International Practices

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The economic census is an important activity carried out by many statistical offices with

the aim of improving availability and quality of existing basic economic statistics and establishing or improving their survey frames or statistical business registers for the organization of economic survey programs on a more integrated basis at a later stage. An economic census is a statistical survey conducted on the full set of economic units

belonging to a given population or universe. It is the complete enumeration of a population or

groups at a point in time with respect to well defined characteristics.

2. The term “census” implies that each unit is enumerated separately and that the characteristics thereof are separately recorded. Only by this procedure can the data on the various characteristics be cross-classified. The requirement of individual enumeration can be met by the collection of information in the field, by the use of information contained in an appropriate administrative register or set of registers, or by a combination of these methods. This does not preclude the use of sampling techniques for obtaining data on specified. Characteristics provided that the sample design is consistent with the size of the areas for which the data are to be tabulated and the degree of detail in the cross-tabulations to be made.

3. In order to plan for, and implement, economic and social development, administrative

activity or scientific research, it is necessary to have reliable and detailed data on the number and distribution of economic units by various categories. The economic census is a primary source of these basic benchmark statistics, covering not only the units in a formal sector but in informal as well. Data from economic census should allow presentation and analysis in terms of statistics on economic units and for a wide variety of geographical units, ranging from the country as a whole to individual small localities.

4. The method of choice will be conducting an economic census through universal and

simultaneous individual enumeration of each resident economic unit within the nation’s

boundaries. The traditional economic census is among the most complex and massive exercises a nation undertakes. It requires mapping the entire country, mobilizing and training an army of enumerators, conducting a considerable public campaign, canvassing all economic units, even those owned by the households, collecting information, compiling vast amounts of completed questionnaires, and analyzing and disseminating the data. In most cases, a traditional census is an opportunity for mobilizing the country and making statistical activity visible. In addition, successfully conducting a census becomes a matter of national pride for many countries.

5. Ensuring confidentiality is crucial for the census to succeed. Thus, it has to be made clear that the only reason for collecting data is for the production of statistics and that there will be no dissemination of confidential information or any non-statistical linkage with existing records in other government databases and data collections. Indeed, principle 6 of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics 2 states that “individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes”.

6. The economic census represents one of the pillars for data collection on the number and

characteristics of the economic units of a country. It is part of an integrated approach to

compilation of economic statistics, which may include censuses for specific activities/industries for example, agriculture or manufacturing, surveys, registers and administrative data sources. It provides, at regular intervals, the benchmark for economic indicators at national and local levels. For small economic activities or sub-populations, such as informal sector units, it may represent the only source of information. For many countries the census also provides a solid framework to develop sampling frames.

7. At its thirty-seventh session in 2006, the United Nations Statistical Commission endorsed

the United Nations Statistics Division’s initiative to promote an integrated approach to

compilation of economic statistics. It further recommended that good practices in this area be

identified, documented and made available to the interested countries to assist in their practical work. In view of these tasks, UNSD carried out a survey in 2006 to identify countries’ general policies with regard to the economic censuses and other approaches to compilation of basic economic statistics. To this end, in June 2006 a brief questionnaire was sent to national statistical offices of all countries and territories. A total of 114 countries and territories responded to the questionnaire.

8. Main conclusions

The main findings are summarized below under the following headings:

- (i) Economic census as an approach to compilation of basic economic statistics;
- (ii) Organizational details of economic census; and
- (iii) Other approaches to compilation of basic economic statistics.

(i) Economic census as an approach to compilation of basic economic statistics

The survey confirmed that the economic census is still an important statistical activity.

Every third country from those that responded (34.2 %) indicated that they have conducted an

economic census. In their vast majority these are countries from developing regions. The geographical distribution of countries ranges from a maximum of 57.9 % in Central, Eastern, South-Eastern and Southern Asia to a minimum of 15.4 % in Europe.

The survey has also confirmed that practices regarding the organization of an economic census vary significantly among countries and show a lack of unified approach. Two principal methods are most often used by countries:

- a) conduct of economic census as an economy-wide census;
- b) conduct of economic census for individual economic sectors/activities only
- c) (manufacturing, construction, distributive trade etc.).

It is worth noting that from the responses to the questionnaire and from the follow up

correspondence with some countries it became apparent that there are two definitions of economic census in use - a broad definition and a narrow definition. The broad definition of economic census implies a complete enumeration of all economic units in a very large part of the economy (traditional form of the census), while the narrow definition is referring to a complete enumeration of only a "take all" strata in an economy-wide surveys (such as the annual structural business surveys). There are some other inconsistencies in use of terminology which need to be clarified and harmonized in future

(ii) Organizational details of economic census

(a) Periodicity

International statistical standards recommend economic censuses to be conducted at

regular intervals of time (five years) in order to establish sound benchmarks of basic economic statistics. More than half of the countries conducting economic census indicated that they carry them out every 5 years. In Oceania all countries conduct economic census at 5 years intervals and in Asia more than 80 % of countries conduct economic census at 5 years intervals. In Northern American region the USA has a longstanding tradition in carrying out economic census every 5 years. Latin America and the Caribbean region could be noted as an exception to this general pattern. More than half of the countries in that region tend to conduct decennial censuses. Looking at the longer run, this could lead to significant limitations in the usefulness of census information for basic economic statistics as well as in its quality and comparability. A new tendency of conducting yearly economic censuses has been observed among a small number of countries. This might be explained with the departure of countries from the traditional form of economic census organization (broad definition) and its transformation into economy-wide establishment (or enterprise) survey (narrow definition of economic census). However, the conduct of annual economic censuses assumes existence of a well established integrated economic statistics programme based on the use of business register, coordinated economic surveys with different frequencies and administrative data sources

(b) Scope

The scope in terms of units or activities enumerated is an important characteristic of the economic census. On average, the survey responses show that two out of three countries conducting economic census do not include units from agriculture and public administration.

about half of the countries, the economic census covers all units irrespective of their size

in terms of number of persons employed or turnover. The remaining half applies a threshold, as with a few exceptions, this threshold is based on the employment. By regions, countries in Africa tend to apply more often a threshold. Their percentage is twice higher as compared to countries in Oceania and Central, Eastern, South-Eastern and Southern Asia.

Again, the practice of countries regarding the coverage of units below the threshold varies substantially. The survey results show that the use of sample surveys is the most commonly

applied approach. 44.4 % of countries indicated that units below the threshold are predominantly covered through sample surveys techniques. Use of administrative data sources and ad hoc surveys are also amongst the approaches preferred by some countries. Although all countries indicated that they aim at full coverage of units, it seems that still much challenge poses the coverage of small units and accuracy of data about them.

(iii) Other approaches for compilation of basic economic statistics

The findings of this survey confirm that there are two distinct groups of countries with

regard to the compilation of basic economic statistics: (i) countries still relying on an economic census as a main tool for compiling the economic statistics and (ii) countries using combination of register based information from annual and more frequent surveys and administrative data sources.

Two third of countries that responded to the questionnaire indicated that at present they use

other approaches for compilation of basic economic statistics that differ from traditional economic census. In the case of developed countries 90 % use register based survey information and administrative data for compilation of economic statistics. This is a firm tendency for transition economies too, where more than 80 % of countries follow the same approach.

Availability of a good business register is considered as an indispensable requirement to

ensure establishment of a country capacity to implement an integrated approach to compilation of economic statistics in the future, especially when data collection strategy of this country is based on economy-wide surveys programme and use of administrative data. The countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Central, Eastern, South-Eastern and Southern Asia, however, show considerably low rates of use of business registers information, half or less than half of them have such a practice.
