

## NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY ORGANISATION

## Organisation and Functions

6.1 The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) carries out socio-economic surveys, undertakes field work for the Annual Survey of Industries and follow-up surveys of Economic Census, sample checks on area enumeration and crop estimation surveys and prepares the urban frames useful in drawing of urban samples, besides collection of price data from rural and urban sectors. This organisation, functions under the overall direction of a Governing Council with requisite independence and autonomy in the matter of collection, processing and publication of NSS data. In addition to the non-official Chairman, the Governing Council is composed of five academicians, five data users from Central and State Government departments and senior officers of the Ministry. The NSSO is headed by the Director General and Chief Executive Officer (DG&CEO) who is responsible for co-ordinating and supervising all activities of the organisation and is assisted by a small secretariat called Co-ordination and Publication Division (CPD). The DG&CEO is also Member-Secretary of the Governing Council. He is assisted by 4 Deputy Director Generals. The major activities of the NSSO pertain to Survey Design, Field Operations, Processing of data collected and releasing of the results based on survey. The Survey Design and Research Division and Data Processing Division have its headquarters at Calcutta. The Field Operations Division has its headquarters at Delhi and Faridabad with a network of six Zonal offices, 45 Regional Offices and 121 Sub-Regional offices spread throughout the country. The Data Processing Division with its headquarters at Calcutta has Data Processing Centres at Delhi, Giridih, Nagpur, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Calcutta.

## Governing Council of NSSO

6.2 During the year 1999-2000, two (72nd and 73rd) meetings of the Governing Council of NSSO were held in March and November, 1999 respectively. In the 72nd meeting the sample survey design of the 55th Round of NSS devoted to 'Survey on Employment & Unemployment, Consumer Expenditure and Informal non-agricultural enterprises' were discussed and finalised. In order to throw light on the overall changes in the employment situation on a quarterly basis, Governing Council recommended the use of 'Rotational Sampling'. GC in its 73rd meeting, inter alia, discussed the subject coverage of NSS 56th round survey and recommended that the 56th round be devoted primarily to Unorganised Manufacturing

6.3 A meeting of the Expert Group to examine wide variations in data sets on the same subject was held during 26th-27th August, 1999 in Calcutta under the chairmanship of Dr Vaskar Saha, DDC, SDRD. Prof. Subhashis Gangopadhyay of ISI, New Delhi, Dr. Bhim Sen, Director, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Dr. Rajiv Mehta, Deputy Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Gulab Singh, Director, NAD, CSO, New Delhi, Shri T.S. Krishnan, Director, Perspective Planning Division, Dr. R.G. Mitra, Deputy Registrar General, Shri G.C. Manna, Director, Enterprise Survey Unit, CSO, New Delhi and other officers of SDRD participated in the meeting.

6.4 A Meeting on Informal Sector Enterprises and on choice of Reference Period for household consumption data was held on 3rd April, 1999 at the Mahalanobis Bhavan under the chairmanship of Shri S. Ramanatha Iyer, member GC, NSSO. This meeting was attended by DG & CEO, NSSO, DDCs of FOD, SDRD & DPD and Calcutta based G.C. members & officers of SDRD.

6.5 All senior officers in NSSO attended the International Conference on Informal Sector (Delhi Group) held in New Delhi during 17th-19th May, 1999.

6.6 An All India Training Conference was held at Pune during 20/23 December 99 to discuss the issues relating to the pilot studies on (i) Choice of Reference Period and (ii) Manufacturing and Trading Units in the Informal Sector. Officers from different divisions of NSSO participated in the conference.

## Statistical Co-ordination

6.7 The role of NSSO in the field of Agricultural Statistics is to provide technical guidance to the States in the conduct of Crop Estimation Surveys aimed for objective estimation of yield of principal crops. The main objective of the scheme is to locate through joint efforts of Central and State agencies, deficiencies in the system of collection of Crop Statistics in each State/Union Territory and to suggest remedial measures. Under the scheme, sample checks on the primary field work relating to area enumeration in approximately, 5000 villages and supervision of 15,000 crop cutting experiments are undertaken in every agricultural year. In addition to this sample check on aggregation of area figures above the village level i.e. at Tehsil, District and State level is also undertaken in 13 land record States spread over 32 Regions of NSSO as a part of Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS) programme since 1980-81.

6.8 During the agricultural year 1998-99 upto September '99 the work relating to sample check on area enumeration was carried out in 1270, 4949, 4649 and 3855 as planned during Early Kharif, Kharif, Rabi and Summer seasons respectively. Likewise 15660 crop cutting experiments were supervised as planned.

6.9 For agricultural year 1999-2000, checking of area enumeration was completed in 910 villages during Early Kharif 1524 villages during Kharif upto September 1999 as against 1270, and 4938 planned respectively. Work relating to aggregation of area was completed in 25 villages during Early Kharif, 258 villages during Kharif upto September 1999 as against 628 and 4284 villages planned. For sample check on crop cutting experiments 475 and 1299 experiments were supervised upto September 1999 during Early Kharif and Kharif respectively as against 1262 and 8950 experiments planned.

6.10 The data collected through the supervision of crop cutting experiments at harvest stage are also utilised to compute the advance estimates of yield rates of specified crops of the states covered. For the agricultural year 1998-99 as many as 166 estimates of yield rates have been forwarded to Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi as per the pre-decided time schedule. Three advance estimates of yield rates spread over various crops and States for the year 1999-2000 have also been issued by October 1999.

6.11 The findings of ICS are brought out in the form of Reports on the Status of Estimation of Crop Production in States as well as in all India. The State wise Reports are brought out during each agricultural year. A consolidated report on all India Status is also prepared annually. During the year under reference, the Statewise reports for the year 1997-98 for Kharif and Rabi have been issued for all the States. The All India Report on Status of Estimation of crop production in India 1995-96 have also been issued and the draft report for 1996-97 have been prepared.

6.12 Another report based on Crop Estimation Survey titled "Consolidated Results of Crop Estimation Surveys (CES)" on Principal Crops in India for the year 1996-97 has also been brought out during the year.

6.13 High Level Co-ordination Committees (HLCCs) have been formed in the States to deliberate, discuss and sort out organisational & operational issues pertaining to various aspects of Agricultural Statistics. They provide a link for proper co-ordination between the centre and states forming a basis for the improvement of quality and timeliness of Agricultural Statistics. During the year under report, meetings of High Level Co-ordination committees were held in the States of Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra, Haryana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Assam.

6.14 In addition to High Level Co-ordination Committees, District Level Committees are also functioning at decentralised level. These committees are entrusted with the task of examining, at the field level, reasons of variations in the entries as recorded by the Patwaris and as observed by Central/State Supervisors during sample check on area enumeration under ICS. The functioning of committees goes a long way in affecting improvement in the State system of area and yield statistics. Response in this case during the year has also been quite encouraging.

## Collection of Price Data

6.15 Field Operations Division have been collecting, on behalf of Labour Bureau Ministry of Labour, the retail prices of specified commodities generally consumed by agricultural labourers from selected markets in rural areas. The data is used for compiling monthly consumer price index for the agricultural labourers as also a common price index for the rural labourers with 1986-87 as the base year. At present, data is being collected from 603 villages every month.

6.16 Retail prices of specified items of consumption by middle class families in the urban sector and data on house rent and off take were collected from 59 centres every month for the construction of monthly consumer price index for Urban Non-Manual Employees with 1984-85 as the base year.

## Urban Frame Survey

6.17 For conducting socio-economic enquiries in urban area an updated frame of sampling units is an essential pre-requisite and Urban Frame Survey is being carried out by Field Operations Division to meet this objective. To ensure this, the frame is being up-dated on a regular basis once in five years. For the first time UFS Blocks were used for enumerations of Enterprises in Economic Census 1998. Unique identification codes were assigned to each urban block of Urban Frame 1992-97 for the purpose which led to computerisation of the details pertaining to more than 3.5 lakh blocks in the frame. These blocks are demarcated in about 15,000 maps called Investigator Units Maps (IV Units Maps) to facilitate easy identification.

6.18 Field work of the 6th phase (1997-2002) of the Urban Frame Survey, which commenced from July' 97 is currently in progress and till September 1999, work in respect of 168178 blocks have been completed /updated in 12104 towns as against an estimated target of 3.6 lakh blocks in about 4675 towns comprising urban agglomerations and their constituent towns. During the remaining period of 1999-2000 another 36000 UFS blocks are expected to be completed/updated.

6.19 The survey being unique in nature and the records and maps being of significant importance in organising and conducting enquiries in urban sector, a programme of commercialisation of maps and other records was initiated in the year 1988. Up to September 1999 an amount of Rs.8,95,500 has been realised on this account.

## Annual Survey Of Industries

6.20 Field work of Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is carried out by the Field Operations Division (FOD), NSSO. The field work for ASI 97-98 for Part I schedule – capital, employment, input and output – was taken up in September, 1998 and was completed in December, 1998. The work relating to Part-II – mandays worked, absenteeism, labour turnover, earning and social security benefits – for ASI 97-98 was taken up in the month of March, 1999 and completed by June, 1999. A total of 38761 Part-I & Part-II schedules were canvassed.

6.21 A Steering Committee on Revision of Sampling Design and ASI Schedule for 1998-99 was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. K.L. Krishna, Professor, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi. Shri. M. Neelakantan, Deputy Director General, NSSO(FOD), was nominated as Member Secretary of the Committee. The committee held, in all, three meetings on 29th April, 1999, 1st June, 1999 and on 20th July, 1999.

6.22 The Steering Committee has submitted its report which contained important recommendations relating to conduct of ASI 1998-99. The Committee also recommended that the present Steering Committee may function as a Standing Committee on ASI/Industrial Statistics. Necessary action has already been taken to constitute the above Standing Committee.

6.23 The field work relating to ASI 1998-99 has started from 1st of November, 1999 in respect of census sector which would be completed by December, 1999 and the completed census and sample sector work is targeted to be completed by February, 2000.

6.24 The CSO releases monthly all-India IIP with base 1993-94 on the basis of data furnished by 15 source agencies. Since the quality of data supplied by the source agencies for compilation of IIP suffers from inadequate response and also keeping in view the recommendation of the Working Group on Industry, Commerce and Corporate Sector Statistics under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arun Ghosh, it was decided at the level of Secretary (MOS&PI) that the MOS&PI should explore the possibility of getting the production data collected through NSSO(FOD) for the manufacturing sector. Accordingly, a frame of about 4200 factories was prepared on the basis of ASI data and 1111 items were identified by CSO for the IIP purpose. NSSO(FOD), collected the monthly production data for 24 months i.e. from April, 1997 to March, 1999. On the basis of the observations on data analysis, the frame of factories and item basket were further revised by CSO and fresh data for 24 months (April, 1997 to March, 1999) was collected by NSSO(FOD) for the new frame of 4191 factories covering 1043 items. The data collected has since been transferred to CSO/Computer Centre of the Ministry for compilation of IIP. In the ASI 1997-98, which was taken up in September 1999, the over all completion was 70,279 factories as against the net allotment of 73,598 factories, the percentage rate being 95.5 % Field work for ASI 97-98: Substantial changes in the sample design have been incorporated on the basis of the recommendations of the "Technical Group for revision of sampling design of annual survey of Industries" with reduced sample size and only two compacted categories – (A) Census Sector, which covers – (i) all industrial units of the 12 less industrially developed States/UTs, (ii) Industrial units having 200 or more workers, (iii) All Electric Undertakings and PSUs and significant Industries having input/output/GVA/NVA as per ASI 93-94, ASI 94-95 & ASI 95-96, supplied by CSO (IS Wing), Calcutta and (B) Sample Sector – which covers the entire ASI frame minus the industrial units of (A) census sector. Another salient feature is the introduction of the shorter and user friendly schedule with the innovative questions in the Part – I of ASI schedule designed to fetch, inter-alia, information on – (a) Quality Assurance, (b) Information Technology, (c) International Trade, (d) Capacity Utilisation of plant and machinery, (e) proprietorship of product/by product and (f) Pollution. The field work for ASI 97-98 was taken up in September 1998 after issue of notices and targeted to complete the whole work in record time by November 1998. The overall completion is 33,308 factories out of a net allotment of 34,890 factories (95.5%) upto December 1998.

6.25 The scheme of Working Class Family Income & Expenditure Survey 1999-2000 is intended to conduct survey of Income and Expenditure and House Rent of Industrial workers at the selected industrially important Centres of the country. The main purpose of this survey is to compile the weighting diagrams of Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers for industrial workers. This is required to up-date the existing CPI series, which has base of 1982 to account for changes in consumption pattern of industrial workers' families. The Labour Bureau would use the weighting diagrams compiled on the basis of this survey during the whole life of the new series of the CPI. The main use of the CPI is in regulation of dearness allowance of the employees at local as well as national level.

6.26 The field work of Preliminary Survey, which started in March, 1999, had been completed in the 78 centres. The field work of the main survey has been started from September, 1999 and will continue over a 12 month period. 3420 schedule-A (Family Budget) alongwith 1330 schedule-B1 (House Rent Survey) are to be canvassed each month and sent to Labour Bureau so as to take note of seasonal variations. After the completion of main survey in August, 2000, the FOD will be involved with the post survey work for a period of three months i.e. upto November, 2000.

## Plan Schemes

6.27 Keeping in view the modernisation of activities to be carried out, two Plan Schemes under the names

- Organisation of Library and Modernisation of Statistical System, and
- Post Survey Evaluation of Sample Surveys are being implemented in SDRD.

6.28 The following three schemes are being implemented in Data Processing Division during Ninth Plan:

- Construction of office building for NSSO at Calcutta.
- Rationalisation of Data Processing Facilities and
- Upgradation of the existing Micro Processing System for accelerating data processing and creation of data base for socio-economic Surveys.

6.29 The following plan schemes are being implemented in Field Operation Division, NSSO during Ninth Plan:

- Construction/Purchase of office accommodation for field offices.
- Strengthening and streamlining of field offices.
- Strengthening of training facilities at Zonal Centres and
- On line transmission of Survey data from field offices to processing centres and modernisation in the data collection system.

6.30 The following two schemes are being implemented in Co-ordination and Publication Division (CPD) of NSSO during Ninth Plan.

- Grant-in-aid to North-Eastern States of Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh for carrying out Central NSS work.
- Strengthening and modernisation of NSS Publication Wing.

## Training

## FOD

6.31 The 6 Zonal Training Centres of NSSO continued their activities of imparting in-service training to the technical staff of FOD. During the year 277 trainees at the levels of Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Investigators, UDCs and LDCs were imparted training in 8 batches in Operator Level Course (OLC) at Bangalore and Nagpur.

6.32 During April, 1999 to October, 1999, 25 "Specialised Training Programmes" of 8 days durations were held in all the Zonal Centres and AS Wing, Faridabad. Officials from the Field Offices, i.e., Assistant Superintendents and Investigators participated in these training programmes. The broad topics covered were–National Statistical System, Modernisation and Computerisation of NSS, Computer application module covering data collection, transmission and processing of data, Human Resource Development covering Motivation, Leadership and Management and the surveys conducted by Field Operations Division. This includes Annual Survey of Industries, Agricultural Statistics, Socio-Economic Statistics, Price Collection, Urban Frame Survey, etc. and field visits followed by a feed back NSSO/CSO session. The objective is to expose all the field staff to this programme during 1998-99 and 1999-2000. Under the above programmes 386 Assistant Superintendents and 238 Investigators were given training upto October, 1999.

6.33 In addition to above training programmes organised by the Division, its officers served as faculty in various training programmes organised by the Training Division from time to time. 29 Officers and Staff of the Division also participated in training programmes organised by the organisations like Training Division, Central Statistical Organisation, Institute of Secretariat Training and Management and National Informatics Centre.

6.34 A special training programme was arranged for XXIII Batch of the ISS probationers during the months of November–December, 1999. This included one day orientation programme at FOD Headquarters and attachment of the probationers to different zonal Centres for detailed exposure to various schemes undertaken by the Division. Training Workshops were organised to provide opportunities for exchange of ideas and fruitful interaction amongst the participants. Besides the staff and officers of DPD; representatives from State Statistical Bureaus also participate in the training-workshop.

## Dissemination and Publication

6.35 The National Policy on Dissemination of Statistical Data envisages supply of validated unpublished data, after deleting their identification particulars maintain confidentiality, to national & International data users, in the form of hard copies or on magnetic media, on payment basis. Reports based on recent NSS Surveys results are also sold both on magnetic media and as hard copies.

The results of the National Sample Surveys are published in the quarterly journal of the Ministry 'Sarvekshana'. List of publications and the reports released by the NSSO during 1999-2000 are at Annex-III.