

CHAPTER III INDIAN STATISTICAL SERVICE

- 3.1 The Indian Statistical Service (ISS) was constituted on 1st November, 1961 by encadring statistical function posts in various Ministries in statistical discipline, which were offered for inclusion in the ISS at the initial constitution of Service. The initial constitution of the Service was made on 15th February, 1964 and the posts were encadred in Grade IV, Grade III, Grade II and Grade I. The strength of the Service at initial constitution stood at 185.
- 3.2 The first examination for direct recruitment in 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 who were placed below the initial constitution/maintenance stage appointees in that grade. Till date, 24 batches of direct recruits have come into the Service. No direct recruitment was made in the years 1967, 1974, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990, due to the phenomenal increase in the strength in Grade IV of the Service following implementation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment in Narendra Chadha's case which resulted in induction of 365 persons at Grade IV level, who had been appointed on adhoc basis as Assistant Directors, etc. In various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India. 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 and 1999. The Ministry has placed a requisition for filling up of 50 vacancies in Grade IV of ISS by direct recruitment through the ISS Examination, 2000. 27 candidates have been finally recommended by the Union Public Service Commission on the basis of the ISS Examination, 1999, out of which 24 candidates have so far joined the probationary training.
- 3.3 The Department of Personnel and Training had been functioning as the Cadre Controlling Authority of ISS upto October, 1984 when this responsibility was transferred to the erstwhile Department of Statistics. As Cadre controlling Authority, the Ministry is concerned with the centralised 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.
- 3.4 In the initial constitution of the service, there were, as stated above, only four grades, the highest grade being Grade I in the scale of Rs.1800-2000/- (3rd Pay Commission scale). In December, 1986, 13 posts in the Selection Grade (Rs. 2000-2250, 3rd Pay Commission Scale), one post in Super Time Scale Level II (Rs. 2250-2500) and one post in Super Time Scale Level I (Rs. 2500-2750) were encadred into the Service. Just before that, 36 posts were upgraded from Grade III to Grade II in November, 1986. Pursuant to the decision taken on the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission, Grades I & II of ISS were merged into the Junior Administrative Grade (Rs.3700-5000). Similarly, Super Time Scale Levels I and II were merged in the Senior Administrative Grade (Rs.5900-6700). Simultaneously, grades IV and III of Service were redesignated as Junior Time Scale and Senior Time Scale respectively. The next landmark development, also pursuant to Fourth Pay Commission recommendations, related to abolition of 13 Functional Selection Grade posts by upgrading eight of them to the Senior Administrative Grade and downgrading remaining five to the Junior Administrative Grade. As part of this exercise, carried out in May, 1990, one of the posts in Senior Administrative Grade, viz., that of Chief Executive Officer, NSSO was upgraded to the Higher Administrative Grade (Rs.7300-7600).

The number of posts encadred into the service at initial constitution and at present, after the first ever cadre review of ISS completed in February 1998, as well as their distribution in different grades is given in the following table:-

Table: Distribution of posts in different Grades in ISS

As on 1.11.61		As on 1.1.99	
Grade	No. of posts	Grade	No. of posts
Grade I	8	HAG	3
Grade II	7	SAG	17**
Grade III	54	JAG	138
Grade IV	116	STS	213
		JTS	243*

Exclusive of 73 leave, deputation and training reserve.

**Two posts in SAG of ISS, one in Ministry of Rural Development and another in Ministry of Tourism have not been agreed to by the administrative Ministries for upgradation.

- 3.5 During the year 59 promotions have been made in NFSG of ISS. This Ministry has also started action on the constitution of Subordinate Statistical Service. Discussions were held with Ministries/Departments in this connection. Data base on related issues is under preparation. Second meeting of the Cadre Management Committee was conducted. A Task Force has also been constituted to suggest suitable amendments in ISS Rules.
- 3.6 The ISS Rules initially provided for appointment in Grade IV of the Service to the extent of 75 percent by direct recruitment and 25 percent by promotion from recognized feeder posts. Subsequently, Rules were amended in 1981 to provide for 60 percent of the vacancies in Grade IV to be filled up by direct recruitment and 40 percent by promotion from the recognized feeder posts. There were also provisions for lateral entries (i.e., direct recruitment) in Grade III, and in erstwhile Grades II and I. At present, there is no direct recruitment except in Grade IV of the Service. All vacancies in other grades are required to be filled up by promotion.
- 3.7 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had issued an integrated eligibility list of feeder post holders for effecting promotions from feeder category to Grade IV of the ISS in terms of Rule 8(1)(a)(ii) of ISS Rules, 1961 on 7.3.1997. Based on this eligibility list, 207 feeder post holders have been appointed to Grade IV (JTS) on adhoc basis. UPSC has also been approached to make regular promotions to Grade IV of ISS as per the promotee quota.