

NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY ORGANISATION

Organisation and Functions

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 and CEO is also Member-Secretary of the Governing Council. He is assisted by 4 Deputy Director Generals. The major activities of the NSSO pertains to Survey Design, Field Operations, Processing of data collected and releasing of the results based on surveys. 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. The division is entrusted with the responsibilities of data entry, processing and tabulation of socio-economic data.

Governing Council of NSSO

- 5.2 Two meetings of the Governing Council of NSSO (74th and 75th) were held in April and November, 2000 respectively. In the 74th meeting the sample design and schedules of enquiry in respect of NSS 56th round (July, 2000-June, 2001) devoted to survey on Unorganised Manufacturing and Annual Survey of Consumer Expenditure and Employment-Unemployment were discussed and finalized.
- 5.3 Governing Council in its 75th meeting, inter-alia, discussed the subject coverage of NSS 57th Round survey and recommended that the 57th round will cover the services sector i.e. Hotel, restaurants, Transport, Storage, Communication, Real Estate, Renting, Business Activities, Education, Health, Social Work, other community, social and personal service activities. A Working Group on NSS 57th Round to look into various technical aspects of the survey including sample design, concepts and definitions, schedules of enquiry, instructions, tabulation plan and other related matters, has been constituted. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 22.12.2000.
- Steering Group for the commemoration of Golden Jubilee of NSSO: In order to finalise and monitor various activities and programmes to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of NSSO, a Steering Group has been constituted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. To plan the celebrations two meetings of the Steering Group were held in April and September, 2000.
 - Methodological study on Non-Sampling Error: A Group to study the non-sampling errors in NSS-surveys and to suggest the measure to reduce the same has been formed. The Group after detailed deliberations has finalized two Pilot surveys viz.
- i) Suitability of reference period for collecting consumption data [Jan-June, 2000].
- Non-agricultural enterprises in the informal sector (Manufacturing and Trade) [March-June, 2000]

Meetings/Conferences/Workshops

- 5.4 NSSO also organised the Conference of Central and State Statistical Organisations in collaboration with National Statistical Commission in New Delhi during 23-24 October, 2000. The Conference was attended by 250 delegates from States, Central Govt. Ministries/Departments, members of National Statistical Commission, members and co-opted members of various sub-groups of the Commission, Officers of CSO/NSSO, etc. Dr. C.Rangarajan, Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Chairman, National Statistical Commission addressed the delegates on 23rd October, 2000. The Conference, in which the Agenda Note prepared by National Statistical Commission was discussed and deliberated through the system of its sub-groups to elicit views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments on issues concerning Indian Statistical System, is expected to provide important input for finalising its report.
- 5.5 A meeting of the Group on Non-Sampling Errors with respect to Survey on Consumer Expenditure and Informal Non-Agricultural Enterprises was held on 28.07.2000 at Calcutta
- 5.6 Prof. N. Bhattacharyya, Chairman, Study Group of Pilot Survey on Non-agricultural Enterprises (Manufacturing and Trading) and Consumer Expenditure along with members visited DPC, Bangalore from 3rd to 8th September, 2000 to examine filled in Schedules.
- 5.7 Working-Group-Meeting of NSS 56th Round was held during the period from 09-03-2000 to 10-03-2000.
- 5.8 The first meeting of the Sub-Committee for finalisation of tabulation plan of NSS 55th Round was held on 1st April, 2000 at SDRD, Calcutta under the Chairmanship of Prof. P. Visaria, Chairman, G.C. NSSO.
- 5.9 A meeting was held on 14.6.2000 to finalise the tabulation plan of two pilot surveys on non-sampling errors at Calcutta.
- 5.10 A meeting of the Working Group of NSS 56th Round was held on 1st December, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Prof. P. Visaria to finalise the tabulation plan of NSS 56th Round.
- 5.11 On the advice of National Advisory Board on Statistics (NABS) in the M/O Statistics and Programme Implementation, an Expert Group has been formed under the Chairmanship of DG and CEO, NSSO, for Improvement of Agriculture Statistics. On the recommendation of Expert Group, a small sub-group was constituted with the members from NSSO, ISARI, DES and SAC to study the feasibility of integration of Remote Sensing Technology (RST) with Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS) for evolving a methodology of an alternative system of crop area and yield estimates.
- 5.12 The sub-group decided to undertake a Pilot Study in 6 villages, 2 from each districts of Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Karnal (Haryana) and Kota (Rajasthan). Accordingly, NSSO (FOD) collected crop area statistics in 6 experimental villages of above three districts during Rabi 1999-2000, on complete enumeration basis through observation method. The survey number-wise data so collected was consolidated for arriving village level crop area estimates. The analysis of Remote Sensing data has shown encouraging results for wheat crop. However, the results of revised analysis reveal the shortcomings of Remote Sensing Technology in crop area estimates at village level, which will be discussed in the next Expert Group meeting.
- 5.13 The Standing Committee on Industrial Statistics under the chairmanship of Prof. K.L. Krishna held two meetings on 18th August, 2000 and 29th September, 2000 and has gone into various issues of ASI 1999-2000, such as, sampling design, ASI schedules etc. The committee, inter-alia, decided to introduce a short schedule containing 10 key parameters on which information is to be collected on priority basis by November, 2000 from all selected units.
- 5.14 The first Data Analysis and Interpretation workshop was organised by the DPD at Calcutta on 19.04.2000 where ten analytical papers were presented by the ISS officers of the Division. It has been decided that the second such workshop will be organised during Feb. 2001 and the same will be taken up as part of regular activities of DPD. Regular Programme has been taken up by the Division to organise Seminars. A series of seminars are also being organised by DPD.
- 5.15 DPD organised training programme on computer based processing for the officials of Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, M. P. and J. & K. during 5-6th April, 2000. A similar training was organised for the officials of U. P. during 24-25th April, 2000. One day special training programme to estimate Standard Errors etc. was also organised for the official of Govt. of Bhutan.

Statistical Co-ordination

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. It also keeps a continuous watch on the quality of crop statistics through the scheme for Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS). 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. The states are also participating in this programme of sample check on matching basis. 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.

- 5.17 During the agricultural year 1999-2000 upto October, 2000 the work relating to sample check on area enumeration was carried out in 1270, 4948, 4627 and 3415 villages against 1270, 4948, 4648, and 3475 as planned during Early Kharif, Kharif, Rabi and Summer seasons respectively. The work relating to Aggregation of area was completed in 556, 4040, 4087 and 2890 villages against 626, 4285, 4398 and 3195 as planned during early kharif, kharif, rabi and summer seasons respectively. Likewise 15658 crop-cutting experiments were supervised as planned
- 5.18 For agricultural year 2000-2001 checking of area enumeration was completed in 1021 villages during early kharif and 4125 villages during kharif upto October, 2000 as against 1270 and 4949 villages planned. Work relating to aggregation of area was completed in 117 villages during early kharif and 1028 villages during kharif upto October, 2000 as against 628 and 4285 villages planned. For sample check on crop Cutting Experiments 1129 and 3991 experiments were supervised upto October, 2000 during early kharif and kharif seasons as against 1260 and 8950 experiments planned respectively.
- 5.19 The data collected through the supervision of crop cutting experiments at harvest stage are also utilized to compute the advance estimates of yield rates of specified crops of the States covered. During the agricultural year 1999-2000 as many as 162 estimates of yield rates have been forwarded to Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi as per the prescribed time schedule. Upto October, 2000, 3 advance estimates of yield rates spread over various crops and states for the year 2000-2001 have also been issued.
- 5.20 The findings of ICS are brought out in the form of reports viz. Status of Estimation of Crop Production in States as well as in all India. The State wise reports are brought out twice during each agricultural year. A consolidated report on the Status of Estimation of Crop Production in India is also prepared annually. During the year under reference, the state-wise status reports (final) for the year 1998-99 (Kharif and Rabi) have been issued for all the States.
- 5.21 Another report entitled "Consolidated Results of Crop Estimation Surveys (CES) on Principal Crops" for the year 1997-98 based on information on Crop Estimation Surveys conducted in the States has been published.
- 5.22 High Level co-ordination Committees (HLCC) have been formed in the states to sort out organizational and 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 maintaining timeliness of collection of Agricultural Statistics. During the year under reference, meetings of High Level Co-ordination Committees have been held in the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Haryana, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat so far.
- 5.23 In addition to High Level Co-ordination Committees, District Level Committees are also functioning at decentralized level. These committees are entrusted with the task of examining at the field level, the reasons for variations in the entries as recorded by the Patwaries and as observed by Central/State Supervisors during sample check on area enumeration under ICS. The functioning of committees goes a long way in effecting improvements in the State system of crop statistics. The response noticed during the year has been quite encouraging.

Collection Of Price Data

- 5.24 Field Operations Division has been collecting, on behalf of Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour, the retail prices of specific commodities generally consumed by agricultural labourers from selected markets in rural areas. The data collected every month from 603 villages are used for compiling monthly consumer price index for the agricultural labourers as also consumer price index for the rural labourers with 1986-87 as the base year.
- 5.25 Retail prices of specified items of consumption by middle class families in the urban sector and data on house rent and off take are 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

- 5.26 For conducting Socio Economic enquiries in urban areas, an updated frame of First Stage Units (FSUs) is an essential pre-requisite. Urban Frame Survey (UFS) therefore is carried out by Field Operations Division to meet this objective. 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 block of Urban Frame 1992-97, for the purpose of computerization 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.
- 5.27 Field work of the 6th phase (1997-2002) of the Urban Frame Survey, which was taken up in July, 1997 is currently in progress. Till October, 2000 work in respect of 2,69,177 blocks have been completed/updated in 2164 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 2000-2001 another 30,000 UFS blocks are expected to be completed/updated.
- 5.28 The survey is unique in nature and the records and maps are very important in organizing and conducting enquiries in urban sector. A programme of commercialization of maps and other records was initiated in the year 1988. Upto October, 2000 an amount of Rs. 9,79,400 has been realized on this account.

Annual Survey Of Industries

- 5.29 The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the principal source of Industrial Statistics in India. It provides statistical information to assess and evaluate the changes in the growth, composition and structure of the organized manufacturing factory) sector comprising activities associated with or related to manufacturing process, repair service, generation, transmission etc. of electricity, gas and water supply undertakings and cold storage. The survey is conducted annually under the statutory provision of collection of Statistics Act, 1953. The ASI extends to the entire country except the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim and Union Territory of Lakshadweep. It covers all factories registered under section 2m(i) and 2m(ii) of the Factories Act of 1948. The survey also covers Biri and Cigar Units under Biri and Cigar Workers (Condition of employment) Act, 1966. The data collected through ASI relate to capital, employment and emoluments, consumption of fuel and lubricants, raw materials and other input/output, value added, labour turnover, absenteeism labour cost, construction of houses by employers for their employees and other characteristics of factories/industrial establishments. Fieldwork for ASI is carried out by the Field Operations Division of NSSO. The CSO processes the data and disseminates the survey results.
- 5.30 The fieldwork of ASI 1998-99 was completed on 31.03.2000. The overall completion was 26,849 factories as against the net allotment of 27,788 factories. As regards ASI 1999-2000, the Standing Committee on Industrial Statistics under the chairmanship of Prof. K.L. Krishna held two meetings on 18th August, 2000 and 29th September, 2000 and has gone into various issues like Sampling Design, ASI schedules etc. The committee, inter-alia has decided to introduce a short schedule having 10 key parameters on which the information is to be collected by November, 2000 from all the selected units, on priority basis.
- 5.31 The time frame for main schedule of ASI 1999-2000 has been kept as October, 2000 to March, 2001. The fieldwork commenced on 01.10.2000 and the same is expected to be completed by 31.03.2001. Till the end of October, 2000, 1434 units and 8959 short schedules have been completed out of the net allotment of 33,277.
- 5.32 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 centres.
- 5.33 The survey was conducted in 78 important industrial centers in the country approved by TAC on SPCL. The data collected under the survey form the basis for working out a series of All India Index. The survey covered 7 sectors, viz: (i) Factories; (ii) Mines; (iii) Plantations; (iv) Railways; (v) Motor Transport Undertakings; (vi) Ports and Docks; and (vii) Electricity Generating and Distributing Establishments.
- 5.34 The fieldwork of Preliminary Survey taken up in March, 1999 in all the 78 centres was completed in August, 1999 as per time target. The Preliminary survey covered – (i) Delimitation of area inhabited by industrial workers in 78 centers; (ii) Feasibility study on sampling method to be adopted (iii) Sampling frame for the selection of first stage units, i.e. cluster of blocks/establishments and (iv) Testing of schedules of enquiry for the main survey.
- 5.35 The fieldwork of the main survey taken up in September, 1999 was completed in all the centers except 3, in August, 2000. The fieldwork in the remaining 3 centres was completed in September, 2000. 3420 schedule -A (Family Budget) along with 1330 schedule – B1 (House Rent Survey) were canvassed each month and sent to Labour Bureau so as to capture seasonal variations. In all 41040 schedules A and 15960 schedules B1 were canvassed during the entire survey period. The post survey work was expected to continue upto 30th November, 2000.

Plan Schemes

- 5.36 Keeping in view the modernisation of activities to be carried out, FOD has been operating the following four Plan Schemes:
- Strengthening of Training Facilities in Zonal Centres.
 - Strengthening and Streamlining of Field Offices.
 - Construction/Purchase of Office Accommodation for Field Offices.
 - On-line Transmission of Survey Data from field Offices to processing centres and modernization in the data collection system.
- 5.37 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 microprocessor system for accelerating data processing and creation of database for socio-economic surveys.
- 5.38 Keeping in view the modernisation of activities to be carried out, two Plan Schemes under the names
- Post survey Evaluation of the Sample Surveys conducted by NSSO.
 - Organisation of Library and Modernisation of Statistical System are in operation in SDRD.
- 5.39 The following two schemes are being implemented in Co-ordination and Publication Division (CPD) of NSSO during Ninth Plan.
- Strengthening and Modernisation of NSS Publication

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

Sale of NSS Reports and Unit Level data

- 5.40 NSS reports are sold on magnetic media as well as in the form of hard copies at nominal prices to institutions/individuals. Validated unit level data (household/enterprise) are also available at a nominal cost to the public for further research and analysis.

Training

FOD

- 5.41 Human Resource Development is an important activity for any organization. For NSSO (FOD), which undertakes surveys of various kind with changes in concept, definition, methodology, design, etc., the training of its staff and officers on continuous basis becomes all the more important. To meet this important objective, the Division has well-developed Institutional arrangement at the Zonal Centres and AS Wing, Faridabad with a Training Cell in Hqrs. to co-ordinate their activities and provide overall guidance. The Division organizes different courses for its staff and officers, which include scheme-specific refresher courses and also specialized training programmes at the instance of CSO. Its officers/staff are also nominated to attend courses organised by other institutions as well.
- 5.42 During April, 2000 to October, 2000, 3 Specialised Training Programmes(STP) each of 8 days duration were held in Northern, Southern and Central Zonal offices of FOD. Officials of the rank of Assistant Superintendents and Investigators participated in the above training programme. In all 50 Asstt. Supdts and 26 Investigators were trained under STP.
- 5.43 Similarly, a course on Survey Management was also organised for Superintendents in Western and Southern Zones during September, 2000. 36 Superintendents were imparted training under this training programme. Besides the above, FOD conducted induction training for 90 Investigators and Refresher course on Agriculture Statistics at AS Wing, Faridabad for 120 Assistant Superintendents drawn from different zones.
- Training programme on Socio-Economic Surveys for Assistant Superintendents was held during October, 2000. It was attended by 40 Asstt. Supdts. A refresher course on Industrial Statistics was organised during August, 2000 in which 60 Asstt.Supdts. Were trained.
- A specialised computer training Course on "Window based application tools" was organised during August-October, 2000 in 38 centres of FOD and about 800 officials were trained.

- 5.44 In addition to the above training programmes organised by this Division, officers from FOD served as faculty in various training programmes organised by other organisations. 16 Officers and Staff of this Division also participated in the training organised by CSO, NIC, ISTM, etc.

DPD

- 5.45 Besides its regular training workshop on data processing for every round, DPD has taken up training activity as its regular programme. Initially, emphasis has been given to organise training on computer and related activities. The first such training on 'computer fundamentals and MS- Office' has been given to twenty (20) officials of FOD from 16.10.2000 to 25.10.2000. The second training has been organised for the staff of DPD and SDRD from 13.11.2000 to 17.11.2000. It has been decided that this training programme will be organised regularly to meet the target of Minimum Agenda of the Government for E-Governance for the year 2000.

