

CHAPTER VI

INDIAN STATISTICAL SERVICE

6.1 The Indian Statistical Service (ISS) constituted on 1.11.1961 became operational from 15.2.1964. The statistical function posts in various Ministries were encadred into different grades of the ISS. The strength of the Service at initial constitution stood at 185. As on 31.3.2004, strength has gone upto 605. The strength of ISS Cadre in different Grades, at the time of initial constitution and at present are given in **Table-6.1**.

Table- 6.1

Number of ISS posts in 1961 and 2004

Grade	Number of ISS posts	
	As on 1.11.1961	As on 31.3.2004
Higher Administrative Grade (HAG)	-	6
Senior Administrative Grade (SAG)	-	21
Junior Administrative Grade (JAG)	15	240 #
Senior Time Scale (STS)	54	136
Junior Time Scale (JTS)	116	202*
Total	185	605

Includes 121 posts (30% of senior duty posts) operated in NFSG scale of Rs. 14300-400-18300/-

* Exclusive of 73 leave, deputation and training reserve.

6.2 The Department of Personnel and Training functioned as the Cadre Controlling Authority of ISS up to October 1984. Thereafter, the erstwhile Department of Statistics presently the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has been the Cadre Controlling Authority the Ministry is concerned with all matters pertaining to recruitment, promotion, training, career planning and manpower planning for the Service. Day-to-day administrative matters of ISS officers are looked after by the concerned Ministries/Department in which the officers are posted.

6.3 The ISS Rules initially provided for the 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. The rules were amended subsequently 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 earlier for providing lateral entries (i.e. direct recruitment) in Grade III, and in erstwhile Grades II and Grade I. However, presently there is no direct recruitment at any level except in "Grade IV (JTS) of the Service. All the vacancies in other grades are required to be filled up only by promotion.

6.4 The first examination for direct recruitment to Grade IV of the service was held in 1967 and the first batch of the service was appointed in 1968. Till date, 26 batches of Direct Recruits have joined the service. On the basis of ISS Examination 2001, seven probationary officers were appointed in the service. No examination was held in 2002. Vacancies for the year 2003 have been reported to UPSC.

6.5 As per the 5th Central Pay Commission recommendations, the post of Director General, Central Statistical Organisation in the Ministry was encadred into the Service with the status of Ex-officio Special Secretary (pay of Rs 26000 fixed) and the post of Chief Executive Officer, NSSO was upgraded to higher pay scale of Rs 22400-600-26000 and re-designated as DG and CEO, NSSO.

6.6 The National Statistical Commission (NSC), set up under the chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, to identify the deficiencies in the statistical system of the country and recommend suitable measures for its revamp, has also examined the career prospects of statistical service officers. Considering the acute stagnation in the service, the Commission considered it imperative to boost the morale of ISS officers in order to avoid an adverse effect on the statistical system. To overcome the problem of acute stagnation, the Commission, in its report, has recommended that as a one-time ameliorative measure, ISS officers should be given the benefit by awarding the Senior Time Scale, Junior Administrative Grade and Non-Functional Selection Grade in the 5th, 9th and 14th year of their service".

6.7 A Task Force under the chairmanship of Dr. N.S. Sastry, the then DG and CEO, NSSO was constituted to look into the structure of ISS with a view to re-orient the service to the needs of the emerging socio-economic order of the new millennium and to suggest steps for re-structuring the service. The Task Force submitted its report in December 2001. A sub-group under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Ray, DG and CEO, NSSO constituted during May 2002 submitted the Report of the Task Force and submitted its report in November 2002. In the meantime, to meet the urgent need of the functional requirements of the Statistical System Government decided to restructure the ISS cadre posts in the grades of JTS/STS and JAG. Accordingly, 102 posts of STS were upgraded to JAG and 14 JTS posts were abolished. This gave relief to the middle level officers of ISS. In view of this, it was felt that Task Force Report/ Sub-Group Report requires further revision to ensure continuity of restructuring. A Sub-Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Ray has submitted its report. The 2nd cadre review of ISS Cadre is being initiated.

6.8 From January, 2003 this Ministry has issued promotion order in respect of 129 STS level officers to the Grade of JAG, 60 JTS level officers to STS level on ad-hoc basis, 28 ad-hoc JTS level officers have been regularized, 21 JAG level officers have been given NFSG scale, 6 NFSG level officers have been promoted to SAG level and 2 SAG level officers were promoted to HAG-II of ISS. This Ministry has also encadred 2 SAG level posts in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture belonging to Indian Economic Service (IES) into Indian Statistical Service (ISS) in pursuance of the recommendations of JNL Srivastava Committee.