

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation came into existence as an independent Ministry on 15.10.1999 after the merger of the Department of Statistics and the Department of Programme Implementation. The Ministry has two wings, one relating to Statistics and the other Programme Implementation. The Statistics Wing consists of the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and the Computer Centre. The Programme Implementation Wing has four Divisions, namely, (i) Twenty Point Programme (ii) Infrastructure Monitoring (iii) Project Monitoring and (iv) Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme. The organisational chart of the Ministry is at **Annex- I**.

1.2 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation attaches considerable importance to coverage and quality aspects of statistics released in the country. The statistics released are based on administrative sources, surveys and censuses conducted by the Centre and State Governments and non-official sources and studies. The surveys conducted by the Ministry are based on scientific sampling methods and are supervised by the Governing Council. Data is collected through dedicated field staff, who are regularly trained in the concepts and definitions of the items and the scope of the survey. In line with the emphasis on quality of statistics released by the Ministry, the methodological issues concerning the compilation of national accounts are overseen by the Advisory Committee on National Accounts, the industrial statistics by the Standing Committee on Industrial Statistics and the price indices by the Technical Advisory Committee on price indices. The Ministry compiles datasets based on current data and after applying standard statistical techniques and extensive scrutiny and supervision.

1.3 India is a subscriber to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) and is currently fulfilling the Standards. The Ministry maintains an Advance Release Calendar for its data categories covered under the SDDS, which is disseminated on the Ministry's internet site, as well as on the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) of the IMF. The Ministry releases the datasets covered under the Real Sector of SDDS simultaneously through press notes and its web-site. The Ministry organizes technical meetings on regular basis on various topics to assess the datagaps in the system and the quality of statistics currently released. The CSO staff participates in meetings and seminars organized by international and regional organizations such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, on statistical compilations and international practices. The Indian statistical system is one of the premier systems among the countries. The Ministry's officials were always associated with the international agencies on the development of methodologies, particularly in the areas of national accounts, informal sector statistics, large-scale sample surveys, conduct of censuses, service sector statistics, non-observed economy, social sector statistics, environmental statistics and classifications. The contribution of Ministry's officials in international meetings on these subjects is highly appreciated.

1.4 The **Statistics Wing** is the apex national body in the official statistical system of the country and mandated for the following responsibilities:-

- (i) the nodal agency for planned development of the statistical system in the country;
- (ii) coordinates the statistical work in respect of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and State Statistical Bureaus (SSBs);
- (iii) prepares national accounts as well as publication of annual estimates of national product, government and private consumption expenditure, capital formation, saving, estimates of capital stock and consumption of fixed capital, as also the state level gross capital formation of supra-regional sectors and prepares comparable estimates of State Domestic Product (SDP) at current prices;
- (iv) lays down and maintains norms and standards in the field of statistics, involving concepts and definitions, methodology of data collection, processing of data and dissemination of results;
- (v) advises the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India on statistical methodology and on statistical analysis of data;
- (vi) maintains liaison with international statistical organisations, such as, the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), etc.
- (vii) compiles and releases the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) every month in the form of 'quick estimates'; conducts the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI); and provides statistical information to assess and evaluate the changes in the growth, composition and structure of the organised manufacturing sector;
- (viii) organises and conducts periodic all-India Economic Censuses and follow-up enterprise surveys;
- (ix) conducts large scale all-India sample surveys for creating the database needed for studying the impact of specific problems for the benefit of different population groups in diverse socio-economic areas, such as

employment, consumer expenditure, housing conditions and environment, literacy levels, health, nutrition, family welfare, etc;

- (x) examines the survey reports from the technical angle and evaluation of appropriate sampling design including survey feasibility studies in respect of surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation and other Central Ministries and Departments;
- (xi) provides an in-house facility to process the data collected through various socio-economic surveys and follow-up enterprise surveys of Economic Censuses;
- (xii) disseminates statistical information on various aspects through a number of regular, or *ad hoc* publications distributed to Government, semi-Government, or private data users/ agencies; and dissemination of data, on request, to the United Nations agencies like the UNSD, the ESCAP, the ILO and other international agencies;
- (xiii) releases grants-in-aid to registered Non-Governmental Organizations and research institutions of repute for undertaking special studies or surveys, printing of statistical reports, and financing seminars, workshops and conferences relating to different subject areas of official statistics;
- (xiv) functions as the Cadre Controlling Authority to manage the Indian Statistical Service including matters like training, career and manpower planning; and
- (xv) the nodal Ministry for the Indian Statistical Institute and ensuring its functioning in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959 (57 of 1959).

1.5 The **Programme Implementation Wing** has the following responsibilities :-

- (i) Monitoring of Twenty Point Programme (TPP).
- (ii) Infrastructure Monitoring Division is entrusted with the monitoring of performance of the country's eleven key infrastructure sectors, viz., Power, Coal, Steel, Railways, Telecommunications, Ports Fertilizers, Cement, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Roads and Civil Aviation.
- (iii) Project Monitoring Division (PMD) is responsible for monitoring of all Central Sector Projects costing Rs.20 crore and above.

- (iv) Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was transferred in October 1994 to this Ministry for operationalisation.
- (v) Monitoring of 31 Thrust Areas set for Prime Minister's review and 40 Thrust Areas for the review by Committee of Secretaries.
- (vi) The Ministry has been entrusted with the responsibility of Coordination and Policy issues relating to National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) excluding sectoral policies allocated to other Ministries/Departments.

1.6 A **web-site (<http://www.mospi.nic.in>)** of the Ministry has been designed, created and is being maintained. More than 100 reports of the Ministry have been upload in full for downloading by the users. System of on-line registration has been introduced for downloading/viewing the reports.