

# CHAPTER IV

## NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY ORGANISATION

### Organisation and Functions

4.1 The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) is the primary data collection wing of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Primary data is collected regularly through nation-wide household surveys on various socio-economic subjects, Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) under the Collection of Statistics Act and Enterprise surveys as a follow-up of the Economic Census. Besides these surveys, NSSO collects data on rural and urban prices; plays a significant role in the improvement of crop statistics through supervision of the area enumeration and crop estimation surveys of the state agencies. It also maintains a frame of urban areal units for use in sample surveys in urban areas. The Organisation functions under the overall direction of a Governing Council (GC) and is headed by a Director General and Chief Executive Officer (DG&CEO). It has four Divisions. The Survey Design and Research Division (SDRD) located at Kolkata is responsible for planning and design of the survey, schedules and other survey instruments and preparation of survey reports. The Field Operations Division (FOD) has its headquarters at Delhi with a network of six Zonal Offices, 48 Regional Offices and 117 Sub-Regional Offices spread throughout the country. This Division is responsible for the collection of primary data for the surveys undertaken by NSSO. The Data Processing Division (DPD) has its headquarters at Kolkata and six Data Processing Centres at various places. It is responsible for sample selection, software development, processing and tabulating the data. The Coordination and Publication Division (CPD) functions as the secretariat of the Governing Council of the NSSO. Apart from coordinating the activities of different Divisions, it brings out the bi-annual journal of NSSO "Sarvekshana".

### Governing Council

4.2. Governing Council of NSSO held its 90<sup>th</sup> & 91<sup>st</sup> meetings in March and July 2005 under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.D.Tendulkar. In these meetings the Council approved the Sample Design and Schedules of Enquiry for the 62<sup>nd</sup> round of National Sample Survey; constituted the editorial board of 'Sarvekshana' under Prof. Dipankar Coondoo of Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata; approved the Tabulation Plan and Estimation Procedure for the Baseline Survey conducted for the UNICEF; approved the subjects to be covered for the NSS round 63<sup>rd</sup> round. The Council also approved the proposal of Central Statistical Organisation for undertaking Family Living Survey.

### Working Groups

4.3 To provide the necessary technical inputs for the various surveys of NSSO, the Governing Council constituted several working groups. The Working Group for the 62<sup>nd</sup> round of NSS on Unorganised Manufacturing enterprises held its second meeting in February 2005 and the Sample Design and Schedules of Enquiry were finalised. The first meeting of the Working Group on NSS 63<sup>rd</sup> round survey on Unorganised Service Sector enterprises was held under the Chairmanship of Prof. A.K. Adhikari. The meeting discussed the frame to be used for the survey, sampling design and schedules of enquiry for this survey. The second meeting of this Working Group is expected to finalise survey methodology and other aspects of the survey in January. A Working Group for the conduct of the Family Living Survey was also

constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi to provide the technical guidance for undertaking the survey.

## **Socio-Economic Surveys – On going Rounds**

### **NSS 59<sup>th</sup> Round**

4.4 The NSS 59<sup>th</sup> round (January – December 2003) was for collection of data on Land and Livestock holdings; Debt and Investment and Household Consumer Expenditure and Employment-unemployment. On behalf of Union Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation the “Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers” was also conducted during this round. Following reports were released during the year.

- (i) Report No.490: Employment and Un-employment Situation and Consumer Expenditure in India
- (ii) Report No.495: Consumption Expenditure of Farmer Households.
- (iii) Report No.496: Some Aspect of Farming.
- (iv) Report No. 497: Income, Expenditure and Productive Assets of Farmer Household.
- (v) Report No.498: Indebtedness of Farmer Household.
- (vi) Report No.499: Access to Modern Technology for Farming.
- (vii) Report No.500: Household Assets and Liabilities in India.
- (viii) Report No. 501: Household indebtedness in India as on 30.6.2002.

4.5 The following reports of this Round are expected to be released by March 2006.

- (i) Report No.491: Household Ownership Holdings in India.
- (ii) Report No.492; Some Aspects of Operational Land Holdings in India.
- (iii) Report No.493; Live Stock Holdings In India.
- (iv) Report No.494: Seasonal Variation in the Operational Land Holdings In India.
- (v) Report No.502; Household Borrowings and Repayments.
- (vi) Report No.503; Household Assets Holdings and Indebtedness by Social Group.
- (vii) Report No.504; Household Capital Expenditure.

### **NSS 60<sup>th</sup> Round**

4.6 The 60<sup>th</sup> Round of NSS (January-June 2004) covered the subjects of Morbidity and Health Care, Employment and Unemployment and Household Consumer Expenditure. The following two reports were released in November 2005.

- (i) Report No.505; Household Consumer Expenditure.
- (ii) Report No.506; Employment and Un-employment Situation in India.

The third and last report on Morbidity and Health Care and Conditions of Aged Persons is expected to be released by March 2006.

### **NSS 61<sup>st</sup> Round**

The seventh quinquennial survey on Consumer Expenditure, Employment and unemployment (NSS61<sup>st</sup> round) was conducted during July 2004 June 2005. A total of 12,784 sample villages/urban blocks were covered in this survey. The Planning Commission uses consumer expenditure

data collected through quinquennial surveys for estimating incidence of poverty. Fieldwork for this survey has been completed and the data entry, scrutiny, preparation of multiplier files and trial tables is in progress.

### **NSS 62<sup>nd</sup> Round**

4.8 The 62<sup>nd</sup> round of NSS (July 2005 – June 2006) is on ‘Un-organised Manufacturing enterprises’. Apart from this main topic, the annual survey on household consumer expenditure and employment unemployment is also carried out in a thin sample of households. In this survey the areal frame of first stage units will be used in conjunction with a list frame of large unregistered manufacturing enterprises. The coverage of the areal frame will be 4702 villages in the rural sector and 5024 urban blocks.

### **NSS 63<sup>rd</sup> Round**

4.9 The 63<sup>rd</sup> round of NSS starting from July 2006 will focus on “Un-organized Services Enterprises” (Excluding trade) along with the annual survey on Household Consumer Expenditure and Employment Un-Employment. Preparatory work for this round has commenced and a working group is going in to the technical aspects of the survey.

### **“Sarvekshana” and Other reports**

4.10 Based on the special survey undertaken in six districts of the country during September 2003 to February 2004 for the World Food Programme, a special report on Food Security was released in July 2005.

4.11 NSSO took up a three-month survey on well being of children and women for UNICEF from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2005. The survey was conducted in 60 sample villages in each of the selected 43 districts covering 14 States. Overall 2580 villages were covered in this survey. Data entry and data validation and tabulation of data are under progress.

4.12 The 88<sup>th</sup> issue of ‘Sarvekshana’ containing an Integrated Summary of Employment & Unemployment Survey Results, NSS 55<sup>th</sup> Round (July 1999 – June 2000) is under print.

### **Agricultural Statistics**

4.13 In order to improve the quality of the agricultural statistics, a scheme called “Improvement of Crop Statistics” is in operation for quite sometime. The salient feature of the ICS scheme is to locate deficiencies in the collection of crop statistics through joint efforts of Central and State agencies and to suggest suitable remedial measures. Under this scheme, the Field Operations Division of NSSO undertakes sample check of the primary fieldwork relating to area enumeration and area aggregation of over 5000 villages in each agriculture season and supervises about 16000 crop cutting experiments in each agricultural year. The findings of the ICS scheme are brought out in the form of reports on Review of Crop Statistics System in States. Based on the data contained in the Crop Estimation Surveys conducted in the States every year a report titled ‘Consolidated Results of Crop Estimation Surveys on Principal Crops’ is brought out. This report for the year 2002-2003 has been published. In addition, sample check on aggregation of area figures at Tehsil, District and State level are also undertaken in 16 Land Record States. 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 for the States covered under the ICS scheme. Estimates of yield rate for as many as 130 crops Year 2004-2005 and one crop for the year 2005-06 were forwarded to the Union Ministry of Agriculture.

4.14 In the Agricultural Year 2005-2006, checking of area enumeration was completed in 5938 villages during early Kharif and Kharif season till December 2005. For Rabi season out of the 4649 villages selected for checking, 47 have been completed till December 2005. Work relating to Aggregation of Area has been completed 3151 villages during Early Kharif and Kharif till December. A total of 7829 crop cutting experiments in the Early Kharif and Kharif seasons were supervised up to December 2005. For Rabi season of the agricultural year 2005-06, checking of crop cutting will be done in 5210 villages.

4.15 In order to improve the coordination between different agencies in the field of agricultural statistics, High Level Coordination Committees (HLCC) have been formed in the States. HLCC meetings have been held in Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab and West Bengal. In addition to HLCC, District Level Committees (DLC) are also functioning for bringing sustained improvement in the quality of Agricultural Statistics. These committees are entrusted with the task of examining the reasons for large variations in the entries recorded by the state level staff and as observed by Central/State supervisors during sample check.

## **Urban Frame Survey**

4.16 Urban Frame Survey (UFS) is conducted on a continuing basis to provide an updated frame of First Stage Units (FSUs) for conducting Socio-Economic enquiries in urban areas. The UFS blocks are updated taking into account the change in the population of cities and towns and also in newly formed towns. Each town / city is divided into compact areal UFS blocks with clear cut identifiable boundaries and permanent land marks having a population content of 600 to 800 and 120 to 180 households. The current phase 2002-2007 started in July 2002 covering a total of 3992 towns as per Census 2001. In this phase, 1743 towns comprising of 2,50,987 blocks have been updated so far. The maps prepared during the UFS are also provided free of cost to various Government Departments while charges are levied from private user agencies and research Institutions. An amount of Rs. 15.6 lakhs has been realised so far on account of sale of UFS block maps.

## **Plan Schemes**

4.17 **Survey Design and Research Division:** The SDRD operates the plan scheme 'Strengthening of Survey Design and Research Capabilities of SDRD'. In order to archive the valuable materials relating to survey schedules, instruction manuals, scrutiny programmes, tabulation plans of various rounds and NSS reports are being digitized under this scheme. This will enable easy access and fast retrieval of these materials for users.

### **4.18 Field Operations Division**

4.18.1 The FOD operates the plan scheme 'Strengthening of Field Survey Capabilities of NSSO. The main focus of the scheme is on construction/purchase of office accommodation for field offices and technological upgradation for extended use of Information Technology. Under this scheme the infrastructure in field offices and head quarters of FOD are being further developed and strengthened. During the year 2005-06, approval has been received for purchase



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Oscar Fernandes, Hon'ble former Minister of State (IC) of this Ministry inaugurated the new office complex of Data Processing Centre at Nagpur on 20.3.2005.



Shri Oscar Fernandes, Hon'ble former Minister of State (IC) of this Ministry inaugurated the National Seminar on the Situation Assessment Survey of Indian Farmers (NSS 59<sup>th</sup> Round) on 17 October, 2005 at Kolkata.

of land for Regional office at Ahmedabad and Sub-regional office at Meerut, and construction of office building at Zonal Office and Regional Office Lucknow, Regional Office at Ajmer, Sub-regional Office at Mangalore and for improvement of office building at Delhi Headquarter. Proposals for purchase/construction/renovation of office building at Goa, Agra, Dibrugarh, Bangalore Nagpur, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Kochi, Nasik, and Jodhpur are in the pipeline for sanction. Similarly under technological upgradation for extended use of Information Technology, proposals for procurement of 98 computers/peripherals and Software for Field Offices/Hqrs. and Laptop, PCs for Zonal Centers of FOD have been cleared.

4.18.2 FOD component in the Plan Scheme of CSO namely 'Improvement of Informal Sector Statistics and Publication' is staff oriented comprising of 15 Superintendents and 75 Investigators to carry out the field surveys.

#### **4.19 Data Processing Division**

4.19.1 The DPD operates the plan scheme *Strengthening of Data Processing Capabilities of NSSO* in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. This scheme has the three components, viz. (i) construction of office building for NSSO at Kolkata; (ii) upgradation of computer system for accelerating data processing; and (iii) rationalization of Data Processing Facilities. The component '*Construction of office building for NSSO at Kolkata*' includes the construction of the NSSO hostel in the premises of Mahalanobis Bhavan, Kolkata. The component *Up gradation of computer system for accelerating data processing* will enable DPD to upgrade hardware and software capabilities to take advantage of the new technological advancements in information and communication. Development of structured LAN at DPD Headquarter is already under progress and the network is expected to be commissioned shortly. The component *Rationalisation of Data Processing Facilities* is intended for the smooth functioning of the two new centres at Ahmedabad and Bangalore.

4.19.2 During the year the Offices of the Data Processing center at Nagpur was shifted to the new premises in the Central Government Office Complex located in the Seminary Hills, Nagpur. The new office inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister Shri Oscar Fernandes is spread over an area of 15000 sq. feet, has adequate space and is equipped with the latest data processing facilities.

**4.20 Coordination and Publication Division:** The CPD is operating two plan schemes, namely, (i) Grants-in-aid to specified North Eastern states for carrying out the NSS field work and (ii) Strengthening and Modernisation of NSS Publication and Data Dissemination. The grants-in-aid enable the Northeastern States including Sikkim to undertake the work relating to central sample of the NSS in those states where the fieldwork is undertaken by the state staff on behalf of the NSSO besides completing the work of the state samples. During the year an amount of Rs.139.74 lakhs has been released as grants-in-aid to the Northeastern States.

#### **Seminars and Training**

4.21 National Seminar on the survey results of NSS 59<sup>th</sup> round on Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers was organised on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2005 in Kolkata. Twenty technical papers were presented in the seminar. Eminent academicians, survey practitioners and official statisticians attended the seminar.

4.22 Training of staff and officers is an area of priority in the NSSO. All the ISS Officers of NSSO are regularly deputed to attend the in-service training courses organised by the Training Division of CSO for ISS Officers. Shri S. Gupta, Joint Director, SDRD attended a Course in sample surveys organised by Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific (SIAP) in Tehran, Iran. The knowledge and skill of the field staff are honed up through organization of regular refresher courses for them and to achieve those objectives, a training center have been set up in each of the six zones. These Training Centres conduct different types of programmes for different categories of staff as per the functional requirements of the field staff on a regular basis. During the year 2005-06 till December, 548 field staff of different categories were trained in the zonal training centres.

4.23 DPD organised regular training programs on software for processing and tabulation of state sample data of various NSS rounds to the Statistical staff of Directorate of Economics and Statistics of different states.