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PREFACE

The Indian Statistical System has, over the years, built an elaborate statistical infrastructure to capture a wide variety of data generated by the very large and diversified economy. The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) is the nodal agency of the Government of India for coordination of all statistical activities and integrated development of the statistical system of the country.

CSO has the responsibility of dissemination of statistics relating not only to its own functions but also in all areas coming within its broader mandate. In particular, the Research and Publication Unit (RPU) of CSO brings out annual and monthly publications, which cover data on all sectors of the economy. This unit is also entrusted with the responsibility of supply of data to various national and international agencies.

Though the publications of RPU as well as statistical publications of various ministries/departments of Government of India contain time-series data, these are normally limited to a few years only. There has been a persistent demand from data users for a long time-series data set for analytical purposes. Compilation of time-series data is a stupendous job as it involves consulting various publications and line Ministries for the back series, and also in ensuring consistency of the data. A new initiative has been taken by RPU to consolidate the data for last 50 to 60 years (or as available) at one place. This will help the policy makers and researchers for detailed analysis of performance of economy.

The present publication viz. "Compendium of Selected Indicators of Indian Economy-Special Issue of Time-series Data-Volume I-Economic Sector" covers data relating to 11 Sub-sectors i.e. Agriculture & Allied Activities, Mining & Quarrying, Manufacturing, Power, Trade & Balance of Payments, Transport, Post & Telecommunication, Banking, Insurance, Joint Stock Companies and Public Finance. Efforts have been made to incorporate the latest available data. Further, the publication contains charts and graphs and highlights of performance of the economy based on the data.

The initiative taken by Smt. Madhu Bala, Additional Director General and Shri V. Parameswaran, Deputy Director General and the commendable job done by them and the team of officers and staff of RPU in preparing this valuable publication deserve appreciation.

I am sure that this publication would be very useful to all.

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