

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure Statistics (SCINS) held on 16.12.08

First Meeting of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure Statistics (SCINS) was held on 16.12.08 under the chairmanship of Shri S. K. Das, Director General, Central Statistical Organisation. List of participants is at Annex-1.

Shri D. Sahoo, Deputy Director General, of the Economics Statistics Division of CSO, briefed the participants on importance and status of the Infrastructure Statistics in India. He mentioned that availability of quality infrastructure is critical for sustainable economic development and availability of quality Infrastructure Statistics would facilitate right choices and prioritization for development of various infrastructure components(items).

Shri D. Sahoo mentioned that the notion of infrastructure varies from person to person and time to time depending on the circumstances. He highlighted the existing notions of Infrastructure,(which is mainly in terms of coverage of sectors/ items(annex 2)), as mentioned in the, National Statistical Commission headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan in its Report in 2001, Planning Commission's (Committee on Infrastructure) paper on 'Definition of Infrastructure', M/o Finance-Economic Survey, Infrastructure Index- M/o Industry and Review of Infrastructure Sector Performance - M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Shri D. Sahoo further pointed out that notion of infrastructure followed in Statistical reporting in the country does not have theoretical basis. Reporting agencies often equate basic industry with infrastructure. Reporting mostly pertains to performance, which is expressed in terms of physical and financial targets and achievements. There is lack of consistency and harmony in concepts and definitions followed by different agencies. Data dissemination is scattered and is not easily accessible.

Accordingly as suggested by the National Statistical Commission headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Economic Statistics Division in the Central Statistical Organisation, M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation has taken up the task of bringing out an "Annual Publication on Infrastructure Statistics". Further the Standing Committee on Infrastructure Statistics has been constituted to guide the work of compilation of infrastructure statistics and to suggest improvements in view of international practices, recommendations made by other expert bodies and to satisfy the domestic requirements of planners and policy makers at different levels.

Shri D. Sahoo explained that for the purpose of compilation of this publication, ESD has adopted the following working definition of Infrastructure from 'Wikipedia';

"Infrastructure may be defined as the man made enabling factors, developed and operated by private sector or government/public sector, for improvement of productivity growth and for enhancing and sustaining the socio-economic development and human well being. It may be referred to those structural elements, physical, institutional or intellectual, that

provide the framework for supporting the entire structure whether it is a city, the nation or corporation”.

The coverage of sectors for compilation of infrastructure indicators is as proposed below:

Coverage of Sectors

Keeping the Rangarajan Commission recommendations in the background, existing national and international practices and based on the published/available data for various sectors; an attempt has been made to evolve a format for compilation of infrastructure Statistics by taking the following sectors:

ENERGY

1. Coal
2. Petroleum and Natural Gas
3. Electricity
4. New and Renewable Energy Sources

TRANSPORT

- 5 Road
- 6 Railway
- 7 Civil Aviation
- 8 Port and Shipping
- 9 Inland Water

10 SANITATION & WATER SUPPLY

11 TELECOMMUNICATION

12 POSTS

13 IRRIGATION

Lastly he requested that the **STANDING COMMITTEE MAY CONSIDER PROPOSED COVERAGE OF SECTORS AND COVERAGE OF INDICATORS, IN EACH OF THE SECTOR BEING TAKEN; FOR THEIR APPROVAL.**

DG, CSO, requested that the members may now give their views on the presentation and draft tabulation plan one by one.

Representative from Planning Commission informed that the COI in their meeting held on 2 April, 2008, have revised the definition of Infrastructure, to include street lighting and Renovation and Modernisation of the Power plants. But issue of inclusion of 'public transport' in the transport infrastructure is still outstanding and the concerned ministry is to submit a background note on it. The same is still awaited.

The representative from M/o Water Resources informed that revised definition of "irrigation infrastructure", is still being debated.

DIPP, NAD and Planning Commission representatives objected to 'coal' being included as infrastructure. It was clarified that 'coal' is included as sector under 'Energy Infrastructure'. It was further pointed out that 'Definition of Infrastructure' and 'coverage of items', under Infrastructure Statistics Publication may be taken separately. The publication may be designed to cater to wider user base.

DIPP representative desired that periodicity of publication may be less than one year. It was pointed out that the same is not feasible at this juncture due to data availability constraints.

Finance Ministry representative pointed out that private sector investments must be separately captured in the publication. It was informed that private investment wherever available has been included.

M/o Civil Aviation representative pointed out that with privatization, data collection is becoming more difficult. To this CEA representative added that after enactment of the "Electricity Act" compliance is very good from the private sector.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry representative mentioned that company-wise and component-wise financial data, is not available.

DG, CSO recommended that a subcommittee may be constituted under ADG, Economic Statistics Division, CSO, with Planning Commission, M/o Finance and DIPP as members to evolve agreed coverage of sectors and items under Infrastructure Statistics. Meanwhile the nodal ministries can examine the draft tabulation plan and submit their comments to CSO within one month.

List of Participants

- 1) Shri S. K. Das, Director General, Central Statistical Organisation
- 2) Shri Ramesh Kolli, Additional Director General, NAD, CSO
- 3) Ms. Vandana Aggarwal, Director,
- 4) H. P. Kannaujia, Dy. Adviser, Secretariat for Committee on Infrastructure, Planning Commission
- 5) Shri Ashwani Tripathi, Director, Department of Statistical Analysis & Computer Services, Reserve Bank of India
- 6) Ms. Prathibha A., Deputy Director(PPP), Infrastructure Division, D/o Economic Affairs, M/o Finance
- 7) Ms. Preeti Madan, Economic Adviser, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Industry & Commerce, New Delhi.
- 8) Sh. A. Panda, Director, Representative M/o Coal
- 9) V. Ethiraj, NBO, M/o Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
- 10) Sh. L. R. Joshi, Joint General Manager, AAI, M/o Civil Aviation,
- 11) Sh. S. K. Chauhan, Manager(Cargo), AAI, M/o Civil Aviation,
- 12) Sh. Ajay Srivastava, Dy. Economic Adviser, D/o Telecommunications
- 13) Sh. Amarjeet Singh, Chief Engineer(DMLF), CEA, Ministry of Power
- 14) Sh. R. K. Goel, Dy. Director, CEA, Ministry of Power

- 15) Ms. Aditi S. Ray, Economic Adviser, M/o Urban Development
- 16) Sh. Sukhvir Singh, Joint Director, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
- 17) Sh. S. R. Meena, Director(RC), M/o Rural Development
- 18) Sh. A. K. Srivastava, Director(Stat), Minor Irrigation Wing, M/o Water Resources
- 19) Sh. S. Arputhaswamy, Dy. Director, Department of Information Technology
- 20) Ms. Vidushi Chaturvedi, Director(Costs), D/o Posts
- 21) Sh. Raj Lal Sharma, ADG(Statistics), D/o Posts
- 22) Sh. M. M. Hasija, Director, Representative Transport Research Wing, M/o Shipping Road Transport and Highways
- 23) Shri Vijay Kumar, Additional Director General, ESD, CSO
- 24) Shri D. Sahoo, Dy. Director General, ESD, CSO
- 25) Ms. Malti Devi Negi, Director, ESD, CSO