

### **Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure Statistics (SCINS) held on 9.9.10**

The third meeting of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure Statistics (SCINS) was held on 9.9.10 under the chairmanship of Shri S. K. Das, Director General, Central Statistical Office. The list of participants is given at Annex-1.

Shri Ashish Kumar, ADG(ESD), welcomed the participants and explained the issues on the agenda for discussion. He mentioned that in the first meeting of SCINS held in December 2008, decision was taken to constitute a subgroup on infrastructure statistics, under the chairmanship of Shri Vijay Kumar the then ADG(ESD), to determine the coverage of subsectors under infrastructure. The subgroup constituted of representatives from Secretariat of the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCoI) of the Planning Commission, M/o inance, RBI and DIPP. The subgroup decided that all the items in the list of CCoI, Planning Commission may be included under infrastructure, viz. i) Electricity (including generation, transmission and distribution) and R&M (renovation and modernization) of power stations, (ii) Non-Conventional Energy (including wind energy and solar energy), (iii) Water supply and sanitation (including solid waste management, drainage and sewerage) and street lighting, (iv) Telecommunications, (v) Road & bridges, (vi) Ports, (vii) Inland waterways, (viii) Airports, (ix) Railways (including rolling stock and mass transit system), (x) Irrigation (including watershed development), (xi) Storage, (xii) Oil and gas pipeline networks; and further it was also decided to include 'postal communications' in the "communication sector" and 'coal reserves' under 'electricity generation'.

ADG(ESD) further informed that based on the decision of the subgroup, Economic Statistics Division of CSO prepared the outline and chapter plan for "Infrastructure Statistics" publication, which was presented to the SCINS in its second meeting held in February, 2009. The proposed outline of the publication was agreed and it was decided that CSO may proceed with the publication based on the available data. Accordingly the draft publication has now been prepared and copies have been circulated amongst the members. He requested Shri S. K. Das, chairman SCINS, to guide the Committee in its further deliberations.

#### **Agenda Item 1. Presentation on Draft publication "Infrastructure Statistics 2010"**

The chairman of the Committee, DG, CSO, said that he hoped that members, might have gone through the draft document. He informed that there was a short presentation on the document by ESD, after which they may give their suggestions for corrections, additions, deletions etc.

Ms. Malti Devi Negi, DDG, ESD, gave a short presentation on content of the draft publication. She said that for the purpose of the publication, the items/ subsectors finalized by the subgroup on infrastructure statistics, have been classified under six broad sectors, viz. Transport, Energy, Communication, Sanitation and water supply, Irrigation and Storage; which have been further divided in to 14 subsectors. The Names of the subsectors, which are also chapter headings( 1.Road Transport , 2.Rail Transport, 3.IWT Transport, 4.Sea & Coastal Transport, 5.Air Transport, 6. Mining & Quarrying,7.Petroleum and Natural Gas Extraction, 8. Electricity including NRE 9.Telecom, 10. Post 11. Sanitation, 12. Drinking Water Supply 13. Irrigation 14. Storage) have been kept in concordance with National Industrial Classification 2008, to facilitate any classificatory analysis of infrastructure development or investments etc. by the data users.

She mentioned that under each subsector data on infrastructure items (as finalized in 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of SCINS held in February, 2009) has been classified and analysed based on indicators of Accessibility, Quality, Fiscal cost, Utilisation and Affordability.

The presentation was ended with some key data highlights.

All the participants, especially representatives from CoI, Planning commission and RBI, expressed their appreciation over bringing out of the first publication on the subject, which was long awaited and mentioned that the format of the publication is suitable for users and policy makers.

**Chairman requested the members to give their comments within one week, for them to be included in the current publication.**

The representative from M/o Urban Development said, he will try to give data for the items pertaining to drinking water supply and sanitation infrastructure, which have been reported not available in the current draft. He requested that the necessary data format may be sent to him. However he mentioned that collection of data on sanitation and water supply involves a large number of agencies, it would be very difficult to coordinate among them. To this representative from CCoI responded that in each ministry a PPP cell has been created and they are responsible for coordinating data on infrastructure items, from private, public and government sources.

Representatives from M/o New and Renewable energy and Transport Research Wing were of the view that rolling stock , which is tradeable, should not be listed under infrastructure, particularly the privately owned vehicles. Shri D. Sahoo, DDG, NSSO, earlier DDG, ESD, explained, that this had been done as per the recommendations of the National Statistical Commission, by applying various criteria/ characteristics of economic infrastructure. Moreover giving data only on road length does not give any policy implications. To make the compilation more meaningful for the decision makers data has been compiled on indicators of Accessibility, Quality, Fiscal Cost, Utilisation and Affordability.

Shri Narayan, Joint Adviser from IPMD expressed his doubt that in rail length, length of track meant for special projects may not be included. ADG, ESD said that this would be got clarified from M/o Railways.

Representative from RBI, pointed out that capacity indicators for various sectors need be included. However Shri Hasija from TRW mentioned that it would be very difficult to estimate how much traffic can be carried on the existing road length, it would depend on vehicle size and speed both. Source ministries ( especially representative from DGCA) assured that they will look in to the matter and try to find out what ever information was available

**Representative from M/o New and Renewable Energy pointed out that table on distributed renewable power systems may be deleted as the main contribution to power generation is of grid connected systems. Contribution of distributed renewable power systems, which are generally privately owned for self consumption is very very small. The same was agreed by the committee.**

## **Agenda Item 2. Definition of Infrastructure**

The Chairman Shri S. K. Das, next introduced the second agenda item pertaining to definition of infrastructure by ministry of Finance, IPMD and SCINS. He mentioned that in a recent communication from Finance Secy. M/o Finance(MOF) a note has been received on “Towards a harmonized definition of infrastructure”, in which Ministry of Finance has drawn up an indicative list of 20 infrastructure Sub Sectors including; **(Transport)** (1)Roads and bridges, (2)Ports, (3)Inland Waterways, (4)Airports, (5) Railway Track, (6)Urban Public Transport (Rail Based), **(Energy)** (7) Electricity Transmission, (8) Electricity Distribution, (9)Electricity Generation, (10) Oil Pipe lines, (11)Gas Pipelines,**(Water & Sanitation)** (12) Solid Waste Management (treatment), (13)water supply pipelines, (14)Water treatment plants, (15) Sewerage pipeline, (16)Irrigation(dams, channels etc.), **(Communication)** (17)Telecommunications (Fixed network), **(Social and Commercial Infrastructure)** (18)Education institutions (capital stock), (19)Hospitals (capital stock), (20)Common infrastructure for industrial parks, SEZ and tourism facilities

Chairman informed that in MOF note it has been further mentioned that each agency involved with infrastructure in any manner can pick up a sub set of the sub Sectors out of the specified list of 20, for its particular usage. Further IPMD which is part of MOSPI has a different coverage than SCINS coverage. He invited comments from the members.

ADG, ESD, said that our view on the matter was that *as far as CSO is concerned, our list of infrastructure items can not be a subset of that specified by MOF. The prime objective of CSO, as per the recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission report is to compile data on infrastructure items for planning purposes. CSO coverage of infrastructure should rather be the superset, in which, we may include all items, as have been classified*

*as infrastructure by any of the major stakeholders. Further being the NSO we have to take in to account the international practices of data compilation /reporting on infrastructure items.*

To this representative from CCoI said that in his view CCoI is the, highest body on this and they have already decided on the list of infrastructure subsectors, which has already been circulated. Representative from IPMD mentioned that their purpose was of monitoring production performance of the infrastructure sector industries, which is different from the purpose of the present publication, which has a wider scope. Hence the two coverages need not be same. However coverage under infrastructure is dynamic, their list needs to be modified. For example Cement, Fertiliser and Steel are no longer infrastructure subsectors. They shall soon review their list of items included in infrastructure which presently comprises of Power, Coal, Steel, Cement, Fertilizers, Petroleum, Roads, Railway, Ports, Civil Aviation and Telecommunications. **It was agreed that coverage of CSO publication on “Infrastructure Statistics” would be based on decision taken in SCINS of which M/o Finance is also a member.**

Representative from CCoI requested that information on investment in infrastructure should be included in the publication. For this purpose , he handed over a format on investment ( Public, Private) in infrastructure sectors. He said that such data was available in Planning Commission and would be provided.

### **Agenda Item 3. “Infrastructure Statistics 2011”**

Chairman informed that the third agenda item was to decide on the periodicity of Infrastructure Statistics publication. ADG, ESD said that data on infrastructure items will not change much on annual basis, hence the publication may be brought out on bi-annual basis or once in five years with a capsule report on annual basis. **Representative from CCoI said that till the format of the publication stabilizes, it may be brought out on annual basis. The proposal was supported by all the members. The members assured that in future data shall be provided in softcopy in specified formats to expedite and simplify the procedure of compilation. It was also suggested that a web based system for providing the information may be developed.**

### **Agenda Item 4. Preparation of Manual on Infrastructure Statistics**

Chairman informed the members that in the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Central and State Statistical Organisations (COCSSO) held in December 2008, it has been decided to prepare a Manual on Infrastructure Statistics to assist the State Governments in compilation of State level infrastructure statistics. A task force had been constituted for this purpose. He said members of SCINS may give their views on this matter before the matter is taken up in the Task Force meeting.

Shri M. M. Hasija, representative from TRW informed that they were attempting a manual on concepts and definitions for compilation of information on Ports. Such a manual can only be brought out by subject matter ministries and not by CSO. However the same may not be required by States for compilation of infrastructure statistics. Guidelines giving list of data sources, data formats and meta data should serve the purpose.

Representative from DGCA said that their ministry also has its technical manual of concepts and definitions. **ADG, ESD opined that a data compilers manual can be attempted. The proposal was agreed and DG, CSO said that further details may be worked out in the meeting of the Task Force.**

While concluding the discussions the Chairman thanked the members for their participation and their cooperation in bringing out the first “Infrastructure Statistics 2010” publication.