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## FOREWORD

Infrastructure facilities available in any country are now regarded as an essential part of assessing its ability to provide economic and social benefits to its people. Infrastructure is a complex concept encompassing a diversity of meanings. The concepts range from tangible like roads to intangibles like communication and purely social indicators like availability of sanitation and safe drinking water. The period of rapid economic growth has put enormous stress on the existing infrastructure in the economy and has brought out number of demands for its improvement in both availability and quality.

Growth in infrastructure is thus both an important cause of economic growth and is in turn a pre-requisite for continued rapid growth; absence of infrastructure leads to bottlenecks, loss of efficiency and creates uncertainties in planning for future growth. Thus, planning for infrastructure is one of the key elements of an effective policy framework.

For such effective infrastructure planning, there is a need for a comprehensive database in one place. This publication is a maiden effort in this direction as a major adventure. It is possible being a maiden venture that there will be number of areas, items and forms of analysis which will be required and we will address them in due course.

I congratulate the staff of Economic Statistics Division of CSO, on their effort to bring out the publication against heavy odds of staff constraints, and data supply constraints.

I hope the user community will send its valuable feedback for further improvement of the work.

(T.C.A. ANANT)  
Chief Statistician of India and  
Secretary, MOS&PI

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