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FOREWORD

In a scenario where the production and dissemination of statistics is decentralized, both vertically and laterally, there is a demand for availability of data from diverse fields, at one place. Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, being the nodal agency at the centre has taken steps to cater to such requirement. As a result, the publication – Statistical Year Book 2015 (earlier called as Statistical Abstract), provides both time series and cross sectional data covering various sectors.

The present publication (48th in the series) includes all India time series data for over a decade and State level time series data for recent years. Further, to contextualize the performance of various sectors in India, chapter wise commentary has been suitably modified to include global and domestic environment, Government policies and interventions that shape up various sectors, international comparisons, historical trends etc besides current performance. References and Sources of data have also been indicated for further analysis by users of data.

In view of the size involved and in recognition of growing concerns to reduce carbon footprints, the publication is being released only on web and shall be available on the website of the Ministry (www.mospi.nic.in).

I take this opportunity to thank all the source agencies for their cooperation in supplying the data for the publication and place on record my appreciation for officers and staff of Research and Publication Unit associated with the compilation of the Year Book. I would be glad to receive suggestions regarding improvement of the publication.

(Ashish Kumar) Director General