

STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA, HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION IN THE LOK SABHA REGARDING THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE **FOURTEENTH REPORT** OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE IN PURSUANCE OF DIRECTION 73A OF THE HON'BLE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA

I am making this statement on the implementation status of the recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance in pursuance of Direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on Finance examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2010-11 and presented / laid their Fourteenth Report to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 19.04.2010. There were 13 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action was called for on the part of the Government. The major recommendations mainly related to:

- 1) The Ministry to undertake an effective exercise for identifying the shortcomings in the mechanism of the budgetary planning and ensuring proper utilization of funds.
- 2) The concern of the Committee regarding variation in BE, RE and actual expenditure of the Ministry which is indicative of lack of objectivity on the part of the Govt. The Committee desired that effective mechanism be formulated for identifying the shortcomings and deficiencies in the existing system of budgetary planning.
- 3) The concern of the Committee regarding the work of NSC and non filling of vacant post in NSC which jeopardizes the work of National Statistical Commission.

- 4) The concern of the Committee that after the lapse of about 3 years no progress was made to accord statutory status to National Statistical Commission. The statutory status to National Statistical Commission. The statutory status of NSC will enable it to function in an independent manner for strengthening the statistical system in the country.
- 5) The concern of the Committee that the Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has failed in achieving the improvement in Indian Statistical System.
- 6) The desire of the Committee that concrete action be taken for pursuing all the Ministries / Departments for expeditious furnishing of all inputs to the National Statistical Commission so as to enable the Commission in preparing National Statistical Commission.
- 7) The concern of the Committee that Ministry would spare no effort in completing the work of bringing out the new series price indices. The new series of Nation wide Consumer price index for urban and rural areas would be a prelude in formulating a National Consume Price Index.
- 8) The concern of the Committee that as proposed in their Sixth Report for entrusting the work of coordinating and releasing various price indices to a single nodal agency be pursued in consultation with National Statistical Commission.
- 9) The concern of the Committee regarding non-utilisation of fund allocated by World Bank against ISSP. The project aimed at strengthening the Statistical system of the country as a whole and have been languishing for long time for non-utilisation of the funds.

10) The concern of the Committee that lack of promotional avenues leading to large attrition and subsequent shortage of manpower and need on the part of the Ministry to take suitable action to check the attrition rate and hence the shortage of manpower.

11) The suggestion of the Committee that subject of statistics can be made part of the curriculum and the other subjects offered by the universities considering importance of statistics in various areas. The Committee emphasized on evolving a mechanism for having training programme in campuses and institution across the country so that people will, even from remote corners where unemployment is rampant, may secure jobs.

12) The concern of the Committee that the performance of most of the infrastructure sectors are lagging behind their targets and the reason for inability to achieve the set targets be examined and analyzed for proper remedial measure.

13) The concern of the Committee regarding time overrun by the projects of value based which also leads to substantial cost overruns. The Committee has expressed his concerned regarding pathetic situation which needs to be addressed quickly. The Committee also desires that its displeasure in this regard be communicated to the Ministry of Railways for taking corrective measures.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Hon'ble Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement which is laid on the Table of the House.

I would not like to take the valuable time of the house in reading the contents of the Annexure. Hence, I would request that this may be considered as read.

Action taken by Government on the recommendation contained in the Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Rec. No.	Recommendation/Observation of the Committee	Reply
1.	<p>The Committee note with concern the persistent shortfall in the plan expenditure of the Ministry as compared to the budgeted estimates which has been to the extent of Rs.27.76 crore (33%) in 2006-07, Rs.26.00 crore (28%) in 2007-08, Rs.66.15 crore in 2008-09 (51%) and Rs. 137.41 crore in 2009-10 (60%). Taking note of the continued underutilization of the budgeted planned funds, the Committee had, in their 4th Report on Demands For Grants (2009-10), inter-alia emphasized the need for undertaking an effective exercise for identifying the shortcomings in the mechanism of budgetary planning and ensuring proper utilization of funds. Regrettably, however, no special efforts appear to have been taken by the Ministry in this regard with the position having deteriorated further, mainly due to shortage of manpower and slippages in implementing schemes which have a significant bearing on the accuracy and credibility of statistical data. For instance, the entire amount of Rs.30.00 crore for the year 2008-09 and Rs.100.00 crore for the year 2009-10 earmarked for the India Statistical Strengthening Project was left unutilized for want of requisite approvals for implementing the scheme. And, a budgetary allocation of</p>	<p>In so far India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) for the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10 is concerned, the funds' provisioning kept at the BE and RE stages under the ISSP for the year 2009-10 was done in a pro-active measure, under the anticipation that there may not be any serious delays/time overruns in the completion of the required procedures, formalities and process of approvals at the ends of both the Central and State/UT Governments concerned. However, subsequent events/project progress during these periods as they evolved and unfolded were not in conformity with the initial assumptions made earlier by the MOS&PI while making the applicable BE/RE stage funding requirement/estimates of funds for the ISSP for the year 2009-10. As things eventually turned out to be subsequently, it was observed that in many States/UTs, there was a significant time overshoot (as compared to the earlier expectations) in the completion of required pre-project approval related activities under the ISSP Project at the end of the concerned State/UT Governments, which had to go through and complete a number of procedural requirements and approval processes, which unfortunately had resulted in some significant delays as compared to the earlier expectations regarding the likely pace of progress of the project.</p> <p>In order to avoid repetition of such undesirable situations in future, the progress on the implementation of the Project as also on the</p>

<p>Rs.100.00 has once again been made for the scheme for the year 2010-11. Similarly, the scheme, Basic Statistics for Local Level Development could not be launched as a full-fledged centrally sponsored scheme so far with a substantial portion of the budgeted funds of Rs.5.00 crore each for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09, and Rs.12.00 crore for the year 2009-10 remaining unutilized. Recurrent and substantial underutilization of the budget allocation as well as sharp variations in the budget and revised estimates have also been witnessed under certain plan heads which include, Strengthening of Computer Centre, 'Capacity Development' and 'Strengthening monitoring and Evaluation for Projects and Programmes'. The budget estimate for Rs.14.70 crore and Rs.25.00 crore made for the 'Computer Centre' in the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively to Rs.7.84 crore and Rs.15.30 crore at the stage of revised estimates and the funds finally remained substantially unutilized.</p>	<p>utilization of funds allocated for the Project viz. ISSP are now being periodically reviewed and assessed at the levels of both the Government of India and the States/Union Territories participating in the project. At the Government of India level, the High Level Steering Committee on the ISSP set up under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Statistics and Programme Implementation), Government of India has been meeting periodically, as may be required, to assess and review, among other things, the progress of the implementation of the Project in various States/UTs participating in the Project. This apart, the Secretariat to the Project Support Group (PSG) has also, as a part of its regular interactions with the concerned implementing agencies in the States/UTs, been pursuing this vitally important issue of timely implementation and proper and effective utilization of the funds released to the States/UTs under the Project. Besides these, the Annual Conference of Central & State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) has also been reviewing the progress on the ISSP annually, as a permanent agenda item year after year. Also, on the side of the participating States/UTs as well, the progress in regard to the formulation and implementation of the project and the utilization of funds allocated there for are reviewed, from time to time, by the concerned State High Level Steering Committees (SHLSCs) set up on the ISSP, under the Chairmanship of the concerned Chief Secretaries/Administrators.</p> <p>Basic Statistics for Local Level Development (BSLLD):</p> <p>"The funds allocated in 2007-08 under the Pilot scheme on BSLLD could not be released to States/UTs as the pilot scheme was launched</p>
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in December 2008 in 32 States / UTs covering about 500 Gram Panchayats in each State/UT. Delhi, Goa and Chandigarh did not take part in the pilot scheme (First Phase) for the reference year 2008-09/2009-10. Subsequently, two UTs viz. Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu withdrew from the pilot scheme. Thus effectively 30 States/UTs took part in the pilot scheme. All 30 participated States/UTs have submitted their reports. On the basis of the state reports, a “synthesis report” has been prepared and circulated among the stakeholders in 2011. **An amount of Rs. 3.41 crore was spent as against the approved outlay of Rs. 5 crore in 2008-09. The funds were released to States/UTs in the last quarter of the Financial Year 2008-09, so from the budget allocated for 2009-10, funds could not be released to States/UTs due to non completion of work and non-receipt of utilization certificate for the previous release of funds under the BSLLD pilot scheme.**

Presently, 24 states / UTs have started the pilot for the 2nd year in 2010-11 / 2011-12 covering the same districts. Of these States / UTs, 8 states/UTs viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu have submitted their reports for the 2nd phase of the pilot. Third phase of the implementation of pilot BSLLD scheme is in progress in 4 States: Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Sikkim.”

Computer Center:

The Budget Estimate (BE) and Revised Estimate (RE) as given in report are not correct. Actual BE and RE are as given below:

in Crore

Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate
2007-08	1.47	0.78
2008-09	2.5	1.53

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2.	<p>The increasing trend of variations in the Budgetary Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure of the Ministry is indicative of lack of objectivity on the part of the Government in ensuring proper budgetary planning and adopting a casual attitude in implementing Plan schemes. The Committee, therefore, reiterate the need on the part of the Government in devising an effective mechanism for identifying and overcoming the deficiencies in the existing system of budgetary planning for assessment of required funds and in ensuring proper utilization of allocated funds. The Committee also expect the Government to ensure that the pending schemes are finalized immediately and concerted action taken for timely and effective implementation of projects so as to add to the credibility, accuracy and timeliness of statistics. The Committee expect to be appraised of the specific action taken in this regard.</p>	<p>The reply for this recommendation is same as the reply given above for/under Recommendation No. 1</p>

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3.	<p>The Committee are constrained to note that the work of the National Statistical Commission (NSC), which was constituted in July, 2006 in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Rangarajan Commission in 2001 was stymied in the year 2009-10 owing to the vacant positions of part-time Chairman and Members. Consequently, as against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 0.84 crore made for the Commission for the year 2009-10 only an amount of Rs. 0.31 crore was expended with the studies planned not having being commissioned. The Committee emphasize the need for ensuring that important positions are not left vacant so as to ensure that the work of the National Statistical Commission is not jeopardized.</p>	<p>During the major part of the year 2011-12, all the incumbents in the National Statistical Commission (NSC) were in position and seven professional committees appointed by the NSC have completed their work. In the budget estimates (BE) for the year 2011-12, a provision of Rs. 161.44 lakhs was made for the NSC under the non-plan budget of the MOSPI, which was subsequently, reduced to Rs. 138.5 lakhs in the revised estimates (RE). It was reported that an expenditure of Rs. 103.4 lakhs was incurred during 2011-12.</p> <p>All the five part-time positions in the NSC have become vacant by 24th December 2012. The Government have appointed Dr. Pronab Sen as part-time Chairperson of the NSC. Process of filling the remaining four part-time positions is under progress.</p>

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4.	<p>The Committee further note that in pursuance of their earlier recommendation to accord statutory status to National Statistical Commission, the Ministry had informed vide their reply dated 26 July, 2007 that the matter is being submitted for Cabinet approval. However, even after the lapse of about three years, no progress has been made. The Committee reiterate that conferring statutory status would enable the National Statistical Commission to function in an independent manner for strengthening the statistical system in the country. The Committee also desire that vigorous efforts are made to ensure proper interaction and coordination in statistical matters between the various Ministries and agencies of the Government.</p>	<p>The Committee appointed by the National Statistical Commission under the chairmanship of Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon to look into legislative measures on statistical matters has submitted its report to the Commission on 27th October 2011. The Commission in its 45th meeting held on 29th & 30th October 2011 appreciated and adopted the report of the Menon Committee. The report of the Menon Committee along with the recommendations of the Commission thereof was received in this Ministry on 9th November 2011 with a request to take urgent steps to implement the recommendations. The recommendations have been processed in this Ministry and a draft National Statistical Commission Bill has <i>inter alia</i> been circulated on 22nd December 2011 to Central Ministries/ Departments and to States/ UTs for their comments. Based on the comments received, on the Bill, a draft Cabinet Note has been circulated on 9th August, 2012 to all the concerned Ministries/ State Governments and UT Administrations. Replies received from them and comments thereof of this Ministry have been compiled and the draft Cabinet Note has been updated. The updated Cabinet Note has been submitted to the Ministry of Law and Justice for its examination and vetting.</p>

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5.	<p>The committee also find it surprising that the mechanism created in the form of an Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation with a clear mandate to expedite the implementation of the recommendations made in the report of the Rangarajan Commission (2001) covering administrative and technical requirements for bringing improvement in the Indian Statistical System has failed in achieving this goal. Consequently, the National Statistical Commission has sought adequate powers for monitoring and enforcing implementation of the recommendations. The Committee desire to be kept apprised of the proposal for appointing a Standing Committee for monitoring the implementation of the Rangarajan Commission's recommendations as also the National Statistical Commission and the improvements brought about in the Indian Statistical System as a consequence of the pursuing the recommendations for implementation.</p>	<p>The Standing committee to monitor implementation of National Statistical Commission recommendations has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sudipto Mundle, Member NSC. The committee has started its functions of reviewing and monitoring the progress of implementation of various recommendations of Rangarajan Commission.</p>

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6.	<p>Identification of the areas of core statistics and evolving appropriate standards and methodology for collection of such statistics is one of the mandates of the National Statistical Commission, completion of which has been emphasized upon by the Committee in their reports presented earlier. The Committee desire that concrete action be taken for persuading all the Ministries/ Departments concerned for expeditiously furnishing all the required inputs to the National Statistical Commission so as to enable the Commission in preparing the list of 'core-statistics' and formulate the methodology for collection of such statistics without any further delay.</p>	<p>Based on the inputs received from different Ministries/ Departments, the National Statistical Commission (NSC) recommended a list of 120 statistical products as core statistics. The Commission, on the basis of the Report of Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon Committee, also recommended for mandatory regulation (including laying down statistical standards in respect of concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies etc.) of core statistics. The list of core statistics recommended by the NSC has been included in the draft National Statistical Commission Bill as the First Schedule to the Bill. The Bill provides for regulating core statistics. The draft Bill has been circulated to Central Ministries/ Departments and to States/ UTs for their comments on 22nd December, 2011. Based on the comments received on the Bill, a draft Cabinet Note has been circulated on 9th August 2012 to all the concerned Ministries/State Governments and UT Administrations. Replies received from them and comments thereof of this Ministry have been complied and the draft Cabinet Note has been updated. The updated Cabinet Note has been submitted to the Ministry of Law and Justice for its examination and vetting.</p>

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7.	<p>The Committee had, in their 4th Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry, as well as the 6th Report on Inflation and Price Rise, Inter-alia recommended expediting the work of compilation of new series of nation wide Consumer Price Index for urban and rural areas, which, as perceived by the Rengrajan Commission (NSC; 2001) would be a prelude in formulating a National Consumer Price Index (CPI). As per the current submission of the Ministry, releasing the new series of CPI (Rural) and CPI (Urban) with a revised base year, which has been in the vnvil since long is now expected by February, 2011. The Committee expects that the Ministry would spare no effort in completing this long delayed work of bringing out the new series price indices as per the schedule now indicated. The Committee also desires to be kept apprised of the progress made in this direction.</p>	<p>The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has introduced the new series of Consumer Price Indices (CPI) for all-India and States/UTs separately for rural, urban and combined with effect from January, 2011 with 2010 as the base year. Annual Inflation Rates based on this CPI series for January 2012 onwards are released every month.</p>

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8.	<p>The Committee also find that the proposal made in their Sixth report for entrusting the work of coordinating and releasing various price indices to a single nodal agency has found favour by the Ministry. The Committee desire that the proposal of having a single agency for compilation and releasing of various price indices (consumer and wholesale) with standardized parameters be pursued further in consultation with the National Statistical Commission. The Committee desire to be apprised of the steps taken in this direction.</p>	<p>The Committee, constituted by National Statistical Commission (NSC), under the chairmanship of Dr. Sudipto Mundle, Member NSC, to examine the issue of institutional arrangements for collection of prices, compilation and dissemination of Wholesale Price and Consumer Price Indices integration of data collection machinery etc. has inter- alia recommended that Integration of price collection mechanism for all the price indices should be accomplished by entrusting the task to a single agency, namely FOD of NSSO. NSC accepted the recommendations of this Committee.</p>

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9.	<p>As touched upon in the earlier section of this report, significant budgetary allocation made for the World Bank aided India Statistical Strengthening Ptoject (ISSP) which were to the extent of Rs. 30.00 crore in 2008-09 and Rs. 100.00 crore in 2009-10 remained unutilized. As per the submission now made to the Committee, the process of obtaining all mandatory approved for implementing the project for which an allocation of Rs. 100.00 crore has been earmarked (for 2010-11) is expected to be completed soon and the project launched in the near future. The Committee can not help noting here that the project, which is aimed at strengthening the statistical system of the Country as a whole has been languishing for the last eight years. Having a rigorous and reliable statistical system, which would aid in framing the policy direction being an imminent necessity, the Committee expect that, as assured by the Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the project is taken up for implementation in right earnest. Official Statistical System needs revamping from time to time in order to ensure timely collection and dissemination of reliable and credible statistical for policy formulation and</p>	<p>The Centrally Sponsored Scheme India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) could not be taken for implementation in 2008-09 and 2009-10 since a number of stipulated procedural requirements had to be gone through and completed before seeking the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). Finally, the Scheme implementation could be commenced only during the second half of the 11th Plan Period and the Ministry obtained the approval of the CCEA only on March 19, 2010 for the implementation of the Project viz. ISSP. The total outlay of this Centrally Sponsored Scheme is Rs. 650.43 crores, of which 80% is funded through a World Bank Loan and the balance 20% borne by the Government of India.</p> <p>ISSP has been formulated by Government of India to provide adequate technical and financial support to improve their statistical capacity and infrastructure for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics inter-alia for planning and policy making/review purposes, particularly at the State and Sub-State levels. This assumes greater significance in the wake of increasing thrust on devolution of planning functions and responsibilities at the State and Sub-</p>

<p>planning-both at National level and State level. The system has to be reviewed and redefined according to the data needs of the country as a whole by usage of latest methods and modern technology. The Committee, therefore, expect that the project would be focused on building a strong statistical system with adequate and trained manpower in each Ministry/Department for maintaining and disseminating credible and reliable statistics. The Committee expect to be apprised of the Ministry's plan of action and progress in implementing the India Statistical Strengthening Project.</p>	<p>State Levels, and is extremely crucial from the point of view of developing an Integrated Statistical System in the country.</p> <p>As regards the Ministry's action plan for implementing the project, it is to be mentioned that the works of preparation of State Strategic Statistical Plans (SSSPs) and signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of India and the participating States/UTs, on a case-specific basis and release of funds thereon were intensively taken up during 2010-11 and 2011-12 and being continued during the current year viz. 2012-13 as well. Apart from the various institutional mechanisms which were mentioned in the earlier reply given in the Recommendation No. 9 of the 14th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demand for Grants (2010-2011) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOS&PI), the following are some of the other measures also have been designed and created under the ISSP Project to achieve the requisite objectives and goals of the Project:</p> <p>As per the directions and guidance of the Steering Committee, some Workshops also have been conducted inter-alia, to review and monitor the progress of the Project from time to time. So far, MOS&PI has conducted several National/Sub-National level Workshops at different regions of the country and recently viz. during July 20 & 21, 2012, a National level Workshop was</p>
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		<p>conducted to take stock of the progress so far on the implementation of the India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) in the participating States/UTs, as at the commencement of the 12th Five Year Plan period and to share varied experiences gained so far in this regard by the different States/UTs.</p> <p>Apart from these, it has also been decided by MOS&PI to constitute State/UT-specific a Joint Review Missions (JRMs) on ISSP under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Statistics & Programme Implementation) to examine the pace, progress and manner of implementation of SSSP vis-à-vis respective MoU and issue suitable guidelines/instructions, if any found required, to effect further improvements in the implementation of the ISSP.</p>
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10.	<p>The Committee feel constrained to note that presently there are about 140 vacancies in the Indian Statistical Service (ISS) and 1300 vacancies in the Subordinate statistical Service (SSS) which comes to nearly 30% of the existing posts. Shortage of manpower has been stated to be adversely affecting the functioning of many programmes and schemes of the Ministry including the functioning of the National Academy of Statistical Administration. The Secretary, MOSPI has attributed the problem to the fairly high attrition for resolving which the Ministry of Finance has been approached for getting the grade pay of certain posts revised. The Committee had in their 4th Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry, inter-alia recommended that for overcoming the problem of shortage of manpower, the desirability of appropriately revising the methods and conditions of recruitment need to be taken up with Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) and the policy of engaging qualified and trained investigators on contract basis pursued. The Committee understand that the proposal for revising the recruitment rules is under process. The Committee expect the Ministry to pursue the matter relating to amendment of recruitment rules without compromising the standards with the DOPT</p>	<p>Indian Statistical Service (ISS):</p> <p>The vacancies in ISS are mainly in the promotional grades. Subsequent to last reply submitted, action has been taken to fill the vacancies at different grades of ISS. Accordingly, the following vacancies have been filled during 2010-11 by granting promotion to eligible officers:- HAG-II-2, JAG-76, STS 40. On promotion of above officers of different grades, the resultant vacancies at JTS level were also filled from the feeder grade officers by granting ad-hoc promotion. Hence, the action has been completed.</p> <p>Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS):</p> <p>With respect to shortage of manpower in Subordinate Statistical Service, it is informed that M/o Statistics & Programme Implementation have taken necessary action to minimize the number of vacancies. In absence of Recruitment Rules all vacant posts in Statistical Investigator Grade-I as on 31.3.13 have been filled up by granting ad-hoc promotions. 886 posts in Statistical Investigator Grade-II were filled up by direct recruitment through Staff Selection Commission during 2010 and 2011 and 2012. New/amended</p>

	<p>and the concerned cadre controlling authority. Simultaneously, the Staff Selection Commission should be impressed on the need for making for making adequate efforts for filling up the vacant posts by direct recruitment without any delay. The Committee recommend that the matter relating to the revision of grade pay for certain posts should be actively pursued with the Ministry of finance for an early decision so as to enable in overcoming the problem of high attrition.</p>	<p>Recruitment Rules of SSS have been got approved from DOP&T and UPSC and are presently under consideration in Ministry of Law and the same is likely to be notified shortly.</p> <p>The recruitment of Investigators has been included in the Combined Graduate Level Exam conducted by SSC and now candidates are made available for appointment regularly. Moreover, in new RRs of SSS the educational qualification has been provided as general graduate and candidates who opt for S.I. Gr.II will only require to appear in one additional paper on Statistics. One of the reasons for higher rate of attrition has been lower grade pay in SSS. The matter was taken up with the M/o Finance for grating higher grade pay to SSS and the same has not been agreed to. Now, this has been taken up with Cabinet Secretary in a COS Note. Further, pre-appointment process in respect of 456 candidates recommended by SSC against Combined Graduate Level Examination 2012 will be initiated as soon as dossiers are received. Further about 550 vacancies against CGLE 2013 are having conveyed to SSC against CGLE 2013 and hopefully shortage of manpower will be minimised.</p>
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11.	<p>Considering the importance of statistics in the various areas, the Committee are of the view that the subject of statistics can be made a part of the curriculum of other subjects offered by the Universities. The Committee also desire that the feasibility of recruiting people from different streams at the initial level of appointment - which has also been agreed to be appropriate by the Secretary - be considered, with the incumbents imparted necessary training for meeting the requirements of the assigned jobs. The Committee also emphasise on evolving a mechanism for having training programmes in campuses and institutes across the country so that people even from remote corners where unemployment is rampant secure jobs.</p>	<p>National Statistical Commission has been requested to take up the matter with UGC to explore the possibility of inclusion of Statistics as a subject in other streams of education due to its importance in assessment and formulation of policies in the Government.</p>

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12.	<p>The Committee are constrained to note that during the period April - December, 2009, performance of most of the infrastructure sectors have lagged behind their targets. Keeping in view the importance of the infrastructure sectors in the overall growth and development of the country, the Committee desire that the reasons for inability to achieve the set targets should be properly examined and analyzed to impress upon the concerned departments for taking appropriate remedial measures for meeting the targets and improving the growth rate. The Committee desire that the monitoring mechanism of the Ministry should be made more effective particularly in regard to enabling in addressing problems relating to land acquisition, constraints in the infrastructural linkages etc.</p>	<p>The infrastructure performance has been examined with respect to the information available for the period April, 2011 to March, 2012. Shortfall against target has been observed in 7 sectors pertaining to production of coal, fertilizer, crude oil and natural gas, up-gradation of Highways, Railway Revenue Earnings Goods Traffic, cargo handled at major ports and export & import cargo handled at Airports. The brief reasons for shortfall in targets in performance as reported by various Ministries are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low production due to unplanned plant shutdown. 2. Less than anticipated Oil gain. 3. Poor influx and increasing water cut trend. <p>A Committee was also constituted in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to examine the recurring problems of time and cost overruns in projects and the monitoring mechanism for infrastructure performance. The Committee has examined reasons for time and cost overrun. The sector wise brief reasons are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Power: delay in land acquisition, delay in environment/forest clearance, delay in supply of equipment by BHEL, geological surprises, etc. 2. Railways: Fund Constrain, forest clearance, land acquisition, law and order problem, etc.

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Coal: delay in land acquisition, delay in environment/forest clearance, law and order problem, etc. 4. Petroleum: delay in land acquisition, delay in environment/forest clearance, law and order problem, change in scope, ROW problem, etc. 5. Shipping and Port: poor participation of international dredging companies, limited availability of channels for dredging due to brownfield situation, delayed receipt of security clearances, etc. 6. Telecommunication: delay in local municipal clearances, etc. 7. Airport: delay in handing over of land by state government, change in scope, etc. <p>Most of the impediments require active co-operation of the State Governments for resolution, as land and connected issues are in State boundaries. Hence, on the suggestion of this Committee, states have been asked to set up Central Sector Project Coordination Committee (CSPCC) under the chairmanship of Chief Secretaries to resolve the issues at state level.</p>
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Action taken by Government on the recommendation contained in the Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Rec. No.	Recommendation/Observation of the Committee	Reply
13.	<p>The Committee are distressed to note that out of 937 projects costing Rs.20 crore and above on the monitor of the MOSPI, as on 30th September, 2009, 308 projects have cost overrun, 486 have time overrun with respect to their original approval cost and time frame, and 137 projects have experienced both time as well as cost overruns. The reasons given by the Ministry in this regard which include delays in award of contract, supply of equipment, completion of works by contractors, acquisition of land, change in scope and inadequate infrastructure could have been resolved by taking suitable measures and coordination and proper planning of the projects at the conceptual stage itself and effective monitoring for resolving the bottlenecks during implementation. In their 4th Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry, the Committee had recommended that corrective steps should be taken for addressing issues contributing to delays and cost escalation in implementing projects and also action taken against those held responsible for the lapses. Evidently, the Ministry has been lagging on the issue. Keeping in view the magnitude and persisting problem of time and cost overruns over the years despite various measures stated to have been taken by the Ministry, as also admitted by the Secretary, MOSPI, the Committee are of</p>	<p>This Ministry has conveyed the recommendation of the Standing Committee to the concerned Infrastructure Ministries and asked for action taken report from these Ministries and what corrective actions has been taken. The Infrastructure Ministries have to take independent action at their level including fixing responsibility for laps by their Standing Committee.</p> <p>Some of the Ministries have informed action taken by them viz effective planning at different stages and at different levels, review of progress both at project and corporate office level, monitoring of rate of progress of all important work fronts, progress review meeting by Executive Director (in-charge of Project), progress review meeting by administrative Ministry, engagement of retainer consultant and technical expert in different project works, planning for deployment of state of art equipment to cope up with prevailing site condition, taking up the matters/issues/bottlenecks with the senior officers in the State as well as Centre Government, etc.</p> <p>Further, this Ministry has requested the Infrastructure Ministries to bring about systematic improvement in project formulation, planning, implementation and monitoring.</p> <p>As regard this Ministry is concerned, MOSPI recommended the formulation of Central Sector Project Coordination Committee (CSPCC) in the states under Chief Secretary</p>

	<p>the view that it is imperative to address the inherent deficiencies relating to project formulation functioning of Empowered Committees and ensuring accountability. The Committee expects that the deficiencies in the system should be identified and rectified in coordination with the administrative ministries concerned for bringing qualitative systematic improvements in various areas of project formulation, planning, implementation and monitoring. The Committee desire to be apprised of the outcome in this regard.</p>	<p>which is proving to be a very useful mechanism to resolve state level issues like land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement, shifting of utilities, ROW/ROU issues, etc.</p>
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