

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN

OR

PROPOSED TO BE TAKEN

ON

THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS

CONTAINED IN

THE FORTY-FIFTH REPORT

OF

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

ON

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2017-18)

OF

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME

IMPLEMENTATION

**REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN OR PROPOSED TO BE TAKEN ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FORTY-
FIFTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

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Statement showing Action Taken on the recommendations/observations contained in the Forty-fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS

1. The Committee find that in the past three fiscals, the BE, RE and the actual expenditure of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (without MPLADS) have been plummeting with figures of Rs. 528 Crores (BE), Rs. 309.32 Crores (RE) and Rs. 266.80 Crores (Actual Expenditure), respectively for the year 2014-15 while the corresponding figures for the year 2015-16 were Rs. 402.50 Crores, Rs. 200.04 Crores and Rs. 192.93 Crores. Continuing the trend in 2016-17 as well, the BE, RE and actual expenditure were Rs. 250 Crores, Rs. 250 Crores and Rs. 143.80 Crores (Expenditure upto December, 2016) respectively, which has now prevailed this fiscal also, as the allocation for the financial year 2017-18 is just Rs. 168.28 Crores, that is a steep reduction of 32.7%, this only reestablishes that the budgetary process should be rationalised and made more realistic and need based. In this era of enhanced technological wherewithals and economic dynamism, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is expected to play an important role, particularly in terms of operationalisation of conceptual tools like 'big data' and 'real-time' data. It is, therefore, necessary that the budget allocation of the Ministry be revisited in the backdrop of the contemporary economic scenario, warranting enhanced role of authentic data base. The Committee would thus recommend enhanced allocations for the

Ministry. The Ministry should also improve their performance by better utilisationsby plugging the chronic gap in BE and actual expenditure.

Reply:

The Ministry is making endeavors to improve the utilization of funds through close and continuous monitoring. Different Divisions of the Ministry have been advised to prepare their Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) and adhere to these plans. For 2017-18, the Ministry proposes to seek additional funds from the Ministry of Finance at the stage of Revised Estimates (RE).

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS STATISTICS (NAS)

2. The Committee note that the system of National Accounts Statistics (NAS) consists of a coherent, consistent and integrated set of macro-economic accounts -current and accumulation accounts, balance sheets and tables based on agreed concepts, definitions and accounting rules. The Committee also note that the major use of the NAS is to assess how a country's economy is performing over time. The primary aim of official statistics is to provide an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and meaningful empirical picture of the society and economy to keep people informed and also support formulation and monitoring of economic and social policies by the Government. The Committee are of the view that the new series of National Accounts with 2011-12 as the base year has raised more questions than answers. The GDP data does not seem to reflect the momentum of economic activities across the spectrum. It is, therefore, imperative that a more realistic computation method be adopted with a view to enhancing the credibility of official statistics. Further, taking into account the fact that the changes in the National Accounts have come about due to change in the base year from 2004-05 to 2011-12 and due to change in the system of accounting from cost to market price, the Committee are of the view that there should be a linear way of working out these variations rather than doing it at an interval of five years or more. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should examine the possibility of revising the National Accounts annually to pre-empt the kind of controversies and debates that are being generated right now and make dedicated efforts to strengthen the system besides regular data collection. The

Committee would also like to be apprised about the rationale / process / assumptions made and adopted by the CSO in their recent GDP advance estimates for 2016-17, which has been considered by independent experts as a possible over-estimation, particularly in the backdrop of demonetisation.

Reply:

(1) With regard to the recommendation on revising the National Accounts annually, it is submitted that national accounts, being a data integration framework, its revision of base year depends on the availability of latest data on unorganised sectors that are getting surveyed periodically, such as employment-unemployment, consumer expenditure, etc. and revision of base year of short-term indicators such as the Wholesale Price Indices (WPI) and Consumer Price Indices (CPI). Change of base year of national accounts at the national level, require similar change in base year of national accounts at the state level. Compilation of estimates of State Domestic Product also depends on the availability of state level information from NSS enterprise surveys and employment unemployment surveys and is dependent on the centre for data flow in respect of many sectors, such as 'corporate sector. In view of all these factors, it is not feasible to revise base year of national accounts annually. Hence, with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation, it has been decided not to accept the recommendation.

(2) Regarding the recommendation on making dedicated efforts to strengthen the system besides regular data collection, it is submitted that the CSO has been making efforts to strengthen data systems at different levels in the decentralized statistical system. The Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS), which met on 21.03.2017, reviewed the likelihood of availability of new data and data sources for

Ref. O.M. of MoS&PI vide NO.G-20017/1/2017-B&F, dated 20.06. 2017

compilation of national accounts for the purpose of further revising base year of national accounts with 2017-18. Accordingly, the ACNAS initiated the process of strengthening data systems in different sectors and methodology for the next base revision.

(3) Regarding the recommendation on rationale / process / assumptions made and adopted by the CSO in their recent GDP advance estimates for 2016-17, it is submitted that the Press releases made on advance estimates on 07.01.2017 and on 28.02.2017 provided in great detail the rationale / process / assumptions made in compilation of the respective estimates. With regard to the issue of demonetization, it is submitted that no direct data is available to measure the effect of demonetisation. Demonetisation, which is a large policy change, takes time to show any effect in the economy. Demonetisation has induced a behavioural change in the manner in which people conduct transactions. There is a shift from cash based transactions towards use of electronic mode. This also impacts the pattern of reporting for the purposes of taxation. Thus, the effect of demonetisation need not be negative.

The CSO released the second advance annual estimates for 2016-17 along with third quarter (Q3) estimates for the period October to December, 2016 on 28.02.2017. The third quarter provides the first indirect assessment of demonetization. Overall GDP growth for the year is estimated at 7.1 per cent (at constant prices) which is the same as had been projected in the month of January using data up to October, 2016 (period prior to demonetisation policy) as compared to 7.9 per cent of 2015-16. The third quarter estimates of GDP are shown to be at 7 per cent at constant prices. In sectoral terms, estimates for agriculture and allied sectors, industry and service sector grew at 6 per cent, 6.6 per cent & 6.8 per cent respectively. Manufacturing and Financial, Real estate & professional services grew at 8.3 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively in Q3 of

Ref. O.M. of MoS&PI vide NO.G-20017/1/2017-B&F, dated 20.06. 2017

2016-17. There was a slow-down in growth in the financial, real estate and professional service sector. As on February 2017, there was a fall in bank credit growth to multi decade low of 5 per cent and deposits grew by 13.5 per cent. This could be attributed to demonetisation. On account of rationalisation of subsidies in 2016-17, GDP at constant prices grew at 7.1 per cent during 2016-17 as against 7.9 per cent estimated in 2015-16. The Press Releases of CSO on GDP estimates dated 07.01.2017 and 28.02.2017 were made through the Press Information Bureau and are still in the public domain, available in the website of this Ministry. Hence, they are available for experts within and outside the Government for making their own assessment.

NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY OFFICE (NSSO)

3. The Committee note that National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) is responsible for conducting large scale nation-wide sample surveys for generating statistics for bridging data gaps on various socio-economic aspects, crucial for planning, policy formulation and informed decision making. They also note that National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) will be shortly launching nation-wide Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) with the primary objective of collecting data to measure quarterly changes of various statistical indicators of the labour market in urban area, as well as to generate the annual estimates of different labour force indicators in both rural and urban areas so that it gives better insight into labour force dynamics. The Committee, are however, constrained to note the Ministry's continued engagement of contractual staff to collect primary data through field surveys despite its own admission that Sample Surveys conducted by contract employees may affect the quality of data collected. They are also concerned on the wide variations in the results of sample surveys conducted by NSSO and various State Governments. There is an over-lapping surveys with conflicting and varied results, although the NSSO and the States employ the same person to conduct the surveys. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to hold wide consultations with the State Governments to find ways to synergise the survey procedures and methodologies to put an end to such variations once and for all so as to ensure qualitative and reliable data through them. The Committee emphasize that this process of launching periodic labour force survey for generating quarterly and annual data on employment etc. for rural and urban

areas be operationalised in a time bound manner indicating real time data under intimation to this Committee.

Reply:

(1) Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) has been launched from the month of April, 2017, with the objective to measure quarterly changes of various statistical indicators of the labour market in urban areas as well as to generate the annual estimates of different labour force indicators both in rural and urban areas. Survey instrument for PLFS including sampling design, estimation procedure, etc. have been finalized by the Standing Committee on Labour Force Statistics constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. S. P. Mukherjee including, among others, the representatives from selected states. Besides overseeing the conduct of surveys and system for collection, compilation and dissemination of the Labour Force Statistics from various Survey and Census, the Committee would also suggest an appropriate mechanism for co-ordination and integration of Labour Force Surveys being conducted by the Central as well as State Governments. Thus, in form of SCLFS there is a mechanism to avoid duplication of employment-unemployment surveys as well as ensuring uniformity in standards. A Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) solution has been developed by NSSO with the technical assistance from the World Bank for direct collection of data by using tablets. The solution will replace use of paper schedule for data collection by hand held devices, besides integration of the data collection & entry with basic inbuilt mechanism of data verification/validation leading to improvement in quality and timeliness of results. After successful implementation of CAPI Solution in PLFS, the use of CAPI Solution would be extended to other surveys of NSSO.

Ref. O.M. of MoS&PI vide NO.G-20017/1/2017-B&F, dated 20.06. 2017

(2) NSSO, MoSPI engages contractual personnel to augment the manpower required for collection of data for conducting its surveys. To ensure that the effect on quality of data is minimized on account of engagement of field enumerators on contract basis, NSSO takes adequate measures in this regard. In order to ensure that suitable personnel are engaged for the requisite survey jobs on contract basis, the candidates are scrutinized on their past experiences in similar assignments and also on their relevant academic qualifications. The right candidates are further interviewed by a board before being finally selected. The selected candidates, known as Field Investigators, are then made to undergo several rounds of training and hand holding exercises before engaging them in actual surveys. The training of the Field Investigators is organized elaborately in local languages to ensure correct understanding of concepts and definitions & related instructions by field investigators while collecting the data. There is also a system of inspection/supervision and scrutiny of data as collected by the Field Investigators by senior regular officers to check and ensure the quality of data.

(3) National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducts socio-economic surveys on various subjects on all-India basis. Based on the sample canvassed by the NSSO (Central Sample), the results of each survey are published in the form of reports. The State Governments also participate in these surveys on a matching sample basis (State Sample), using the same survey instruments (i.e. schedules and concepts & definitions). For each survey, representatives of selected states are included in the Working Group constituted by the National Statistical Commission to formulate sampling design, estimation procedure, etc. The data collected by State Governments, through

the state samples, are processed by them as per the data processing protocols and a common tabulation plan developed by NSSO. Based on the data for the sample used for data collection by NSSO (i.e. Central sample), NSSO provides national and state level estimates. Sub-state level estimates are not given by the NSSO.

Due to difference in set of samples, data collection and processing, there may be some difference in the results published by NSSO and the State Governments.

The purpose of participation of State Governments in the above surveys is to have adequate sample size to facilitate generation of sub-state/district level estimates by State Governments by pooling Central & State sample data.

The State Government officials involved in conducting the sample surveys are imparted training using the same concepts & definitions and through a common training conference, so that the agency bias is minimized. The data processing methodology is also shared with the State Government officials through data processing conference and data processing software developed by NSSO, which is distributed to the states for their use.

NSSO has also developed a uniform methodology and software for use by the State Governments to bring out sub-state level estimates by pooling the data of Central and State samples. The pooling methodology and software are shared with the State Governments and training on the same to the State Government officers is organized by the NSSO on regular intervals.

In respect of the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura where, NSSO either does not have manpower to conduct the survey or the manpower is

Ref. O.M. of MoS&PI vide NO.G-20017/1/2017-B&F, dated 20.06. 2017

not adequate for the purpose, field work is carried out by the respective state DES's for both central and state samples.

The estimates based on the central sample and state sample may differ due to sampling and non-sampling errors.

MANPOWER RELATED ISSUES

4. The Committee note with deep concern the perennial shortage of manpower in the Ministry. As on 01.12.2016 there are 861 vacancies in Subordinate Statistical Service. In the absence of regular field staff as per requirement, the sample survey by NSSO will have to be conducted through contractual staff, which may affect the quality of data. Besides, the National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA) is not able to function optimally due to non-availability of adequate number of regular faculty members and the associated support staff dealing with the training, administrative and financial matters. Such a depleted strength in Statistical cadres can only give rise to an apprehension that it could seriously impact the reliability and credibility of data collected. It is to be recognised that the large rate of attrition in Subordinate Statistical Service and the resultant shortage of technically qualified manpower is a serious issue confronting the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, desire that better working conditions and appropriate incentives may be provided to the field staff, as this has a direct co-relation to the quality, coverage, timeliness and accuracy in collection, processing and dissemination of data. They would also recommend that the shortage of regular faculty members and support staff in the National Statistical Systems Training Academy should be immediately addressed on priority basis for better execution of all the training programmes. Besides, the Ministry should make dedicated efforts for capacity building for production, organisation and management of official statistics.

Reply:

The steps undertaken by the Ministry regarding shortage of Manpower in Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) are as under:

- (i) Through the Combined Graduate Level Examination (CGLE) 2014, 347 offers of appointment have been issued. Similarly, offer of appointment are being issued to all the 5 candidates recommended by SSC against Combined Graduate Level Examination (CGLE) 2015.
- (ii) Further, recruitment of Junior Statistical Officers through Combined Graduate Level Examination (CGLE) 2016 is under process, against which 666 vacancies have already been reported to SSC. The final results are expected to be declared during June 2017. Thus, it is expected that the vacancy position of JSOs will reduce considerably.
- (iii) 285 Junior Statistical Officers have recently been promoted to the post of Senior Statistical Officer vide this Ministry Order No. 12016/1/2016-SSS dated 20th April 2017. Because of this, vacancy position of Senior Statistical Officer reduced to 100 only.
- (iv) To make the service more attractive and in order to reduce attrition rate, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had taken up the issue regarding up gradation of Grade Pay from Rs.4200 to Rs.4600 with Committee **Ref. O.M. of MoS&PI vide NO.G-20017/1/2017-B&F, dated 20.06. 2017**

of Secretaries (COS) *vide* this ministry ID Note No. 12035/02/2010-SSS dated 05.09.2016, the decision of COS is still awaited.

- (v) Apart from the above, this Ministry had sent a proposal with the approval of Hon'ble Minister for Statistics & Programme Implementation to Implementation cell of 7th CPC for grant of GP of Rs.4600 (Level-7) to JSOs and GP of Rs.4800 (Level-8) to SSOs of SSS to arrest the high rate of attrition in SSS.
- (vi) So far the cadre review of SSS is concerned, it is submitted that the same would be due around December 2017 and the process for cadre review of SSS will be initiated very shortly.

The regular posts of Indian Statistical Service (ISS) and Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) at National Statistical System Training Academy (NSSTA) are being maintained/ filled by concerned Cadre in terms of MoSPI's Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 579 (E) dated 07.06.2016 and SSS Division's OM No. 11015/1/2014-SSS dated 09.06.2016 respectively. The Department of Expenditure, *vide* their ID No. 8152871/ ECI/10 dated 23.09.2010 had created 23 posts in NSSTA. These posts are Professor (2), Associate Professor (3), Senior System Analyst (1), Junior System Analyst (1), Librarian (1), Assistant Librarian (1), Section Officer (1), Account Officer (1), Assistant (3), UDC/ Field Assistant (2), Personal Assistant (5), Senior Account Officer (1), Accountant (1). For 10 of these posts, the Recruitment Rules are under process at UPSC / Ministry, which is

Ref. O.M. of MoS&PI *vide* NO.G-20017/1/2017-B&F, dated 20.06. 2017

being followed up appropriately. The Recruitment Rules for the remaining 13 posts have been notified. The filling up of these posts is under process.

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (ISI)

5. The Committee note that with the data analytic boom happening in the country, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) is best poised to avail the benefits accruing there from with their expertise in computer science, statistics and mathematics all in one place and the Industry ready to have collaborations. The Committee also note that Department of Bio-Technology (DBT) funded Systems medicine bio-cluster (with a cluster of six organisations in the eastern part and in and around Kolkata) is being set-up, primarily targeted towards cancer studies. At the same time, the Committee are concerned about the mismatch in the pattern of budgetary estimates and spendings by Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) during the past few financial years. The BE, RE and the actual expenditure for the year 2015-16 were 290.17 Crores, Rs. 214.67 Crores and Rs. 226 Crores, respectively. The corresponding figures for the year 2016-17 were 252.81 Crores, 252.81 Crores and 191.97 Crores. These budgetary figures clearly depict a trend that the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) has not been able to fully utilize the allocated funds. Further, in the BE 2017-18 of the Ministry, the grant-in-aid to Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) is 'nil'. The BE for the year 2017-18 under revenue section is Rs. 274.15 crores. The Committee apprehend that such a pace of utilisation coupled with scanty budgetary allocations on the capital side may hamper the projects underway. The Committee are constrained to note that works pertaining to infrastructure development at various centres of Indian Statistical Institute, *especially* at Tezpur, Chennai and Giridih are not moving at the desired pace, resultantly at Giridih the land belonging to Indian Statistical Institute is under Ref. O.M. of MoS&PI vide NO.G-20017/1/2017-B&F, dated 20.06. 2017

threat of encroachment by the land mafia operating in the region. The Committee would, therefore, urge the Ministry and the Indian Statistical Institute to pace up the Capital works on mission mode. The Committee also expect the Ministry to provide sufficient funds on the capital side for the expansion of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) regarding infrastructure and upgradation of its centres / facilities in terms of academic excellence, Research and Development and Scientific expertise, so that this premier Institute can play its mandated role.

Reply:

The number of projects undertaken by ISI in collaboration with the Industry and other Government Organisations has been steadily increasing. An amount of Rs 15 crores has been allocated to ISI by Department of Bio-Technology (DBT) for the Systems Medicine Bio-Cluster.

As regards the mismatch in the budgetary estimates and spending by ISI in 2016-17, it is informed that after re-appropriation of budget for ISI, the total allocation, excluding North-East was Rs. 256.30 crore, of which the Ministry released Rs 233.80 crore to ISI. As per the latest record available, the Institute has been able to spend Rs 245 crore.

In the BE of 2017-18, the entire allocation for ISI has been made under 'Non-Scheme' component of Budget of this Ministry. The total allocation for ISI, in 2017-18, excluding North-East Centre, is Rs 274.15 crore, of which Rs 42.17 crore has been earmarked for creation of Capital Assets. Besides, Rs. 6.50 crore is allocated for ISI's NE Centre for creation of Capital Assets. Ministry has urged ISI to expedite the pace of

construction work at its various centres. Ministry will also endeavour to provide additional funds for construction activities, if required.

To prevent encroachment of land at ISI's Giridih Centre, ISI has proposed to construct a boundary wall.

STRENGTHENING OF SURVEY CAPACITY IN THE NORTH-EAST

6. The Committee note that the Ministry is contemplating establishment and strengthening of survey capacity in the North-East, based on the recommendations of expert groups. They also note that the Ministry intends to open Regional Offices in all the remaining North-Eastern States, where there are no offices at the moment. However, under Major Head "2552" - North Eastern Area, the BE and reduced RE for the year 2015-16 were Rs. 40.25 Crores and Rs. 21.50 Crores respectively. The corresponding figures for the year 2016-17 was Rs. 30 Crores (both BE and RE). The allocation for the current fiscal has been slashed to Rs. 16.8 Crores only which is a reduction of 44%. Besides, grant-in-aid to State Governments and Union Territories Government has also been discontinued with these reduced allocation the objectives of the Ministry with respect to establishing and strengthening the survey capacity in North Eastern and also setting up Regional offices there may not be feasible. The Committee would, therefore, urge the Ministry to make adequate allocations to the North Eastern Region, in particular for progressive strengthening and expansion of regular data collection in the region, which is a pre-requisite for socio-economic development of the region.

Reply:

NSSO doesn't have field set-up in North-Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura and depend on the states for doing the field work of both Central and States samples of NSS Socio-Economic Survey. In case of Sikkim, though
Ref. O.M. of MoS&PI vide NO.G-20017/1/2017-B&F, dated 20.06. 2017

NSSO has its Regional Offices in Gangtok and they take up the work of Central Sample, State does the field work of State Sample with their own set-up.

The Directorates of Economics & Statistics in the respective States take up the work of NSSO's Socio Economics Survey on behalf of NSSO. NSSO compensate them for their service through release of Grants-in-aids every year in two installments. While the compensation for Central sample is at the rate of 100% of expenditure, in case of State sample it is limited to 50%.

During the financial year 2015-16 and 2016-17 an amount of Rs 900.00 lakhs was allocated to NSSO under the Non-Functional Head (Major Head-2552) of Plan Scheme- Capacity Development for release as Grant-in-aid to NE States for undertaking NSS work.

Against this allocation of Rs. 900 lakhs during past two years, an increased amount of Rs 1480 lakhs has been allocated for release to NE states for NSS work during the current year.

NEED FOR REAL TIME DATA ON EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

7. Needless to emphasise, lack of reliable and quality data poses a serious challenge to economic policy-making and its revival especially for employment. The Committee would therefore urge the Government to deploy the infrastructure available with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for collecting regular and up-to-date data on vital parameters like unemployment. Unlike in developed countries, where such data gets released every month, the NSSO conducts surveys on employment only once every five years. It is strange that for the intervening years, policy makers continue to use the same old data, which obviously distorts the prevailing employment scenario. As revival of employment is a stated goal of the government, it becomes absolutely necessary that accurate and current data on employment situation is readily available for formulating appropriate policy responses. The Committee would thus like the NSSO to be tasked with this responsibility to collect employment data at shorter and regular intervals.

Reply:

Considering the need for availability of labour force statistics at more frequent intervals, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has launched a regular survey on employment unemployment, namely, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), from the month of April, 2017, with the objective to measure quarterly changes of various statistical indicators of the labour market in urban areas as well as to generate the annual estimates of different labour force indicators both in rural and urban areas.

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The Annual estimates of the parameters (both rural and urban areas) will broadly inter-alia cover (i) Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) & Unemployment Rate (UR), (ii) Distribution of workers by industry and occupation, and (iii) Average earnings of self-employed, regular wage/salaried and casual workers. The quarterly estimates of changes for urban areas will inter-alia cover Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR).

DATA DYNAMICS

8. The Committee note that the Ministry have taken certain initiatives such as survey of service sector based on establishment frame which has been collated from economic census database, the directory of establishments from State DEAs and the Corporate affairs database of companies. This effort will compliment the annual survey of industries which is a major source for describing manufacturing sector and will provide better idea of the service sector. Further, the long awaited revision of the index of industrial production is in the process of getting official approval. Also, the NSS survey programme is being redesigned to not only increase the frequency of certain surveys of high demand, namely, Consumption Survey, but will also cover household consumption, expenditure on education and health on regular quinquennial basis. Furthermore, the Committee note, that the Ministry are hoping to increase the frequency of "situation assessment" of farmers debt investment survey and tax survey. The Committee are convinced that these precise steps would surely improve the quality of statistics in certain critical areas, *hitherto* unattended and left as gaps in data. They, however, emphasize that these steps should be vigorously pursued to conclusive end to ensure successful implementation on the ground. Also, they desire to be kept abreast of the progress in the matter.

Reply:

(1) The design and frame for Annual Survey of Services Sector (ASSS) after taking into consideration inputs from various stakeholders, are being finalised by the Standing

Ref. O.M. of MoS&PI vide NO.G-20017/1/2017-B&F, dated 20.06. 2017

Committee on Services Sector (SCSS), chaired by Dr. ArvindVirmani, former Chief Economic Adviser

(2) As regards revision of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), it is informed that the new series of IIP with base 2011-12 has been released on 12.05.2017.

(3) For ensuring adoption in the appropriate scientific methods in conducting the surveys and coverage of items relevant to the user Ministries & other users, National Statistical Commission (NSC) appoints in each Round, a Working Group comprising of eminent economists, statisticians, officers from user Ministries/Organization and other experts to oversee the development of survey instrument and checking the reliability of survey results presented in NSS Reports.

Subjects to be covered by NSSO in its rounds of survey and periodicity of repetition of a survey on some/similar subject are decided by the National Statistical Commission taking into account priority requirement of data on a socio economic subject and workload of survey that can be taken by NSSO during a round with the manpower resources available with it.

Considering the need for availability of labour force statistics at more frequent intervals, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has added a regular employment unemployment survey, namely, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) from the month of April, 2017, with the objective to measure quarterly changes of various statistical indicators of the labour market in urban areas as well as to generate the annual estimates of different labour force indicators both in rural and urban areas. Manpower resources available with the NSSO have been suitably augmented to take up the workload of the above survey.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

9. The Committee were apprised that at General Assembly level, the United Nations endorsed the UN Fundamental Principles after a long time, as a lead up to the SDG agenda. As a follow-up, the Government is in the process of formulating a National policy on Official Statistics which will be placed before the Cabinet in the coming year. While the Committee expect that National Policy for Statistics would be approved at the earliest, they emphasize that the base line for SDG indicator framework has already been delayed. They, therefore, urge that the indicator framework list with respect to SDGs should be prepared at National and State level, keeping in mind the specifics of regions at local level, needs of hilly and mountain states, coastal states etc. They emphasize that this project should be expedited and taken up on priority basis. The Committee would recommend in this regard that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be separately and distinctly reflected in the Union Budget and respective Demand for Grants of the Ministries / Departments and the targets dovetailed with individual programmes / schemes.

Reply:

The indicator framework for monitoring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is being developed at global and national level simultaneously. The initial global indicator list was considered and adopted by United Nation's Statistical Commission (UNSC) in March 2017 which will also be considered by United Nation's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in July 2017.

The consultations for national monitoring framework were initiated in 2015 upon receiving a draft list of proposed global indicators. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation which is entrusted with the task of formulation of national SDG indicator framework is working in close coordination with NITI Aayog. The consultation processes with Central Ministries/ State / UT Governments through correspondence, meetings, workshops, etc have been undertaken to evolve the national monitoring frame work. The draft list of national indicators thus formulated was discussed in detail in the National Workshop held in September 2016 at New Delhi in which Central Ministries, State / UT Governments participated. The draft list was revised on the basis of the discussions in the workshop. The revised draft of SDGs national indicator framework was placed in public domain in March 2017 for open consultation. A large number of responses were received from the UN organisations, Civil Society and other organisations. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is presently under the process of finalising the goal wise national indicators for SDG monitoring in consultation with NITI Aayog and concerned Ministries. While finalising the indicators, the availability of baseline data is also being examined and the concerned nodal Ministries will be requested to furnish the baseline data wherever feasible.