

## FOREWORD

Central Statistical Organisation in the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation being the nodal agency for planning integrated development of the Statistical System in the Country has the responsibility for dissemination of Statistical data on various aspects to Government, Semi-government and private data users/agencies. The statistics collected by CSO on various socio economic indicators are useful for Planners and Researchers and other National and International agencies. The data thus collected is disseminated through various reports/publications brought out by the Ministry. The one such publication viz. "Statistical Pocket Book, India" is being brought by the Ministry since 1960 giving the account of latest scenario on the developmental planning.

2. The present issue of the publication viz. Statistical Pocket Book, India, 2002, which is the 41<sup>st</sup> edition in the series gives data on various socio economic trends prevailing in the country on an All India basis. The publication contains data for the latest 3 years besides the data for the base year as 1990-91 for comparative purpose within the tables. The entire data have been abridged in 27 chapters showing the latest scenario of the development in the country through various socio-economic indicators.

3. The latest data for the publication have been provided by various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government besides other agencies. Wherever necessary these have been supplemented by culling out information from official publications and reports including those from the UN and other International agencies. The CSO is thankful for the continuous and generous cooperation extended by them in providing the desired data to enable the organisation to bring out the publication in the present form.

4. As far as possible concerted efforts have been made by this Ministry for getting latest and validated data. The officers and staff of the Unit have done a commendable job in bringing out this publication under the over all guidance of Sh.V.K. Gupta, Joint Director.

5. I hope the publication would be useful inter alia to Planners, Policy makers, Research workers and academicians. Comments/suggestions for further improvement in the content and quality of the publication would be highly appreciated.

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