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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2019-20)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Fiftieth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Review of NSSO and CSO and Streamlining Of Statistics Collection Machinery in the Country, including Management Information System for Project Monitoring/Appraisal"]

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

September, 2020 / Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)

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[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Fiftieth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Review of NSSO and CSO and Streamlining Of Statistics Collection Machinery in the Country, including Management Information System for Project Monitoring/Appraisal"]

Presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 9 September, 2020

Presented to Lok Sabha on _____, 2020

Laid in Rajya Sabha on _____, 2020



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

September, 2020 / Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)

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* Not appended in the cyclostyled copy

COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (2019-2020)

Shri Jayant Sinha - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

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3. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
4. Shri Vallabhaneni Balashowry
5. Shri Shrirang Appa Barne
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RAJYA SABHA

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30. Dr. Manmohan Singh
31. Smt. Ambika Soni

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri V.K. Tripathi | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri Preetam Prabhakar | - | Committee Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorized by the Committee, present this Twenty-third Report on action taken by Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Fiftieth Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Review of NSSO and CSO and Streamlining Of Statistics Collection Machinery in the Country, including Management Information System for Project Monitoring/Appraisal'.

2. The Twenty-third Report was presented to Lok Sabha / laid on the table of Rajya Sabha on 20 December, 2017. The Action Taken Notes on the Recommendations were received from the Government *vide* their communication dated 20 February, 2019.

3. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 08 September, 2020.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fiftieth Report of the Committee is given in the Appendix.

5. For facility of reference, the observations / recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI
08 September, 2020
17 Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)

SHRI JAYANT SINHA,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Finance

REPORT CHAPTER I

This Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) deals with action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their Fiftieth Report of Sixteenth Lok Sabha on the subject 'Review of NSSO and CSO and Streamlining Of Statistics Collection Machinery in the Country, including Management Information System for Project Monitoring/Appraisal' which was presented to Lok Sabha / Laid in Rajya Sabha on 20th December, 2017.

2. Action taken notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the 12 recommendations/observations contained in the Report. These have been analyzed and categorized as follows:

- (i) Recommendations/Observations that have been accepted by the Government:

Recommendation Nos. 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

(Total 10)
(Chapter- II)

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:

Recommendation Nos. 4

(Total : 1)
(Chapter- III)

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Recommendation Nos. 2

(Total : 1)
(Chapter -IV)

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies by the Government are still awaited:

Recommendation No. NIL

(Total : NIL)
(Chapter- V)

3. The Committee desire that the replies to the observations / recommendations contained in Chapter-I may be furnished to them expeditiously.
4. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of their recommendations.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1)

5. The Committee believe that GDP data should ideally reflect the prevailing momentum of all economic activities across the spectrum, which would provide accurate inputs for policy formulation. Otherwise, it may leave a policy vacuum, which will not be conducive for the health of the economy. It is, therefore, imperative that the economic activities and services including those in the unorganised / informal sector are comprehensively reflected in the GDP data so that the ground realities of the prevalent economic scenario emerges clearly.

6. The Ministry in their action taken reply stated as under :-

"GDP series are revised from time to time to ensure momentum of all economic activities across the spectrum. This is in accordance with the international practice & System of National Accounts guidelines of United Nations. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) series are being revised once in 5 years. It has already been decided to revise the existing GDP series to 2017-18 as the base year. The Ministry is taking further steps in this direction and is taking due care to improve the coverage of the formal & informal sector based on the availability of resources."

7. The Committee note that the GDP Series are being revised once in 5 years and that it has already been decided to revise the existing GDP Series to 2017-18 as the base year. While appreciating the endeavors made by the Ministry thus far, the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation that the economic activities and services including those in the unorganized/informal sector are comprehensively captured and reflected in the GDP framework so that the ground realities emerge clearly and data gaps on various socio-economic indices are bridged comprehensively, as authentic and credible data is crucial for planning, policy structuring, informed decision making and inclusive growth. It is imperative that all methodological ambiguities are sorted out once and for all.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2)

8. The Committee are concerned to note that there are as many as 861 vacancies at the level of Junior and Senior Statistical Officer in the statistical cadre of the Ministry. Thus, the resource requirements for various statistical activities remain undermined. The Committee note that the existing statistical manpower is grossly insufficient to cope with the entire gamut of activities, including various ancillary activities in relation to mainstream industrial statistics, apart from service sector statistics and statistics of international trade. The Committee would, therefore, strongly recommend immediate filling up of all vacancies in the statistical cadre, so that the Ministry's core competency is not compromised. Further, they desire that a study be conducted to find out the reasons for high level of attrition from this sector and their inability to attract talent. In this connection, the Committee are of the view that out-sourcing of data collection should be avoided and instead, enumerators should be appointed on contractual basis, whenever required, for maintaining reliability and authenticity of data.

9. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply stated as under :-

"The post of Junior Statistical Officer (JSO) of Subordinate Statistical Services (SSS) cadre at entry level is filled through Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and the SSS Division in MoSPI takes necessary action in this regard. As suggested by the Committee, for maintaining reliability and authenticity of data, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) engages enumerators on contract basis instead of outsourcing the data collection."

10. The Committee observe with concern that despite their repeated recommendations regarding filling up of vacant posts in the Statistical Services cadre, as on 30th November, 2019 there were as many as 785 total vacant position in the grade of Senior Statistical Officer and Junior Statistical Officer (Annual Report 2019-20 of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation). The Committee are, therefore, constrained to reiterate their recommendation of immediate filling up of all vacancies in the statistical cadre so that the Ministry's core competency is not compromised. They further reiterate that a study be conducted to figure out the reasons for high level of attrition from this sector and the Ministry's inability to attract requisite manpower.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4)

11. The Committee note that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) does not adequately capture the rising cost of services like education, healthcare, transport etc, which leave an adverse impact on the standard of living of our people. They, therefore, consider it opportune that our statistical apparatus has an exclusive Service Price Index for essential services, so that the government can formulate policy responses accordingly. It is high time the indices compiled and published by the Government approximate to the prevailing market conditions at the consumer level and get as close to his consumption pattern and standard of living as possible.

12. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under :-

Updated status of Experimental Business Service Price Index (BSPI)

Serial No	Sectors	Updated Status on Action taken
1.	Air Transport Service	Experimental Air Service Price Index with revised base year(2015-16) has been compiled and published from April 2016 till March 2018.
2.	Railway Service	Experimental RSPI with base year 2011-12 for the period from April 2012 to November 2017 has been uploaded in the website of Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA).
3.	Postal	Experimental Postal Service Price Index with 2004-05 as base year from April 2005 to June 2017 has been uploaded in Office of Economic Adviser (OEA)'s website. Department of Posts is in process of updating the base year of the index, along with a new product basket and weighting diagram.
4.	Banking Service	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has compiled Banking Service Price Index (BkSPI) with base year 2004-05 from April 2005 to May 2017. RBI is in process of compiling new Banking Service Price Index based on 2011-12 as base year, with new item basket and weighting diagram.
5.	Telecom (Cellular)	Experimental Telecom Service Price Index with 2015-16 as base year has been compiled from QE June2016 to QE December 2017.
6.	Insurance Service	An Experimental Insurance Service Price Index with 2011-12 as base year has been compiled from QE June 2012 to QE September 2016. In view of high volatility in the estimates of the index, the index is being refined in consultation with Insurance Regulatory and

		Development Authority of India (IRDAI), Department of Financial Services (DFS) and Central Statistics Office(CSO).
7.	Trade Service	Experimental Trade Service Price Index with 2011 as base year has been compiled using data from the MCA-21 of Ministry of Corporate Affairs for the period 2010 to2015. Due to very volatile nature of the data, ways and means of using GSTN data to construct the index is being explored.
8.	Road Transport(Freight)	Given the unorganized and fragmented nature of the service providers in this sector, it is proposed to use data from Goods & Services Tax Network(GSTN) for building this experimental index once the GSTN data has stabilized.
9.	Port Service	Ministry of Shipping is in process of developing Experimental Port Service Price Index with data from the 12 Major ports and 19 Non-Major ports.
10.	Business Service	It is proposed to develop experimental Information Technology Service Price Index in consultation with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) and its subordinate organisations

13. The Committee note that in the Action Taken note, the Ministry has furnished information pertaining to the Experimental Business Service Price Index (BSPI) which *inter alia* relate to Air Transport Service, Railway Service, Postal, Banking Service, Insurance Service, Business Service etc. *while* they have not provided any information with respect to services like education and healthcare which have immense impact on the standard of living of people. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the indices compiled and published by the Government approximate to the prevailing market conditions at the consumer level and get as close to the consumption pattern and standard of living as possible.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5)

14. The primary aim of official statistics is to provide an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and meaningful empirical picture of society and economy for supporting formulation and monitoring of socio-economic policies by the Government. Public Health being a crucial sector requiring Government support and active intervention, the Committee are of the view that Health related data collection and surveys be taken up by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation without any delay. Such statistical inputs on the social side would, no doubt, go a long way in helping both the Central and State Governments in their public interventions.

15. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply stated as under :-

"Besides regular surveys, NSSO takes up other subjects as and when requested by other Ministries etc. with approval of NSC. M/o Health itself is conducting some health related surveys on regular basis. NSSO takes up health related subjects as requested by M/o Health. The recent health related survey conducted by NSSO was during July,2017 to June, 2018 on 'Social consumption: Health'."

16. In the aftermath of the global Covid-19 pandemic, Public Health as such has become all the more crucial, requiring Government support and active intervention. The Committee would, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that health related data collection and surveys be taken up by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on priority basis, as such statistical inputs would be of immense help to both the Central and State Governments in formulating appropriate policy responses.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1)

The Committee believe that GDP data should ideally reflect the prevailing momentum of all economic activities across the spectrum, which would provide accurate inputs for policy formulation. Otherwise, it may leave a policy vacuum, which will not be conducive for the health of the economy. It is, therefore, imperative that the economic activities and services including those in the unorganised / informal sector are comprehensively reflected in the GDP data so that the ground realities of the prevalent economic scenario emerges clearly.

Reply of the Government

"GDP series are revised from time to time to ensure momentum of all economic activities across the spectrum. This is in accordance with the international practice & System of National Accounts guidelines of United Nations. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) series are being revised once in 5 years. It has already been decided to revise the existing GDP series to 2017-18 as the base year. The Ministry is taking further steps in this direction and is taking due care to improve the coverage of the formal & informal sector based on the availability of resources."

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M No.G-20017/3/2018-B&F (Pt.1) dated 20.02.2019]

(For Comments of the Committee Please refer para No. 7 of Chapter I)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3)

The Committee observe that there are surprisingly wide variations between sample survey data collected by NSSO and those collected by the State Governments. Further, within the same Ministry, the CSO and NSSO adopt different standards to measure certain things, such as, definition of "disability impact services" rolled out for citizens. The Committee, therefore, recommend that such variations in standards and methodologies

should be addressed to bring consistency, standardisation and uniformity in sample surveys conducted by different agencies including State Government Departments.

Reply of the Government

“For ensuring adoption of appropriate scientific methods in conducting the survey and coverage of items relevant to the user Ministries & other users, with approval of National Statistical Commission (NSC), Working Groups are constituted comprising eminent economists, statisticians, officers from user Ministries / organizations and other domain experts to oversee the development of survey instruments including concept/definitions, standards etc. While defining different parameters / terms for use in the survey and formulating related instructions for the field investigators, the Working group takes into account all related national and international definitions, recommendations, 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. Thus, several methodological and conceptual frameworks have been designed by the Ministry, which are aimed at minimizing difference in the data and estimates generated by various State Government and Central Government agencies. 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 States sample. The pooling methodology and software are shared with the State Governments. Training of State Governments officers is organized by the NSSO on regular intervals in order to enable them to adopt uniform methodology for bringing out quality data at state and sub-state level.”

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M No.G-20017/3/2018-B&F (Pt.1) dated 20.02.2019]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5)

The primary aim of official statistics is to provide an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and meaningful empirical picture of society and economy for supporting formulation and monitoring of socio-economic policies by the Government. Public Health being a crucial sector requiring Government support and active intervention, the Committee are of the view that Health related data collection and surveys be taken up by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation without any delay. Such

statistical inputs on the social side would, no doubt, go a long way in helping both the Central and State Governments in their public interventions.

Reply of the Government

“Besides regular surveys, NSSO takes up other subjects as and when requested by other Ministries etc. with approval of NSC. M/o Health itself is conducting some health related surveys on regular basis. NSSO takes up health related subjects as requested by M/o Health. The recent health related survey conducted by NSSO was during July,2017 to June, 2018 on 'Social consumption: Health'.”

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M No.G-20017/3/2018-B&F (Pt.1) dated 20.02.2019]

(For Comments of the Committee Please refer para No. 16 of Chapter I)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6)

Needless to emphasise, lack of reliable and quality data poses a serious challenge to economic policy making as also economic revival, especially on the employment front. A major gap in our statistical armory is the absence of regular employment, unemployment data. The official unemployment figures which are obviously out-of-date seem very unrealistic. Although the Government has been earnestly seeking to promote self-employment and skill development through the National Skill Development Programme, some industries like garments, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, carpets etc. need more attention for more job creation. As revival and creation of employment is a stated objective of the Government, it is imperative that accurate, current and reliable data on employment to assess employment situation is readily available to assess employment trends and to formulate appropriate policy responses. In this regard, discrepancies with private data also need to be addressed and ironed out.

Reply of the Government

“In view of requirement of reliable official data on employment and unemployment with frequent/short interval NSSO is conducting Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for generating quarterly estimates for urban areas and annual estimates for both in urban and rural areas. Sample design for this survey has been recommended by the Standing Committee on Labour Force Statistics (SCLFS). Ministry has also started bringing out

employment related statistics in the formal sector covering the period September, 2017 onwards, using information on the number of subscribers who have subscribed under three major schemes, namely, Employee Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), New Pension Scheme (NPS) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme, in order to measure growth of workers entering the formal sector.”

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M No.G-20017/3/2018-B&F (Pt.1) dated 20.02.2019]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7)

The Committee feels that although the economy has grown much larger and become more complex, the nature of manpower planning in Statistical departments has not changed over the years. It has thus become difficult to attract and retain talent. Good statisticians are now being lapped up by the private sector especially financial services firms or, they prefer to go abroad. The Committee, therefore, recommend that besides re-formulating the teaching methodologies and curriculum at the University level to reflect changing requirements, a suitable rewards / incentive structure should be devised to attract expertise and quality statisticians for Government duties, albeit at the lateral level. Field level statistical machinery should also be strengthened simultaneously. Field staffs are required to be adequately trained and motivated in the use of modern techniques/methods of data collection.

Reply of the Government

“In order to increase the awareness about importance of statistics amongst the post graduate students in the universities, the Ministry has been organizing “in the spot essay writing competition” on the subjects relevant to statistics. It is organized every year on the birth anniversary of Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis. Two National Awards for outstanding and meritorious research work in the field of statistics are also given by the Ministry. One award is in the memory of Prof. P.V. Sukhatme and other is in the honour of Prof. C.R Rao. The Ministry also implements Grant in Aid Scheme to promote research and studies, conduct of workshops/seminars, etc. in the area of Official Statistics , wherein funds are provided to institutions/organizations. National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA) of the Ministry has also been making efforts to sensitise the potential human resources through awareness programmes in Official Statistics, both at its campus and

various universities. These programmes also include training of faculty and students from various universities by officers of NSSTA and Central Statistics Office. Further, to attract / retain talented aspirants to the statistical service streams of the Government, the Ministry has taken steps to strengthen career progression through regular promotions, cadre reviews, etc. The Ministry has taken steps to introduce digital technologies for data collection, compilation and dissemination in order to increase the quality and timeliness of data. The field staff are imparted training in the use of latest technology for data collection.”

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M No.G-20017/3/2018-B&F (Pt.1) dated 20.02.2019]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8)

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is the nodal agency for coordination with other Central Ministries and States for collection and standardisation of statistics. However, as observed earlier, discrepancies in real- time State and Central data on the same subject continue to persist due to differences in set of samples, data collection and processing, resulting in misleading differences in outcomes of data analysis and results. Such lacunae have, therefore, to be corrected forthwith with a view to ensuring accuracy and reliability of data.

Reply of the Government

“The Ministry has been providing financial support to States/UTs under Support for Statistical Strengthening Project, a sub-scheme under Scheme of Capacity Development, for strengthening their capacity for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable Official Statistics. Under the scheme, the Ministry conducts workshops to provide technical guidance to State/ UT Governments for expediting the compilation of State Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and for developing strategy for regular dissemination of comparable State level IIP with updated base year. As a result, 11 States/ UTs have started compiling State level IIP with base 2011-12 and 16 other States/ UTs are at various stages of compilation of State level IIP with base 2011-12. MoSPI plans to conduct similar workshops at regular intervals to provide assistance on various technical issues and monitor the implementation of the roll out of comparable State IIP. Quality assurance framework and data dissemination issues will also be discussed in the workshops with State/ UTs in detail.

While preparing survey instruments and concepts on any socio-economic survey, NSSO always attempts to adopt the standard practices followed by different national and international bodies. Through extensive deliberations with experts/members of Working Groups and National Statistical Commission (NSC), a standard set of concepts corresponding to each subject of the survey is prepared. However, differences exist in the State level estimates and Central estimates on the same subject due to different set of samples of data collection and processing. A Gazette Notification was issued by the Ministry vide No. M-12011/12/2011- NSSO (CPD) dated 31st October 2011, making it mandatory for the administrative Ministries and States to consult NSC before taking up any new survey in order to maintain uniformity and consistency.”

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M No.G-20017/3/2018-B&F (Pt.1) dated 20.02.2019]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9)

Further, the Committee find that collection of data and compilation of various indices are still dispersed among different departments / agencies, although Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is the nodal Ministry for this purpose and is better equipped for carrying out various statistical activities. The Committee would, therefore, recommend synchronisation and integration of all statistical work including publication of various indices within the ambit of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation with a view to arriving at broad-based conclusions & decisions.

Reply of the Government

“The statistical system in Government of India is laterally decentralised among the Ministries/Departments. MoSPI is the nodal Ministry for laying down norms and standards on statistical matters. MoSPI provides technical support and assistance to various Ministries/Departments of Central Government in collection and compilation Official Statistics. However, the Official Statistics generated by these agencies are based on their administrative requirements to supplement evidence based policy formulation.

The Ministry aims to establish a dedicated Administrative Statistics Division in the National Statistical Organization which would promote and advise on data integration and data/ indicator pooling as per requirements and similar exercises for providing reliable indicators of development at the national and sub-national levels required for planning.

Appropriate procedures and protocols to promote data matching, linking and data integration will be developed, particularly in respect of administrative statistics to provide usable frames for censuses and sample surveys, using Information Technology (IT) and sharing of data among Government Departments and public institutions.”

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M No.G-20017/3/2018-B&F (Pt.1) dated 20.02.2019]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10)

The Committee also desire to be apprised of the progress with regard to the formulation of the new Index of Industrial Production (IIP), especially the implementation of agreements with participating Ministries for supply of data, updation of the basket of items and their specifications, wage structure, reporting entities and review methodology.

Reply of the Government

- (i) The new series of all-India IIP with base 2011-12 was launched by this Ministry on 12th May, 2017 with due approval from the Committee of Secretaries (CoS). As a part of the CoS recommendation, a mechanism has been worked out for smooth supply of data and coordination between MoSPI and the 14 Source Ministries/ Departments/ Organizations providing monthly data for all India IIP.
- (ii) Proposal for online data collection and compilation of IIP has been merged with the Integrated Information Platform/ Data Warehousing project.
- (iii) The CoS has recommended constitution of a Technical Review Committee (TRC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary (S&PI) with Secretary (DIPP) and the Chief Economic Adviser as its members with a mandate to review periodically the item basket and factories reporting data for these items and suggest methodology for inclusion of new and emerging items/ factories and exclusion of obsolete/ closed items/ factories. The recommendations of TRC will be reviewed by the CoS before implementation.
- (iv) Emoluments/ remuneration to workers (wages) are outside the scope of IIP.

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M No.G-20017/3/2018-B&F (Pt.1) dated 20.02.2019]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11)

The mandate of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is to monitor central sector projects of Rs. 150 crore and above, being the nodal Ministry for Programme Implementation. However, the Committee is constrained to note that the Ministry has become a mere compilation agency as far as the mandate for Programme Implementation is concerned. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to develop tools and methodologies to play a more proactive and dynamic role as the nodal agency for real time monitoring of implementation of not only central sector projects, but also the operationalisation and progress of various flagship schemes of the Central Government as well as the tracking of implementation and status of various sustainable development goals (SDGs) set by the Government in coordination with State Governments. It is necessary that the Ministry makes available comprehensive data-base of the Government at regular intervals so that course corrections can take place promptly and effectively.

Reply of the Government

“The Infrastructure and Project Monitoring Division (IPMD) of the Ministry monitors the implementation status of the Central sector infrastructure projects costing more than Rs. 150 crore taken up by respective Central Ministries/Departments and their PSUs. It is done through the mechanism of Online Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS). The OCMS platform is improved as per the feedback received from the Central PSUs. The IPMD has been instrumental in flagging the projects lagging behind the schedule or facing cost overruns in the periodical review meetings of projects by the concerned administrative Ministries. This enables the administrative Ministries in identifying the constraints for each projects and take corrective measures. Some of the major systemic improvements to reduce delays in project implementation brought out by IPMD of the Ministry include setting up of Central Sector Project Coordination Committees (CSPCCs) in the States under Chief Secretaries, Standing committees in the respective Ministries/Departments headed by Addl. Secretaries to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns. Further, IPMD of the Ministry raises issues of time and cost overruns of project implementation at the item of the draft MoUs of the MoU Task Force meetings of CPSUs conducted by Department of Public Enterprises.

MoSPI is entrusted with development of National Indicator Framework (NIF)

consisting of various statistical indicators for measuring goals and targets of SDGs at national level. The draft National Indicator Framework is under finalization.”

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M No.G-20017/3/2018-B&F (Pt.1) dated 20.02.2019]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12)

The Committee desire that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation should, in the final count, become a modern and vibrant data collecting, compiling, presenting as also analysing agency, aiding and advising not only the Governments but also corporations and organisations in the private and public sectors. The onus lies on this Ministry to generate and disseminate credible data, which will be more meaningful and purposeful for public policy and governmental action. For this purpose, secondary data can also be obtained from and shared with other Government agencies as well, like Income Tax, EPFO, Corporate Affairs etc. In this context, the Committee would also suggest that the Ministry may explore setting up an internal Commercial & Marketing Unit, which can share relevant data with different users on commercial basis with free access to researchers, students and universities.

Reply of the Government

“MoSPI is in the process of evolving a National Policy on Official Statistics (NPOS) with the objective of providing reliable, timely and credible social and economic statistics, to assist decision-making within and outside the Government, stimulate research and promote informed debate relating to conditions affecting people’s life. Optimal utilization of ICT for data sharing is one of the thrust areas of the proposed NPOS.

The various Official Statistics generated by MoSPI is accessible to public on its website. In case of unit level data pertaining to various surveys of NSSO and Economic Census, the same is made available to the users at a very affordable cost. MoSPI is in the process of establishing an ICT based National Data Warehouse on Official Statistics (NDWOS) which would be repository of Official Statistics in the country. NDWOS will provide a high end solution for analytics interpretation of statistical data for various Ministries/State Governments to provide one step platform for Official Statistics.”

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M No.G-20017/3/2018-B&F (Pt.1) dated 20.02.2019]

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4)

The Committee notes that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) does not adequately capture the rising cost of services like education, healthcare, transport etc, which leave an adverse impact on the standard of living of our people. They, therefore, consider it opportune that our statistical apparatus has an exclusive Service Price Index for essential services, so that the government can formulate policy responses accordingly. It is high time the indices compiled and published by the Government approximate to the prevailing market conditions at the consumer level and get as close to his consumption pattern and standard of living as possible.

Reply of the Government

Updated status of Experimental Business Service Price Index (BSPI)

Serial No	Sectors	Updated Status on Action taken
1.	Air Transport Service	Experimental Air Service Price Index with revised base year(2015-16) has been compiled and published from April 2016 till March 2018.
2.	Railway Service	Experimental RSPI with base year 2011-12 for the period from April 2012 to November 2017 has been uploaded in the website of Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA).
3.	Postal	Experimental Postal Service Price Index with 2004-05 as base year from April 2005 to June 2017 has been uploaded in Office of Economic Adviser (OEA)'s website. Department of Posts is in process of updating the base year of the index, along with a new product basket and weighting diagram.
4.	Banking Service	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has compiled Banking Service Price Index (BkSPI) with base year 2004-05 from April 2005 to May 2017. RBI is in process of compiling new Banking Service Price Index based on 2011-12 as base year, with new item basket and weighting diagram.
5.	Telecom (Cellular)	Experimental Telecom Service Price Index with 2015-16 as base year has been compiled from QE June2016 to QE December 2017.

6.	Insurance Service	<p>An Experimental Insurance Service Price Index with 2011-12 as base year has been compiled from QE June 2012 to QE September 2016.</p> <p>In view of high volatility in the estimates of the index, the index is being refined in consultation with Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), Department of Financial Services (DFS) and Central Statistics Office(CSO).</p>
7.	Trade Service	<p>Experimental Trade Service Price Index with 2011 as base year has been compiled using data from the MCA-21 of Ministry of Corporate Affairs for the period 2010 to2015.</p> <p>Due to very volatile nature of the data, ways and means of using GSTN data to construct the index is being explored.</p>
8.	Road Transport(Freight)	<p>Given the unorganized and fragmented nature of the service providers in this sector, it is proposed to use data from Goods & Services Tax Network(GSTN) for building this experimental index once the GSTN data has stabilized.</p>
9.	Port Service	<p>Ministry of Shipping is in process of developing Experimental Port Service Price Index with data from the 12 Major ports and 19 Non-Major ports.</p>
10.	Business Service	<p>It is proposed to develop experimental Information Technology Service Price Index in consultation with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) and its subordinate organisations</p>

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M No.G-20017/3/2018-B&F (Pt.1) dated 20.02.2019]

(For Comments of the Committee Please refer para No. 13 of Chapter I)

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2)

The Committee is concerned to note that there are as many as 861 vacancies at the level of Junior and Senior Statistical Officer in the statistical cadre of the Ministry. Thus, the resource requirements for various statistical activities remain undermined. The Committee notes that the existing statistical manpower is grossly insufficient to cope with the entire gamut of activities, including various ancillary activities in relation to mainstream industrial statistics, apart from service sector statistics and statistics of international trade. The Committee would, therefore, strongly recommend immediate filling up of all vacancies in the statistical cadre, so that the Ministry's core competency is not compromised. Further, they desire that a study be conducted to find out the reasons for high level of attrition from this sector and their inability to attract talent. In this connection, the Committee is of the view that out-sourcing of data collection should be avoided and instead, enumerators should be appointed on contractual basis, whenever required, for maintaining reliability and authenticity of data.

Reply of the Government

"The post of Junior Statistical Officer (JSO) of Subordinate Statistical Services (SSS) cadre at entry level is filled through Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and the SSS Division in MoSPI takes necessary action in this regard. As suggested by the Committee, for maintaining reliability and authenticity of data, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) engages enumerators on contract basis instead of outsourcing the data collection."

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
O.M No.G-20017/3/2018-B&F (Pt.1) dated 20.02.2019]

(For Comments of the Committee Please refer para No. 10 of Chapter I)

CHAPTER V

**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF
THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED**

-NIL-

**New Delhi;
8 September 2020
17 Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)**

**SHRI JAYANT SINHA,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Finance**

Minutes of the Sixteenth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2019-20)
The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 8th September, 2020 from 1500hrs. to 1600 hrs
in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Jayant Sinha – Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
3. Shri Vallabhaneni Balashowry
4. Smt. Sunita Duggal
5. Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh
6. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
7. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
8. Shri Manish Tewari
9. Shri Rajesh Verma

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar
11. Shri Amar Patnaik
12. Shri G.V.L Narasimha Rao
13. **Smt. Ambika Soni**

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri V.K Tripathi | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri Kh. Ginalal Chung | - | Under Secretary |

PART I

(1500 hrs – 1545 hrs)

- | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 2. | XX | XX | XX | XX | XX | XX |
| | XX | XX | XX | XX | XX | XX. |

PART II

(1545 hrs onwards)

3. The Committee thereafter took up the following draft reports for consideration and adoption:

- (i) Draft Report on the subject 'Financing the startup ecosystem'.
- (ii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 1st Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Expenditure and Investment and Public Asset Management).
- (iii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 2nd Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (iv) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 3rd Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (v) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 4th Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Planning (NITI)
- (vi) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 5th Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (vii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 7th Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Expenditure and Investment and Public Asset Management).
- (viii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 8th Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (ix) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 9th Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (x) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 10th Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Planning (NITI)
- (xi) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 11th Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (xii) Draft Action Taken Report on the 50th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Review of NSSO and CSO and Streamlining Of Statistics Collection Machinery in the Country, including Management Information System for Project Monitoring/Appraisal'

After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the above draft Reports and authorised the Chairperson to finalise them and present the Report to the Hon'ble Speaker / Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

APPENDIX

(Vide Para 4 of the Introduction)

ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIFTIETH REPORT OF SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA ON THE SUBJECT 'REVIEW OF NSSO AND CSO AND STREAMLINING OF STATISTICS COLLECTION MACHINERY IN THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR PROJECT MONITORING/APPRaisal' OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

	Total	% of total
(i) Total number of Recommendations	12	
(ii) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government (vide Recommendation at Sl.Nos. 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12)	10	83.33%
(iii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies (vide Recommendation at Sl.Nos. 4)	1	8.33%
(iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee (vide Recommendation at Sl.Nos. 2)	1	8.33%
(v) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final reply of the Government are still awaited	Nil	0.00