

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1757
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2025

STATUS AND GOVERNANCE OF INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

1757. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering any restructuring of the governance framework of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), including changes to its governing bodies, academic representation and procedures for senior appointments;
- (b) whether any proposal exists to alter the status of ISI or shift the location of its headquarters from Kolkata and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure that any such changes do not undermine ISI's academic autonomy, federal character or its historic role as a premier national institution?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE [RAO INDERJIT SINGH]

(a) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has prepared a draft 'Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Bill, 2025' to introduce a comprehensive new legislation, for upscaling the existing legislation Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959 to the level of governing legislations of other peer Institutions of National Importance (INIs) such as IITs/IIMs with the objective of overhaul and modernization of the Institute's governance framework by enhancing its autonomy and accountability. A copy of the draft 'The Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2025' has been placed on Ministry's website for further pre-legislative consultation till 15 December 2025. The draft Bill contains, *inter-alia*, details of governing framework including proposed governing bodies, academic representation and procedures for senior appointments.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration to shift the location of ISI's headquarters from Kolkata. In the draft Indian Statistical Institute Bill 2025 which is presently placed for pre-legislative consultation, the location/ registered office of the Institute has been clearly indicated in the long title. The proposed legislation upscales and strengthens the governing framework of ISI, reiterates the declaration of ISI as an Institution of National Importance, and provides for incorporation of ISI as a body corporate, and also introduces framework of

statutory bodies for effective governance. Moreover, the Bill enables the Institute to set up centres and campuses in India and abroad to expand its academic and research reach.

(c) The ISI Bill 2025 is intended to enable ISI to emerge as a globally recognised centre of excellence in statistical and allied disciplines. The draft legislation is founded upon the guiding principles of Excellence, Effective Governance, Autonomy and Accountability. The statutory authorities of the Institute namely the Visitor, the Board of Governors, an Academic Council, the Director, Centre-Directors and the Registrar and their roles and responsibilities have been incorporated in the proposed statute. The Board of Governors will be an empowered and leaner body consisting of 11 members and having a balanced representation of internal and external members. The Bill introduces and streamlines the channels of accountability at various level. It provides provisions for review and inquiry by the Visitor, review of medium-term and long-term plan by the Board, and submission of annual performance report and annual financial report by the Director. The Bill provides for recognition of the Centres of the Institute (which will be specified by the Board) and grant them a degree of autonomy. The Centres of the Institute will be given adequate financial, administrative and academic powers, so as to enable them to attain autonomy in their decision making and functioning through their respective Management Councils. By aligning ISI with the legal and governance framework of other peer Institutions of National Importance, the ISI Bill 2025 intends to enhance institutional autonomy and accountability and also strengthen its capacity to deliver world-class education, research, and policy support.
