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STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2025-26)

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME
IMPLEMENTATION**

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
2026-27

THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2026/ Phalguna, 1947 (Saka)

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MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 17 March, 2026

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 17 March, 2026



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2026/ Phalguna, 1947 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (2025-26)

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Arun Bharti
3. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
4. Shri Rajesh Naranbhai Chudasama
5. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
6. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
7. Shri K. Gopinath
8. Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap
9. Shri Kishori Lal
10. Shri Harendra Singh Malik
11. Thiru Arun Nehru
12. Shri N. K. Premachandran
13. Dr. C. M. Ramesh
14. Smt. Sandhya Ray
15. Prof. Sougata Ray
16. Shri P. V. Midhun Reddy
17. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
18. Dr. K. Sudhakar
19. Shri Manish Tewari
20. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni
21. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri P. Chidambaram
23. Shri Narain Dass Gupta
24. Shri Praful Patel
25. Shri Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy
26. Shri S. Selvaganabathy
27. Shri Sanjay Seth
28. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
29. Smt. Darshana Singh
30. Dr. M. Thambidurai
31. Shri Pramod Tiwari

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Shri Gaurav Goyal | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Bharti Sanjeev Tuteja | Director |
| 3. | Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Sh. Manish Kumar | Under Secretary |
| 5. | Smt. Mradula Dubey | Assistant Committee Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorised by the Committee, present this Thirty-Fifth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

2. The Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation have been examined by the Committee under Rule Section 331E(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 19 February, 2026. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the material and information which the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants (2026-27).

4. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their Sitting held on 13 March, 2026.

5. For facility of reference, the Observations / Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold at the end of the Report.

6. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

**New Delhi;
13 March, 2026
22 Phalguna, 1947 (Saka)**

**Bhartruhari Mahtab
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Finance**

REPORT
PART- I
CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTORY

A. ORGANISATION AND ITS FUNCTIONS:

1.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) came into existence as an independent Ministry on 15th October, 1999 after the merger of the Department of Statistics and the Department of Programme Implementation. The Ministry is the nodal agency for planning integrated development of the statistical system in the country and coordination of statistical activities among different stakeholders in Government of India, State Governments, Union Territories as well as meeting requirements of the International Agencies.

1.2 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation being the nodal Ministry of the Government of India for all statistical matters, attaches considerable importance to coverage and quality aspects of statistics released in the country. The statistics released by the Ministry are based on administrative sources, surveys and censuses conducted by the Central and State Governments, etc. The surveys conducted by the Ministry are based on scientific sampling methods. Data is collected through dedicated field staff who are regularly trained in the concepts and definitions of the items and the scope of the survey. In line with the emphasis on the quality of statistics released by the Ministry, the methodological issues of the statistical products of this Ministry are overseen by various committees viz, Advisory Committee on National Accounts, Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Price and Cost of Living (TAC on SPCL), Steering Committee for National Sample Surveys (NSS), etc. Surveys are conducted on a digital platform using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and e-SIGMA system. The Ministry compiles data-sets based on current data, after applying standard statistical techniques and extensive scrutiny and supervision.

1.3 The Ministry has two wings viz. the Statistics Wing and the Programme Implementation (PI) Wing. There is one Autonomous Body known as the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), which is an institute of national importance by an Act of Parliament, viz. The Indian Statistical Institute Act 1959, which is a renowned and premier institute in the field of Statistics in the country. In addition, there is a National Statistical Commission (NSC), which was created through a Resolution of Government of India with effect from 12th July, 2006 with a mandate to evolve policies, priorities and standards in statistical matters. The Ministry also functions as the cadre controlling authority for two services namely, Indian Statistical Service (ISS) (Group-A) and Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) (Group-B).

B. NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (NSO)

1.4 National Statistics Office (NSO) coordinates the statistical activities in the country and is responsible for evolving and laying down statistical standards. Its activities inter alia include compilation of National Accounts, Index of Industrial Production, Consumer Price Indices for Urban/Rural/ Combined, Human Development Statistics including Gender Statistics and Economic Census and imparting training in Official Statistics and conduct of National Sample Survey. NSO also assists in development of statistics in the States and Union Territories and disseminates Energy Statistics, Social and Environmental Statistics and prepares the National Industrial Classification.

1.5 The NSO brings out important economic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) and other official statistics to support government decision making and framing of appropriate socio-economic policies/programmes. These statistical products/outcomes are consistent with the relevant international standards. The methodology used in the process is consistent with the United Nations guidelines contained in System of National Accounts-2008. The monthly Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is released with a lag of 28 days, as per the methodology adopted from international standards. It is used as a short-term indicator by planners and policy makers for assessing industrial growth. The

monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) is released with a lag of 12 days on the 12th of every month (next working day if 12th is holiday) as per the methodology adopted from international standards/best practices. It is used as a short-term indicator by planners and policy makers for assessing levels of living. It is also used as a measure of retail inflation by the Reserve Bank of India in regulating its monetary policy.

1.6 The NSO also has a vast network of field offices spread across the length and breadth of the country for conducting nationwide largescale socio-economic surveys on a regular basis for providing insight into various facets of economy and society at large. Being the nodal agency in the country for official Statistics, the Ministry coordinates statistical activities amongst Ministries /Departments of the Government of India as well as with the State/UT Governments.

1.7 Broadly, the NSO is mandated with the following responsibilities:

- i. To act as the nodal agency for planning integrated development of the statistical system in the country.
- ii. To formulate and maintain norms and standards related to statistics.
- iii. To coordinate the statistical work in respect of the Central Ministries/Departments and State Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DESS).
- iv. To prepare and publish National Accounts Statistics, namely, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE), Capital Formation, Savings, etc.
- v. To compile and release Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers and Annual Inflation rates based on these CPI numbers.
- vi. To compile and release the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) every month.
- vii. To conduct large scale all-India socio-economic sample surveys including the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Annual Survey of Unincorporated Service Enterprise (ASUSE), Time Use Survey (TUS), Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES), Survey on Capex, Comprehensive Modular Surveys (CMS), NSS Rounds etc.
- viii. To conduct other surveys like price collection surveys, agriculture area enumeration and crop cutting experiments, urban frame surveys, etc.

- ix. To conduct periodic all-India Economic Censuses and related activities.
- x. To maintain liaison with international Statistical Organizations, such as the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Labour Organization (ILO), etc.
- xi. To bring out reports as per the international/regional commitments such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Country Report and SAARC Development Goals India Country Report.

National Accounts

1.8 The National Statistics Office is responsible for preparation of national accounts, which include the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), National Income, Government/Private Final Consumption Expenditure, Capital Formation and Saving along with details of transactions of institutional sectors. The Ministry annually brings out a publication titled “National Accounts Statistics”, containing these statistics. The Ministry is also responsible for preparation and release of Supply-Use Tables (SUT) and Input-Output Transaction Tables (IOTT) from time to time. The Ministry maintains liaison with international organizations on matters related to estimation of national income.

1.9 The Ministry provides technical guidance and support to the State/ UT Directorates of Economics & Statistics (DESSs) on compilation of estimates of State Income and related aggregates, including estimates of State Domestic Product. State level estimates of Gross Value Added (GVA) and Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in respect of supra-regional sectors, namely, Railways, Communication, Services related to broadcasting, Financial Services and Central Government Administration are furnished by the Ministry for the purpose.

1.10 In order to ensure comparability between the National and State level estimates, the Ministry compiles comparable estimates of Gross and Net State Domestic Product

(GSDP/NSDP) by economic activity and Per Capita Income estimates, in consultation with the DESs.

1.11 In compliance with the Special Data Dissemination Standards of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and as per its own policy, the Ministry releases annual and quarterly estimates of GDP from time to time as per pre-specified schedule given in Advance Release Calendar. Schedule of release of various estimates by Ministry in year 2026 is given below:

Calendar for Quarterly Estimates of GDP

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| (i) Q3 of 2025-26 | : | 27 th February 2026 |
| (ii) Q4 of 2025-26 | : | 29 th May, 2026 |
| (iii) Q1 of 2026-27 | : | 31 st August 2026 |
| (iv) Q2 of 2026-27 | : | 30 th November 2026 |

Q1: April-June, Q2: July-September, Q3: October-December, Q4: January-March

Calendar for Annual Estimates of GDP

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| (i) First Advance Estimates for 2025-26 | : | 07 th January 2026 |
| (ii) First Revised Estimates for 2024-25 | : | 27 th February 2026 |
| (iii) Second Advance Estimates for 2025-26 | : | 27 th February 2026 |
| (iv) Provisional Estimates for 2025-26 | : | 29 th May 2026 |

1.12 In its presentation during the sitting held on 19thFebruary 2026, the Ministry informed the Committee that an Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS) was constituted in June 2024 to guide the base revision of GDP. Its major functions involves (i) revision of the base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23 (ii) to publish the revised estimates in Feb 2026 (iii) to capture structural changes in the economy and (iv) to improve data sources and the methodology.

1.13 During the presentation, the Ministry also apprised the Committee about steps taken by ACNAS to improve estimates. Some of them are as follows:

- Methodological refinement in use of MCA data and Government accounts
- Incorporation of estimates based on ASUSE, PLFS to improve estimates of household sector

- Enhanced use of GST and other administrative data such as Vaahan Portal, Petroleum sector data etc.
- Rates/ratios used in estimates updated from various studies awarded (e.g. Construction Sector, Fisheries, PFCE)
- Dialogues with stakeholders such as Central Government Ministries, State/UT Governments, researches
 - to provide new/additional dataset
 - to help them in understanding the estimates

Indicator framework for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

1.14 The Ministry is entrusted with the development of indicator framework for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India to facilitate monitoring of SDGs. The Social Statistics Division of NSO developed a National Indicator Framework (NIF) for SDGs with identified data sources and periodicity for facilitating the monitoring of the SDGs at national level. The framework is dynamic in nature and is reviewed and refined every year. Presently, in SDG NIF 2025, there are 284 national indicators with identified data sources and periodicity. The division also compiles Environment Account using United Nations System of Environmental Economic Accounting Framework (UN SEEA Framework).

1.15 The Ministry is also responsible for conducting large scale sample surveys in diverse fields on all India basis. Primary data is collected regularly through nation-wide household/enterprise surveys on various socio-economic subjects. Besides these surveys, the Ministry collects data on rural and urban prices and also plays a significant role in the improvement of crop statistics through supervision of the area enumeration and crop estimation surveys of the State agencies. It also maintains a frame of urban area units for drawing samples in urban areas.

C. THE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (PI) WING

1.16 The Programme Implementation Wing has the following responsibilities:

- i. Monitoring the performance of the country's eleven key infrastructure sectors, viz., Power, Coal, Steel, Railways, Telecommunications, Ports, Fertilizers, Cement, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Roads and Civil Aviation.
- ii. Monitoring of all Central Sector Projects costing ₹ 150 crore and above.
- iii. Implementation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

D. NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMISSION (NSC)

1.17 The Government of India, through a MoSPI resolution dated 1st June, 2005, decided to set up the National Statistical Commission (NSC). The NSC is, *inter-alia*, mandated to evolve policies, priorities and standards in statistical matters and provides technical advice to monitor / enforce statistical priorities and standards pertaining to the national statistical system.

1.18 The NSC has four part-time Members besides a part-time Chairperson, each having specialization and experience in specified statistical fields. CEO, NITI Aayog is an ex-officio Member of the Commission. The Chief Statistician of India is the Secretary to NSC. NSC has a permanent secretariat headed by a SAG Level Officer, assisted by supporting staff, from MoSPI.

1.19 The main functions of the Commission are to evolve strategies for improving the statistical system of the country, besides serving as a nodal and empowered body for all core statistical activities of the country and evolving, monitoring and enforcing statistical priorities and standards.

1.20 On a pointed query to provide input on recommendation made by Committee in 27th Report on 'Performance Review of National Statistical Commission' to establish NSC as statutory and autonomous body to serve as nodal agency for all statistical activities, the Ministry in its post evidence replies stated as below:

"NSC has mandate, *inter-alia*, to critically examine deficiencies in the present statistical system, particularly in terms of timeliness, reliability, adequacy, coordination, legislation, and institutional capacity and to review the existing

organizational and legal framework governing statistical functions. NSC is also mandated to recommend as part of other measures, comprehensive measures to strengthen and modernize the statistical system for producing timely and reliable data to support policy and planning at all administrative levels.”

CHAPTER II

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

2.1 The Ministry has stated that against their projected Budgetary Estimates of Rs. 5826.11 crore, only Rs. 4522.25 crore has been allocated by Ministry of Finance for FY 2026-27 for schemes. When asked whether the allocation made for 2026-27 will be sufficient to meet the requirement of the physical targets under various programmes of the Ministry, the Ministry in its written reply has furnished as follows:

“The allocation made for 2026-27 will not be sufficient to meet the requirement of the physical targets under various programmes of the Ministry.”

2.2 In this regard, the Ministry has furnished scheme-wise reasons for insufficiency of funds allocated:

“Support for Statistical Strengthening Sub-Scheme

The BE 2025-26 of SSS scheme is Rs. 15.00 crore, and BE 2026-27 for SSS scheme, proposed by MoSPI, is Rs. 130.864 crore (8.72 times or 872.43% hike from BE 2025-26).

The existing SSS scheme (EFC 2021-26) functions on the basis of an input-based financing model wherein funds are disbursed to States/ UTs without linking them to clear outputs.

Based on consultations held with States/UTs and reviews held within MoS&PI, the SSS scheme has been re-designed to align the States to MoSPI's 5 year vision focusing on generating good quality data at sub-State level having use cases in policy. The revamped SSS scheme introduces several key features, for the first time, aiming at:

- a) Robust sub-State estimation (through participation of States/ UTs in national surveys & generation of sub-State estimates of statistical products);
- b) Strengthening State-level capacities with modern data collection and processing tools (through IT & dashboard support for CAPI tool);
- c) Data Analytics (through setting up of DAU) to leverage official statistics and administrative data for evidence-based policy planning.
- d) Deliverable-linked funding: Every funded activity is tied to deliverables (improving statistical products or strengthening statistical systems). The funds will be released based on the achievement of specific deliverables.

- e) Scheme governance structure has been simplified for an efficient proposal approval process, fund flow, & monitoring mechanisms.
- f) Scheme components are redesigned, from earlier input-based & overlapping nine components, to four mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive (MECE) components namely;

Component 1: Statistical Infrastructure and System Modernization;

Component 2: Engagement for Statistical Strengthening;

Component 3: Human Resource Development;

Component 4: Knowledge Management & Publicity.

- g) Incentives to States/UTs for adoption of data standardization and harmonization guidelines released by MoSPI
- h) Development of common resources, at the central level, to augment digital initiatives, data sharing, seamless coordination, monitoring, etc.

The revamped scheme drives its impetus from the reform initiatives undertaken by MoSPI for 'Strengthening the Indian national statistical system' and marks a paradigm shift from fragmented capacity support to a deliverable-driven, standards-based and nationally harmonised statistical ecosystem, and vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

For the upcoming EFC period (2026-31), States/UTs were requested to submit indicative five-year budgets as per the SSS 2.0 draft guidelines with identified key deliverables to enable strategic resource allocation. The indicative budget requirements have been received from 28 States/ UTs by MoSPI till date. Overall, the States/UTs have submitted requirement for approx. ₹ 1,400 crore for strengthening statistical systems and conducting surveys and releasing statistical products. It may be noted that the demand of States/ UTs have been rationalized for permissible list of activities only.

The proposed outlay for the SSS 2.0 scheme in EFC (2026-31) is Rs. 777 crore only, which is very reasonable as compared to the amount demanded by 28 States/ UTs.

The proposed outlay for the SSS 2.0 scheme is also supplemented and supported basis on recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission. The commission recommended that a fixed grant of ₹1 crore per district to support statistical operations in the States/UTs. As there are 777 districts in the country,

a minimum requirement of ₹777 Crore is needed for strengthening of State Statistical Systems for EFC period 2026-2031 for the scheme.

The EFC of CD scheme (including SSS sub-scheme) which proposes higher allocation to the SSS sub-scheme during the 2026-31 cycle is currently under process. The current BE (2026-27) of Rs. 15.00 crore is allocated on the basis of past annual expenditure and budget allocation which is insufficient for the revamped SSS scheme.

As the revamped SSS scheme (scheduled for rollout commencing 1st April 2026) utilizes a results-based financing architecture, where disbursements for long-term capacity building are strictly contingent upon the successful completion of initial short-term deliverables, it is pre-requisite that the States/ UTs gets access the bulk of the funds to initiate and execute short-term deliverables starting from the first quarter of FY 2026-27.

Thus, initial 1-2 years of the scheme are crucial for ensuring performance of the scheme and achieving its vision.

Reduced funding poses risks to the scheme's viability and will have strategic implications such as inability to (a) fund front-loaded costs for IT infrastructure (tablets, laptops) (b) mobilize manpower for fieldwork, training/ workshops for field staff & DES staff in first two quarters of FY 2026-27, leading to loss of sub-National data granularity of data & digital transformation of statistical systems.

Economic Census

The proposal of conduct of 8th Economic Census (EC) is yet to be approved by CCEA. Under BE 2026-27, tentatively, an amount of Rs. 3 crore has been allocated under EC sub-scheme for undertaking preparatory activities of 8th EC like development of end-to-end digital solution for conduct of EC and conduct of All India training of master trainers on 8th EC. In the event of approval of the 8th EC proposal by the EFC / CCEA, additional fund requirement for undertaking preparatory activities like training, awareness creation, etc. would be sought under supplementary demand for grants.

Capacity Development CS and NSS

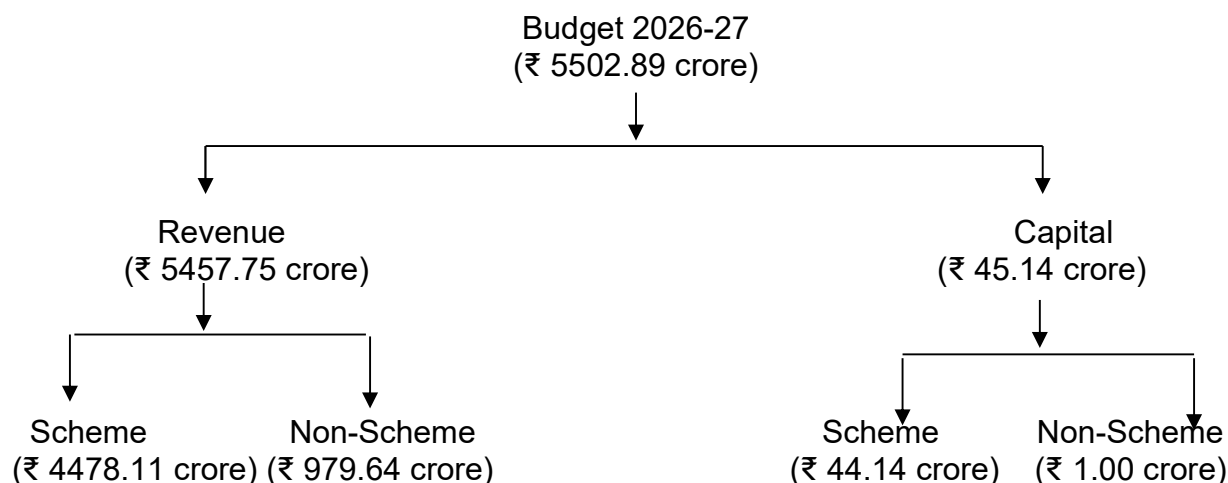
Under the NSS component of the CD Scheme, the tentative expected budget allocation is of Rs. 415 crores during 2026-27. However, NSS has planned for an expenditure of Rs. 788 crore during 2026-27. The activities include the conduct of multiple surveys like PLFS, Household Income Surveys, CMS modules, AIDIS, ASISSE etc. NSS is planning to conduct 14-15 surveys in FY 2026-27 and

planning to engage about 10,000 contract staff during this period. The increased projected outlays is due to the increased number of new demand based surveys and increased granularity incorporated in sample designs to publish sub-state level estimates.

Under the component 'Strengthening of Data Informatics & Innovation Division of MoSPI (erstwhile computer centre)' of CD (Main) scheme, Rs 18.27 crore has been provisioned as against requirement of Rs 33.79 crore in BE 2026-27. It is pertinent to mention that the fund of Rs 33.79 crore is required to support Digital Transformation initiatives, the DI Lab initiative, and other miscellaneous expenditure."

BUDGET 2026-27

2.3 The Demands for Grants under Demand No. 96 for the Ministry includes a budget proposal of ₹ 5502.89 crore for the year 2026-27. The demand under Revenue is ₹5457.75 crore and under Capital is ₹45.14 crore. The Ministry proposes to undertake two Schemes namely, (i) Capacity Development (CD) Scheme and (ii) Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).



2.4 A statement showing Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actuals for 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 and Budget Estimates for 2026-27 both under Scheme and Non-Scheme along with a statement showing major Head and Division-wise break-up is detailed below:

Statement showing BE, RE & Actuals for 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 and BE for 2026-27										
(Total Scheme and Total Non-Scheme)										
										(Rs.in lakhs)
	2023-24			2024-25			2025-26			2026-27
	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual (based on e-lekha on 31.12.2025)	BE
Non-Scheme (Total MOSPI)	88,490.00	91,101.00	83,896.64	95,496.00	91,407.00	90,295.07	95,380.00	94,904.00	74,830.47	98,064.00
(%ge change)				(7.9%)	(0.3%)	(94.6%)	-(0.1%)	(3.8%)	(78.5%)	(2.8%)
Scheme (Without MPLADS)	60,000.00	45,000.00	42,994.35	54,387.00	47,203.00	51,626.74	56,501.00	66,077.00	44,584.29	57,000.00
(%ge change)				-(9.4%)	(4.9%)	(94.9%)	(3.9%)	(40.0%)	(78.9%)	(0.9%)
TOTAL (Scheme + Non scheme) without MPLADS	148,490.00	136,101.00	126,890.99	149,883.00	1,38,610.00	1,41,921.81	1,51,881.00	1,60,981.00	1,19,414.76	1,55,064.00
(%ge change)				(0.9%)	(1.8%)	(94.7%)	(1.3%)	(16.1%)	(78.6%)	(2.1%)
MPLADS	395,850.00	260,000.00	120,057.33	395,500.00	3,94,779.00	2,60,151.83	3,95,225.00	3,94,148.00	3,92,161	3,95,225.00
(%ge change)				-(0.1%)	(51.8%)	(65.8%)	-(0.1%)	-(0.2%)	(99.2%)	(0.0%)
TOTAL Scheme (including MPLADS)	455,850.00	305,000.00	163,051.68	449,887.00	4,41,982.00	3,11,778.57	4,51,726.00	4,60,225.00	4,36,745.29	4,52,225.00
(%ge change)				-(1.3%)	(44.9%)	(69.3%)	(0.4%)	(4.1%)	(96.7%)	(0.1%)

G. TOTAL MOSPI (Scheme + Non Scheme)	544,340.00	396,101.00	246,948.32	545,383.00	5,33,389.00	4,02,073.64	5,47,106.00	5,55,129.00	5,11,575.76	5,50,289.00
<i>(%ge change)</i>				<i>(0.2%)</i>	<i>(34.7%)</i>	<i>(73.7%)</i>	<i>(0.3%)</i>	<i>(4.1%)</i>	<i>(93.5%)</i>	<i>(0.6%)</i>
Note : %ge increase (+) / decrease (-) in BE & RE has been calculated using figures of the current year over the corresponding figure of previous year.										
%age of Actuals has been calculated using figures of the respective year BE										

Statement showing BE, RE and Actuals for 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 and BE for 2026-27 (Major Head wise and Division wise)

(Scheme and Non-Scheme)

(Rs. in crore)

	2023-24		2024-25			2025-26			2026-27
	R.E.	Actuals	B.E.	R.E.	Actuals	B.E.	R.E.	Actuals (based on e-lekha on 31.12.2025)	B.E.
Major Head "2052" / 00.090. Sectt. General Services									
Non-Scheme	8.45	6.14	8.80	6.44	6.21	6.78	6.56	5.07	6.82
%ge increase			(3.4%)	-(23.8%)	(70.6%)	-(23.0%)	(1.9%)	(74.8%)	(0.6%)
Major Head"2553"/00.101.MPLADS									
Scheme	2,600.00	1,200.57	3,954.75	3,947.54	2,601.52	3,952.00	3,941.23	3,921.56	3,952.05
%ge increase			-(0.1%)	(51.8%)	(65.8%)	-(0.1%)	-(0.2%)	(99.2%)	(0.0%)
Major Head"3451" / 00.090 National Statistics Office									
Non-Scheme	28.97	28.11	30.10	32.85	31.17	34.38	33.19	26.44	34.60
%ge increase			(9.4%)	(13.4%)	(103.6%)	(14.2%)	(1.0%)	(76.9%)	(0.6%)
Major Head"3451" / 00.090.51-National Statistical Commission									
Non-Scheme	1.24	0.71	1.26	0.92	0.74	0.95	0.60	0.41	0.65
%ge increase			-(11.3%)	-(25.8%)	(58.7%)	-(24.6%)	-(34.8%)	(43.2%)	-(31.6%)
Major Head"3454" / 02.201 National Sample Survey									
Non-Scheme	441.86	425.10	463.17	463.65	451.99	486.09	504.17	415.74	527.94
%ge increase			(2.4%)	(4.9%)	(97.6%)	(4.9%)	(8.7%)	(85.5%)	(8.6%)
Major Head"3454" / 02.202 ISI, Kolkata									
Non-Scheme	357.55	312.80	375.59	337.39	342.77	349.39	329.39	238.33	332.00

%ge increase			(16.5%)	-(5.6%)	(91.3%)	-(7.0%)	-(2.4%)	(68.2%)	-(5.0%)
Major Head"3454" / 02.203 DIID									
Non-Scheme	8.34	6.54	8.77	8.35	8.13	8.74	9.18	7.36	9.57
%ge increase			(5.2%)	(0.1%)	(92.7%)	-(0.3%)	(9.9%)	(84.2%)	(9.5%)
Major Head"3454" / 02.204 Central Statistics									
Scheme	400.26	411.14	481.37	412.14	486.74	502.46	583.49	428.39	508.04
%ge increase			-(12.4%)	(3.0%)	(101.1%)	(4.4%)	(41.6%)	(85.3%)	(1.1%)
Non-Scheme	61.51	57.86	64.13	62.91	60.59	65.92	64.93	53.74	67.29
%ge increase			(4.7%)	(2.3%)	(94.5%)	(2.8%)	(3.2%)	(81.5%)	(2.1%)
Major Head"3454" / 02.798 International Cooperation									
Non-Scheme	0.22	0.21	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23
%ge increase			(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(100.0%)	(0.0%)	(3.4%)	(100.0%)	(4.5%)
Major Head"3454" / 02. 800 Other Expenditure (includes Departmental Canteen)									
Non-Scheme	1.64	0.95	1.69	0.80	0.64	0.61	0.51	0.33	0.54
%ge increase			(3.0%)	-(51.2%)	(37.9%)	-(63.9%)	-(36.7%)	(54.1%)	-(11.8%)
Major Head"2552" – North Eastern Area									
Scheme	18.19	-	19.00	16.94	-	18.65	18.78	-	18.02
%ge increase			(4.5%)	-(6.9%)	-	-(1.8%)	(10.9%)	-	-(3.4%)
Major Head "5475" Capital Outlay									
Scheme	31.55	18.81	43.75	43.20	29.52	44.15	58.75	17.44	44.14
%ge increase			(35.7%)	(36.9%)	(67.5%)	(0.9%)	(36.0%)	(39.5%)	(0.0%)
Non-Scheme	1.23	0.54	1.23	0.54	0.50	0.72	0.29	0.12	1.00
%ge increase			(0.0%)	-(56.1%)	(40.7%)	-(41.5%)	-(46.3%)	(16.7%)	(38.9%)
TOTAL (All Major Heads)									
Total Non-Scheme	911.01	838.96	954.96	914.07	902.96	953.80	949.04	747.76	980.64
(% increase)			(7.9%)	(0.3%)	(94.6%)	-(0.1%)	(3.8%)	(78.4%)	(2.8%)

Total Scheme	3,050.00	1,630.52	4,498.87	4,419.82	3,117.78	4,517.26	4,602.25	4,367.39	4,522.25
(% increase)			-(1.3%)	(44.9%)	(69.3%)	(0.4%)	(4.1%)	(96.7%)	(0.1%)
Grand Total	3,961.01	2,469.48	5,453.83	5,333.89	4,020.74	5,471.06	5,551.29	5,115.15	5,502.89
(% increase)			(0.2%)	(34.7%)	(73.7%)	(0.3%)	(4.1%)	(93.5%)	(0.6%)

Note: %ge increase (+) / decrease (-) in RE & BE has been calculated using figures of the current over corresponding figure of previous year.
 %ge of Actuals has been calculated using figures of the respective year BE

NON-SCHEME 2026-27

2.5 The Ministry's Non-Scheme budget of ₹ 980.64 crore in 2026-27 is primarily salary oriented as the major function of the Statistics Wing (NSO) is to conduct census / surveys, collect, analyse and disseminate data, which is a staff intensive function. The major components of the Non-Scheme budget for the Ministry during 2026-27 are given below:

Object Head	Budget (₹ in lakh)	% of total Non-Scheme Budget
Salaries	32281.00	32.918%
Rewards	232.06	0.237%
Medical Treatment	861.55	0.879%
Allowances	29523.00	30.106%
LTC	270.69	0.276%
Training Expenses	21.04	0.021%
Domestic Travels	586.81	0.598%
Foreign Travel	0.02	0.000%
Office Expenses	554.25	0.565%
Rent Rates and Taxes for Land and Buildings	330.44	0.337%
Printing and Publication	0.05	0.000%
Rent for Others	37.05	0.038%
Digital Equipment	3.05	0.003%
Materials & Supplies	0.06	0.000%
Fuels & Lubricants	1.04	0.001%
Advertising and Publicity	0.02	0.000%
Minor Civil and electric Works	0.02	0.000%
Professional Services	3.04	0.003%
Repair and Maintenance	0.05	0.000%
Other Revenue Expenditure	29.70	0.030%
International Contribution	23.00	0.023%
Grant in Aid General (IARNIW)	6.06	0.006%
Grants-in-aid to ISI, Kolkata	33200.00	33.855%
Capital	100.00	0.102%
Total	98064.00	

2.6 The Ministry provides Grants-in-Aid to Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) for its functioning, academic activities and infrastructure creation and its maintenance, as part of the Non-Scheme component of the budget. ISI is devoted to the research, teaching and application of statistics, natural sciences and social sciences. The institute gained the status of an Institution of National Importance through Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Act, 1959. Section 4 of the ISI Act, empowers ISI, *inter-alia*, to grant degrees and diplomas in statistics, mathematics, quantitative economics, computer science and such other subjects related to statistics. From the budget of the Ministry, an amount of ₹ 332.00 crore has been kept as grants-in-aid to the Institute, as Non-scheme allocation during 2026-27.

2.7 National Statistical Commission Non-Scheme budget for the year 2026-27 has been pegged at ₹ 0.70 crore.

2.8 The Non-Scheme allocation shows an increase from ₹ 949.04 crore in 2025-26 (RE) to ₹ 980.64 crore (BE) during 2026-27.

D. Scheme 2026-27

2.9 The Ministry is presently implementing two Central Sector Schemes namely, Capacity Development (CD) Scheme and Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The total Scheme budget proposal in 2026-27 for the Ministry is ₹ 4522.25 crore.

2.10 Out of the total Scheme budget of ₹ 4522.25 crore, ₹ 570.00 crore is earmarked for Capacity Development (CD) Scheme. The major components of expenditure of CD Scheme are as follows:

Object Head	Budget	% of total CD Scheme Budget
	(₹ in lakh)	
Salaries	860.00	1.509%
Rewards	12.00	0.021%
Medical Treatment	40.00	0.070%
Allowances	360.00	0.632%
LTC	10.00	0.018%
Training Expenses	539.01	0.946%
Domestic Travels	3275.19	5.746%
Foreign Travel	106.98	0.188%

Object Head	Budget	% of total CD Scheme Budget
	(₹ in lakh)	
Office Expenses	4699.82	8.245%
Rent Rates and Taxes for Land and Buildings	4830.00	8.474%
Printing and Publication	52.30	0.092%
Rent for Others	737.00	1.293%
Digital Equipment	251.00	0.440%
Materials & Supplies	18.00	0.032%
Fuels & Lubricants	38.00	0.067%
Advertising and Publicity	985.72	1.729%
Minor Civil and electric Works	1152.00	2.021%
Professional Services	30989.55	54.368%
Repair and Maintenance	215.85	0.379%
Awards & Prizes	0.00	0.000%
Other Revenue Expenditure	270.26	0.474%
Grant-in-Aid-General	1361.32	2.388%
Grant-in-Aid-General for NER	1802.00	3.161%
Motor Vehicle	6.00	0.011%
Machinery and Equipment	178.00	0.312%
ICT Equipment	958.54	1.682%
Buildings and Structures	1100.00	1.930%
Infrastructure Assets	62.00	0.109%
Furniture & Fixtures	288.13	0.505%
Other Fixed Assets	10.46	0.018%
Land	1790.87	3.142%
Total	57000.00	

An amount of ₹ 3952.25 crore has been provided in BE 2026-27 under MPLADS.

2.11 The table below provides information on Scheme provision (BE, RE and Actuals) during 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 (BE):

Scheme-wise allocation of Actual Expenditure 2023-24 and BE, RE & Actual Expenditure 2024-25, 2025-26 and BE for 2026-27

(Scheme Budget)

(Rs. in lakhs)									
Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	2023-24	2024-25			2025-26			2026-27
		Actual expenditure	BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Expenditure (based on e-lekha on 31.12.2025)	BE
Central Sector Schemes (1 to 2):									
1	Capacity Development	42,994.35	54,387.00	47,203.00	51,626.74	56,501.00	66,077.00	56189.00 (As on 27.02.2026 e-lekha)	57,000.00
2	NPIQSI	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total MOSPI (without MPLADS)		42,994.35	54,387.00	47,203.00	51,626.74	56,501.00	66,077.00	56189.00	57,000.00
	P.I. Wing							-	
3	MPLADS	1,20,057.33	3,95,500.00	3,94,779.00	2,60,151.83	3,95,225.00	3,94,148.00	3,92,161.00	3,95,225.00
Grand Scheme Total (MOSPI)		1,63,051.68	4,49,887.00	4,41,982.00	3,11,778.57	4,51,726.00	4,60,225.00	4,48,350.00	4,52,225.00

2.12 When asked to justify allocation of Rs. 570.00 crore for FY 2026-27 as compared to Rs. 565.01 crore allocated for FY 2025-26 during which the Actuals were Rs. 561.85crore (as on 27.02.2026), the Ministry in their written reply have submitted as under:

“The Capacity Development (CD) Scheme is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Rs. 565.01 crore and Rs. 660.77 crore have been provisioned under Budget Estimates (BE) and Revised Estimates (RE) for Financial Year (FY) 2025-26 under the CD Scheme. Out of the total allocated funds of Rs. 660.77 crore under RE, expenditure of Rs. 551.99 crore (83.54%) has already been incurred up to 23.02.2026.

In the BE 2026-27, there is only a marginal increase of Rs. 4.99 crore as compared to FY 2025-26. However, as per the draft EFC Memo for continuation of CD Scheme, Rs. 1,609.74 crore has been proposed for FY 2026-27 for undertaking various activities for strengthening of the statistical system including conduct of new socio-economic surveys, 8th Economic Census, Support to the States for infrastructure, guidance on methodologies and capacity building under the Statistical Strengthening Sub-scheme, etc. The revised allocation is expected to increase post approval of draft EFC proposal, which at present is under consideration with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.”

2.13 Under the scheme/programme ‘North-Eastern Area’, the Budget Estimate for fiscals 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 is Rs. 19.00 crore, 18.65 crore and 18.02 crore respectively which shows a slight downfall in budgetary grant. When asked to elaborate upon the reasons leading to this decrease and impact of this decreasing trend in funds allocation in implementation of Schemes and Programmes of the Ministry in North-Eastern region, the Ministry has replied as under:

“The Capacity Development (CD) Scheme is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme and the funds under Grant-in-Aid for North Eastern Region (NER) are provisioned under CD (Main) Scheme and Support for Statistical Strengthening sub-scheme. The details of Budget Estimates and expenditure incurred under NER component is as under:

<i>(Rs. in crore)</i>						
Sl. No	Name	2024-25		2025-26		2026-27
		BE	Exp.	BE	Exp.	BE*
1	Capacity Development (Main) Scheme	15.32	15.00	16.15	8.00	16.02
2	Support for Statistical Strengthening Sub-Scheme	3.68	3.24	2.5	3.34	2.00
Total Capacity Development Scheme		19.00	18.24	18.65	11.34	18.02
<i>*Proposed</i>						

CD(Main) Scheme

The major annual Grant-in-Aid under North East (NE) component is released by National Sample Survey (NSS), National Statistics Office (NSO) to 5 North-Eastern States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim NSS for taking up the work of Socio-Economic Surveys for Central Samples for various rounds of NSS, in addition to the coverage of their State Samples except Sikkim. In case of Sikkim, the funds under GIA-NER are

released for field work only for State samples, with their own set-up. NSS compensates them for their services through the release of Grant-in-aids every year in instalments. The field work in respect of the Central samples and State samples is compensated at 100% and 50% of expenditure respectively.

In addition, funds are also released to Directorate of Economic & Statistics (DES), Mizoram for price collection work under Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the State of Mizoram. However, the price collection under the new series is being carried out exclusively by NSS in Mizoram. The new series data for the month of January, 2026 has been released on 12th February, 2026 with Base (2024=100). Hence, the fund may not be released to DES Mizoram from FY 2026-27 onwards. The data collection for CPI 2012 series will be discontinued by DES, Mizoram from 31 March 2026.

Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) sub-scheme

The SSS sub-scheme is demand driven and funds are released as and when the States/UTs raise the demands for subsequent instalments. In view of the revised fund flow guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance, the amount earmarked to a CNA in a FY can be released in 4 instalments of 25% each, subject to the condition that the unspent balance in the CNA account is less than 25% of the amount earmarked to a CNA in a FY. Given the slow pace of expenditure by the States, funds could not be released as expected. However, MoSPI organizes regular monthly joint review meetings with States/UTs (including NER) to take up any issue faced in the implementation/ day-to-day works under the SSS."

2.14 Further, on being asked about the steps taken by the Ministry to strengthen and improve the quality of surveys and census in the North-Eastern states of the country, the Ministry in their written reply have submitted as under:

"The National Sample Survey (NSS) has a Zonal Office at Guwahati, Assam, to oversee the overall coordination of survey activities and liaison with the North Eastern States. There are also 09 Regional Offices of Field Operations Division of the NSS located at Itanagar, Imphal, Kohima, Shillong, Agartala, Dibrugarh, Gangtok, Aizawl and Guwahati alongwith 04 Sub-Regional Offices at Tura, Silchar, Jorhat and Tejpur for executing survey activities of NSS."

Demands for Grants 2026-27 and recommendations of the Committee as contained in the 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on ‘Demands for Grants (2025-26)’

2.15 Based on the recommendations of the Committee, budget requirements for meeting additional demands for activities of the Ministry have been provisioned through the Demands for Grants 2026-27.

2.16 When asked to specify as to how much sum has been surrendered by the Ministry during the last three Financial Years due to under-utilization, the reasons for the same and whether steps have been taken to remedy and avoid the same in the coming fiscals, the Ministry stated the information regarding amount surrendered in the last three Financial Years as below:

“The details of the funds surrendered during the last three financial years viz., 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 by the Ministry are as under:

(₹ in crore)				
Financial Year	BE	RE	Actuals	Amount Surrendered
2022-23	5398.08	5177.09	3716.31	1681.3799
2023-24	5443.40	3961.01	2469.49	2973.8814
2024-25	5453.83	5333.89	4020.74	1433.0918

2.17 The steps being taken by the Ministry to remedy the trend and avoid savings of funds in the coming fiscal are as under:

“The Ministry has been taking several measures to ensure that the funds allocated for Schemes are timely utilized. The expenditure is closely monitored for taking timely remedial actions, wherever required, so as to avoid large scale unspent budget provisions. The following major steps have been taken by the Ministry to minimize the savings:

- i. The activities, which are part / components of the CD Scheme, are being monitored on a weekly basis by Secretary (MoSPI), through Senior Officers’ meetings on physical and financial progress of the scheme, to oversee and guide timely implementation of the concerned activities.

- ii. Further, in respect of SSS sub-scheme, the BE/RE in a particular financial year are being worked out after assessing the progress of States/UTs based on the physical and financial progress as reported in their Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs). Additionally, while formulating the subsequent year's budgetary allocations, past trend of utilization of funds under the sub-scheme is taken into consideration. On the basis of above, and as per Central Nodal Agency (CNA) guidelines of the Ministry of Finance, State-UT wise allocation of total budgetary outlay was made in starting of 2024-25 to give them maximum time for utilizing their yearly allocation. For speedy utilization of funds, follow ups and review of expenditure through Joint Review Meetings (JRMs) are also done with the States/UTs.
- iii. Additionally, the Budget & Finance Division/IFD, MoSPI has also advised all the concerned Subject Matter Divisions incurring expenditure under CD Scheme to undertake careful analysis of expenditure trends during the current financial year and preceding two financial years to ensure that the projections are realistic, evidence-based and aligned with actual spending patterns.”

2.18 The reasons for hike/reduction in BE (2026-27) of the Ministry as compared to last financial year and the respective percentage are detailed as under:

(₹ in crore)					
S. no	Name of the Scheme	BE 2025-26	BE 2026-27	% of hike/reduction	Reasons
1	Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD)	3952.25	3952.25	0.00	BE 2026-27 is same as BE 2025-26
2	Capacity Development (CD)	565.01	570.00	0.88	
	2.01- Capacity Development (Main)	550.00	552.00	0.36	The enhanced allocation proposed under BE 2026–27 is primarily to meet the expenditure requirements on account of ongoing statistical surveys, new surveys, strengthening of data infrastructure, capacity building initiatives, and associated operational costs of CSO and NSO to ensure timely and quality statistical outputs.

(₹ in crore)					
S. no	Name of the Scheme	BE 2025-26	BE 2026-27	% of hike/reduction	Reasons
	2.02- Economic Census	0.01	3.00	29900.00	Additional funds are sought to meet the expenditure related to the conduct of the 8th Economic Census, including preparatory activities, field operations, data processing, and technology support. The increase reflects the expanded scope and scale of operations involved in conducting the census across multiple States and Union Territories.
	2.03- Support for Statistical Strengthening	15.00	15.00	0.00	
Total		4517.26	4522.25	0.11	

CHAPTER – III

REVIEW OF PAST PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY

3.1 A statement showing BE as sought by the MoSPI vis-à-vis the actual funds allocated by Budget Division during the last five years is as under:

(₹ in crore)			
S. no	Years	BE sought by the Ministry	Actual BE
1	2021-22	1437.58	1409.13
2	2022-23	5750.03	5398.08
3	2023-24	5567.92	5443.40
4	2024-25	5571.93	5453.83
5	2025-26	6753.17	5471.06

3.2 A statement showing year-wise details of the budgetary allocation of the MoSPI at BE, RE stages and actual utilization during the last five years (including 2025-26) are as under:

(₹ in crore)			
Financial Year	BE	RE	Actuals
2021-22	1409.13	3737.00	2691.85
2022-23	5398.08	5177.09	3716.31
2023-24	5443.40	3961.01	2469.49
2024-25	5453.83	5333.89	4020.74
2025-26	5471.06	5551.29	5115.76*

* based on e-lekha on 31.12.2025

3.3 The scheme-wise details of the budgetary allocation of the MoSPI at BE, RE stages and actual utilization during the last five years (including 2025-26) are as under:

(₹ in crore)															
	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26		
Name of the Scheme	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual (based on e-lekha on 31.12.2025)
CD Scheme	626.88	347.00	241.70	562.11	347.50	327.67	600.00	450.00	429.94	543.87	472.03	516.27	565.01	660.77	445.8429
MPLADS	20.10	2,633.50	1,732.12	3,965.00	3,965.00	2,566.96	3,958.50	2,600.00	1,200.57	3,955.00	3,947.79	2,601.52	3,952.25	3941.48	3921.61
TOTAL	646.98	2,980.50	1,973.82	4,527.11	4,312.50	2,894.63	4,558.50	3,050.00	1,630.51	4,498.87	4,419.82	3,117.79	4,517.26	4,602.25	4,367.45

Scheme	8	0		11	50	63	50	00	52	87	82	79	26	25	
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3.4 When inquired about the reasons for the variation in BE, RE and actual expenditure during these financial years, the Ministry in its written reply has submitted as follows:

“The variations observed between the Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure during the financial years 2021-22 and 2023-24 are attributable to the following reasons:

(a) During the period 2021-22, due to outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent restrictions, including lockdowns and limitations on physical activities, led to delays and deferment in the implementation of several schemes and activities. This resulted in lower utilisation of funds than initially projected at the Budget Estimates stage, necessitating revisions at the Revised Estimates stage and affecting the actual expenditure the during 2021-22.

(b) During the period 2023-24, several schemes were transitioned under the revised procedure for flow of funds. This transition involved procedural adjustments, opening of new bank accounts, and alignment of fund release and accounting mechanisms, which temporarily impacted the pace of fund disbursement and utilisation, thereby contributing to variations between BE, RE and actual expenditure.

(c) The Capacity Development (CD) Scheme of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has three components namely, CD (Main), Economic Census (EC) and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS). EC and SSS are the Sub-Schemes of the CD Scheme. The Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and actual expenditure of CD Scheme of MoSPI along with its sub-schemes during FY 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 (upto 09.02.2026) are as under:

(Rs. In crore)

Scheme	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			2025-26		
	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp. (09.02.2026)
CD(Main)	284.92	270.23	235.74	452.46	319.95	320.88	527.38	439.19	422.21	531.40	531.40	507.11	550.00	634.27	516.45
SSS sub-scheme	33.44	12.00	5.08	52.63	7.55	6.64	10.31	10.31	7.71	12.46	9.16	9.16	15.00	25.77	17.35

EC sub-scheme	280.00	64.77	0.88	57.01	20.00	0.16	62.31	0.50	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.73	0.00
Total	598.36	347.00	241.70	562.10	347.50	327.68	600.00	450.00	429.94	543.87	540.57	516.27	565.01	660.77	533.80

The Scheme-wise reasons for variation in BE, RE and actual expenditure during the last 5 years (including 2025-26) are as under:

CD (Main) scheme

FY 2021-22: Due to COVID-19 pandemic, field visits /official tours remained restricted and also very less traveling was done. Further, various outside training programmes of the ISS officers were badly affected and no training was proposed for the FY 2021-22.

- Due to delay in achievement of milestones under National Integrated Information Platform (NIIP), funds allocated could not be utilized.
- There was delay in development of Online Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) by the vendor. Some procurement proposals could not materialize and some bills were not timely submitted.

FY 2022-23: Two of the survey activities planned during 2022-23, namely, Time Use Survey (TUS) and Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises (ASSSE) (now renamed as 'Annual Survey of Incorporated Service Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)') could not commence as finalization of survey instruments was under process. Payment to System Integrator (SI) in the National Integrated Information Platform (NIIP) could not be released on account of not achieving of milestones.

FY 2023-24: During 2023-24, savings were *inter alia* due to non-completion of National Integrated Information Platform on account of litigation and hiring of less outsourced staff, revision in timelines for launch of second Time Use Survey (TUS), etc. In addition, some of the procurement proposals for hiring of technical manpower could not materialize in time.

FY 2024-25: The funds provisioned for AMC of hardware of MoSPI were not spent as new tender for AMC of Hardware started in January, 2025. The assurance of initiation and completion of works was not received from CPWD within the FY which resulted into savings of funds. Solarization of entire office building was planned with SJVN which could not be materialized as MoU couldn't signed at Ministry level.

FY 2025-26: In FY 2025-26 as on 09.02.2026, an expenditure of 80.78% over RE 2025-25 and 94.48% over BE 2025-26 of CD Scheme has been incurred.

EC sub-scheme

FY 2021-22: Funds were provisioned for conduct of 7th EC. Due to the nationwide COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, several planned activities under the scheme could not be undertaken within the financial year. As a result, the anticipated expenditure could not materialize, leading to substantial savings against RE.

FY 2022-23: Funds were provisioned for conduct of 7th EC. Since fund release was milestone-based, non-fulfilment of key deliverables resulted in non-release of subsequent instalments to the agency (which conducted 7th EC), causing savings against the RE provision.

FY 2023-24: Due to data quality issues, payments to the agency (which conducted 7th EC) could not be processed, resulting in savings against the RE provision.

FY 2024-25: The approval of 8th Economic Census is pending; hence, only token amount was allocated under the scheme.

FY 2025-26: The approval of 8th Economic Census is pending; hence, only token amount was allocated at BE stage under the scheme. However, in anticipation of approval of 8th EC, and to settle the pending demands of State/Uts of 7th EC, funds have been allocated at RE stage in the current fiscal year. Payment under Grant-in -Aid (Appox. Rs.49.73 Lakh) and Professional Head (Appox. Rs.21.00 Lakh) are under pipe line for FY 2025-26.

SSS sub-scheme

FY 2021-22: Due to COVID-19 the States / UTs were unable to complete their milestones of MoUs and thus unable to claim their installments which otherwise would have been due.

FY 2022-23 and 2023-24: Under the SSS sub-scheme, funds are released to the Directorates of Economics & Statistics of the States/Uts with which MoU/proposal, delineating the activities to be carried out and the targets/outcomes to be achieved under the Sub-Scheme, is signed. The total requirement of funds in a particular financial year is worked out after assessing the progress of States/ Uts based on the physical and financial progress as reported in their Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs). The scheme is demand driven and funds are released as and when the States/Uts raise the demands for subsequent instalments. During FY 2022-23, in view of the revised fund flow guidelines issued by M/o Finance, the amount earmarked to a Central Nodal

Agency (CNA) in a FY could be released in 4 instalments of 25% each, subject to the condition that the unspent balance in the CNA account is less than 25% of the amount earmarked to a CNA in a financial year. Given the slow pace of expenditure by the States, funds could not be released as expected. Thus, there were savings of around Rs. 45.99 crore against BE of Rs. 52.63 crore in FY 2022-23. Further, there were savings of Rs. 2.60 crore against BE 2023-24 of Rs. 10.31 crore.

FY 2024-25: The Operational guidelines (2019) prohibited implemented States/UTs (which had utilized their initial allocation of SSS funds) to request additional funds during the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) 2021-26 period. However, the guidelines were revised in October, 2024 to permit implemented States/ UTs seek/ submit proposals to the tune of 50% of their previous Memorandum of Understanding allocation. Based on the revised guidelines, the proposals of implemented States were cleared only by Feb-June 2025, reducing the time for fund utilization and implementation of schemes by States/UTs.

FY 2025-26: Total budget earmarked for SSS sub-scheme in FY 2025-26 is Rs. 25.77 Crore [BE = Rs. 15.00 Crore and Re-appropriation from MPLAD = Rs. 10.77 Crore]. Of this, total funds amounting to Rs. 18.480225 crore had been released to States/ UTs. Simultaneously, efforts are underway to revamp the SSS scheme, in consultation with States/ UTs and MoSPI divisions. The scheme guidelines are being prepared, at present.”

3.5 When asked about the steps being taken to avoid rush of expenditure in the closing month of the financial year, the Ministry submitted that it has been taking proactive and systematic measures every year. The Committee have been apprised that in this regard, an advisory is issued by Ministry annually during the last quarter to all Programme Divisions, Administrative Offices, Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and other stakeholders, emphasizing strict adherence to the provisions of Rule 62 (3) of the General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2017, which mandates that rush of expenditure, particularly in the month of March, should be avoided.

CHAPTER IV

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (MPLADS)

4.1 To implement the mandate given to the Ministry, and to fulfill its objectives, the Ministry has been operating two central sector schemes namely Capacity Development (CD) Scheme and Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

4.2 The Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Programme Implementation wing of the MoSPI. The basic objective of the MPLAD Scheme is to enable the Hon'ble Members of Parliament to recommend creation of durable community assets of national priorities viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. The allocation of funds under the scheme is made on annual basis. The MPLADS has a fixed yearly allocation of amount of ₹ 3940.00 crore as per the entitlement of ₹ 5.00 crore per MP (per annum) for 788 MPs of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Any unspent balance out of the annual allocation of a particular Member of Parliament shall be carried forward and added to the annual allocation for that Member of Parliament for the subsequent Financial Year, and the drawing limits of his account with Nodal District Authority shall be fixed accordingly. The District Authorities execute development works on the recommendation of Member of Parliament in accordance with the extant guidelines prescribed by the respective State Governments.

4.3 A revised set of guidelines governing the MPLAD Scheme have been made effective since 01 April 2023. With the objective of making the MPLAD Scheme more flexible, efficient and effective and to bring it in line with the changing development needs of the community, several existing provisions have been amended and new provisions incorporated. Members are now allocated annual authorizations at the beginning of each financial year subject to certain conditions. The actual fund will now flow directly to the vendors once payments have been authorized by the concerned implementing agencies. The entire process of fund flow under the new Guidelines operates on an IT platform (eSAKSHI web portal) which allows all the stakeholders, including Hon'ble MPs, the Central and State Govt. agencies, the district authorities etc.

to monitor in real time, the status of funds and works to bring in greater transparency and accountability in the system.

4.4 Following are the salient features of Revised Fund Flow Procedure as submitted by Ministry:

“As per the directions of Ministry of Finance, the fund flow procedure under MPLADS shifted to Model 2 with effect from 01.04.2023, which stipulated the implementation of fund flow process through a Scheduled Commercial Bank. Further, as per subsequent directions of Ministry of Finance, MPLAD Scheme has transitioned from Model 2 to Model 1A (TSA Hybrid) since 01.04.2025. The MPLADS–eSAKSHI web portal (www.mplads.mospi.gov.in), introduced with effect from 01.04.2023, has been developed to operationalise the revised fund-flow mechanism under the MPLADS.

Under the new funds flow mechanism (Model-1A), the Ministry shall act as the Central Nodal Agency (CNA). The PMU-CNA of the MPLAD Scheme has opened an assignment account with the RBI, which is linked to the CNA SBI account. Under Model 1A, a consolidated daily demand of funds (as per bills raised by vendors/agencies in a day) is generated by SBI, which is pushed to PFMS online. Upon approval of the day's amount on PFMS, the SBI account receives the corresponding funds from the RBI assignment account, which is then directly transferred to the respective vendors. This fund flow mechanism ensures that there will be no parking of funds at any level. The salient features of the revised Fund Flow Procedure are as follows:

- Members of Parliament would be allocated the amount of Rs. 5 crore at the beginning of the FY, every year.
- Only the authorization would move from CNA to IDA and payments to vendor would be done directly through eSAKSHI portal.
- The pre-conditions for release of funds such as Utilization Certificate are no longer required.
- The whole paper based system has now become paperless, thereby reducing time taken for processing.

Members of Parliament can make all recommendations for development works online through the eSAKSHI portal/ Mobile Application and thereafter can monitor the status of his/her recommendations for development works and the progress of the development works undertaken by the District Authority on his/her recommendations. The new Web-Solution has simplified the entire process, with the

facility of auto-generation of Utilization Certificates, progress reports and all information relating to status of funds, recommendations and development works is available online on the dashboards of each stakeholder, including the Members of Parliament.”

4.5 On being asked about the effects on MPLAD Scheme in the light of revised guidelines, the Ministry in their written reply has submitted as follows:

- “From 01.04.2023, the annual entitlement of ₹5 crore is authorized to each Hon’ble MP at the beginning of the financial year, replacing the earlier instalment-based release system. This has improved flexibility and planning of works.
- The revised guidelines, implemented through the eSAKSHI portal, enable just-in-time fund flow with direct payments to vendors/implementing agencies, eliminating parking of funds at intermediary levels.
- The entire lifecycle of MPLADS works—recommendation, sanction, execution, and payment—has been digitized through the eSAKSHI portal and mobile application, improving efficiency and transparency.
- eSAKSHI has significantly streamlined the fund release and monitoring processes. Several dashboards highlighting the status of funds and works have been integrated for all the stakeholders. OTP based authentication, reports highlighting time bound actions to be taken, digital approval processes have significantly increased the efficiency, while bringing in greater transparency and accountability in the system.
- Clearly defined roles at Central, State, District, and Implementing Agency levels, mandatory inspections, third-party evaluations, and regular review meetings have strengthened monitoring.
- The Utilization Certificates, which are required for release of funds in consonance with the provisions of GFR, are simultaneously generated online through eSAKSHI. This has remarkably reduced the delays in the physical submission of Utilization Certificates.
- Expenditure is now strictly linked to actual execution and vendor bills, improving fiscal discipline and ensuring efficient utilization of public funds.”

4.6 **System of monitoring of the implementation of MPLAD Scheme**

- Annual All India Review Meetings are held with States/UTs to discuss the implementation of the scheme.
- PMU-MPLADS monitors the physical and financial progress of the Scheme through reports generated from the MPLADS eSAKSHI portal and conducts monthly Joint Review Meetings with the State Nodal Departments to address issues relating to slow utilization of funds, delays in execution of works, and other implementation-related matters observed by the Ministry from time to time.
- Training is provided to district officials for effective execution of works. In addition, Zonal Workshops are conducted to familiarize district officials with the Scheme and to facilitate interaction for understanding the practical issues faced by them, so that appropriate remedial measures can be undertaken at the Central level.
- Webinars and virtual meetings are conducted periodically to resolve various problems faced by the stakeholders in implementing the Scheme.
- The officers of the Ministry visit various states/districts from time to time to review the implementation of the scheme.
- Third Party Monitoring is conducted to review the effective implementation of MPLAD Scheme.
- Through the eSAKSHI portal, PMU-MPLADS also carries out digital monitoring by enabling real-time tracking of works (sanctioned, ongoing, and completed), uploading of photographs (before, during, and after completion), and monitoring of financial progress and utilization of funds.
- A Grievance Redressal Mechanism is in place under the MPLADS, wherein complaints received from Hon'ble MPs, citizens, or other stakeholders are examined by the District Authority/State Government and, wherever required, are escalated to MoSPI for further action.

MPLAD Scheme in the light of Revised Guidelines

4.7 A comparative statement showing significant changes made in the existing Guidelines is given below:

S. No.	New Guidelines (2023)	Old Guidelines (2016)
1.	Sanction/rejection of recommendation of an MP shall be issued by IDA within 45 days from the date of the receipt of recommendation.	Time limit for sanction was 75 days.
2.	Minimum threshold for each project has been raised to Rs. 2.5 lakh.	Minimum threshold limit for each project was Rs. 1 lakh.
3.	Construction of more than one community hall in a village allowed.	Only one community hall in one village was allowed
4.	All rehabilitation works shall be completed by concerned district authority within 18 months of the approval of the work.	Time limit for completion of rehabilitation work was 8 months.
5.	Subsequent capital expenditure above 5 lakh on the facilitation center can be made after a gap of five years.	Any subsequent capital expenditure above 5 lakh on the facilitation center was not allowed.
6.	Member of Parliament can recommend funds up to Rs. 50 lakhs per year to all Societies/ Trusts put together, provided that such members of Parliament cannot give more than Rs 1 crore for any particular Society/Trust during his/her entire term. The limit of Rs.1 crore will start again on start of a fresh term of the MP after his/her re-election/nomination	A Member of Parliament could recommend funds only up to Rs. 50 lakh per Trust/ Society during its lifetime and Rs.1 crore in a financial year all together.
7.	Allocation for funds for administrative expenses: - Central Nodal Agency-0.1% of total authorization released to the Nodal Districts Authorities put together - State Nodal Authority- 0.1% of total authorization received in that State - Nodal District Authority- 0.8% of total authorization received by Nodal District Authority	Allocation for funds for administrative expenses: - State Nodal Authority- 0.2% of total funds released in that State - Nodal District Authority- 0.8% of total funds released by Nodal District Authority - Implementing District Authority- 1.0% of funds received from Nodal District

S. No.	New Guidelines (2023)	Old Guidelines (2016)
	Implementing District Authority- 1.0% of each authorization received from Nodal District Authority as drawing limit	Authority.
The following new provisions have been introduced in the new guidelines:		
8.	Contribution of Rs. 50 lakh outside Constituency /State, is now allowed for Trusts/Societies and Cooperative Societies.	
9.	Construction of Govt. Office Buildings (Post Office, Police Station, Police Chauki etc.) allowed.	
10.	Repair and renovation of immovable assets allowed subject to some conditions	
11.	For Society/trust, construction of structures also allowed on land taken on long term lease from a Govt. or Govt. controlled institution.	
12.	Trust society can also work as an Implementing Agency.	
13.	A new chapter exclusively for works relating to calamity affected areas has been added.	
14.	The Implementing District Authority to ensure that details of grants given to the beneficiary Trust/ Society under MPLADS are updated on the Darpan portal on a real time basis.	

Funds Allocation

4.8 Under the scheme of MPLADS, a total amount of ₹ 59505.74 crore has been released by the Ministry since inception up to 31.03.2023. After successful migration of MPLADS scheme under revised fund flow procedure and implemented through eSAKSHI portal since 1 April 2023, authorization of ₹ 15,062.49 crore has been released to the Members of Parliament during 1 April 2023 to 22 January 2026. A total 2,28,761 works amounting to ₹ 13,335.05 have been duly recommended by the Hon'ble MPs under MPLAD Scheme since 1 April 2023. Till 22 January 2026, 1,11,600 works amounting to ₹ 6680.29 crore have been sanctioned through the eSAKSHI portal and 69,061 works amounting to ₹ 3387.38 crore have been completed by the Implementing District Authorities. A grant of ₹3,940.00 crore has been allocated to the MPLAD Scheme for FY 2025–26. As on 31 December 2025, the Ministry has released ₹3,920.00 crore for FY 2025–26 to the RBI account for implementation of works recommended and sanctioned under the MPLADS, through the eSAKSHI portal.

4.9 During the oral evidence held on 19.02.2026, on a query of Hon'ble Member regarding inadequate monitoring by implementing agencies and action taken to address the issue of difficulty arising in onboarding of new implementing agencies, the Ministry in their post evidence replies has submitted as under:

“The MPLAD scheme has a robust monitoring mechanism at Central, State/UT, Nodal District and Implementing Agency level with well-defined roles and responsibilities. The Ministry regularly issues advisories to State Nodal Authorities and conducts periodic review meetings with State/UT and District Authorities, emphasizing the need for timely execution and completion of works in accordance with the Scheme guidelines

Further, with the new web portal for fund flow, there is greater visibility of the progress of works on real time basis, which allows for more objective monitoring of the MPLAD Scheme. To streamline the execution of MPLADS works, the Ministry is monitoring and regularly providing data to all States/UTs with respect to:

- i. Works pending for sanction for over 45 days from the date of recommendation by Hon'ble MPs
- ii. Works sanctioned but not completed over one year, and
- iii. Works in which no payment have been made even after three months of sanction

A functionality to generate and download the above information, district-wise, is also available in the eSAKSHI accounts of State Nodal Authority and District Authorities.

Zonal workshops on the eSAKSHI portal and progress of MPLADS projects are being conducted by the Ministry on regular basis.

Onboarding of new IA

Under the MPLAD Scheme, the registration process of Implementing Agencies (IAs) is carried out through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) portal and integration with the eSAKSHI portal. In respect of agencies already registered under other schemes, the Implementing Agency maps itself under the MPLAD Scheme on the PFMS portal and submits the request for approval of the parent agency, i.e., the Implementing District Authority (IDA). In case of non-registered agencies, the IDA creates and approves the account of the Implementing Agency on the PFMS portal.

After approval on the PFMS portal, the details of the Implementing Agency are transmitted to the Ministry through API integration for addition to the eSAKSHI database, which generally takes about 48 hours. Once the agency is added to the eSAKSHI portal, the concerned department can be created by the IDA for further processing under the MPLAD Scheme. A detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlining the requisite portal-based formalities has been circulated to all District Authorities and Implementing Agencies.

The technical teams of the Ministry and PFMS are extending continuous handholding support to address technical and operational issues. In addition, regular workshops, webinars, and monthly review meetings with States/UTs are conducted to monitor progress and facilitate timely resolution of issues.”

CHAPTER V

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (ISI)

Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)

5.1 Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) is an autonomous institution under MoSPI and is devoted to research, teaching in Statistics and its applications in related subjects, natural sciences and social sciences. The Institute was established on 17th December in the year 1931 by Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis, at Kolkata, West Bengal. In addition to the headquarters located at Kolkata, the ISI has Centres at Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Tezpur (North-East Centre) and some outlying Units and branches located at Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad and Giridih. The institute gained the status of an Institution of National Importance through Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959, known as “Indian Statistical Institute Act No. 057 of 1959”. MoSPI provides Grants-in-Aid to ISI for its functioning, academic activities and infrastructure creation and maintenance.

Degrees/courses offered

5.2 The ISI conducts various courses (bachelor, post-graduate diploma, masters and PhD degree programs) in various subjects with prime focus on statistics, mathematics, quantitative economics, computer science and such other subject related to statistics as may be determined by the Institute from time to time. Over the years, the institute has developed a set of unique research and academic programme, which are cross-disciplinary in nature. These programmes cater for the unique need of statistical analysis of large-scale data collected at different government and non-government sectors. The two recent additions to the academic programs are M. Tech in Cryptology and Security at ISI Kolkata and Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural and Rural Management with Statistical Methods and Analytics (PGDARSMA) in the Giridih branch.

RC Bose Centre for Cryptology and Security

5.3 The RC Bose Centre for Cryptology and Security has been established at ISI Kolkata to promote interdisciplinary research in Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics towards furtherance of teaching, research as well as training and development in Cryptology and Cyber Security. It acts as a national hub for cryptographic requirements, cutting-edge research activities and indigenous capacity building to fulfill the growing demands at the national level. The Centre is funded by MoSPI as a part of the Grant-in-Aid to the Indian Statistical Institute, under a separate line in the budget.

5.4 Apart from contributing to knowledge dissemination and talent development, ISI continues to work on innovative multidisciplinary applications to address issues of national importance. Towards this, ISI has also set up two Centres of Excellence, namely, Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning at ISI Kolkata, and Centre for research on the Economics of Climate, Food, Energy and Environment (CECFEE) at ISI Delhi. These centres work at cutting edge interdisciplinary areas of research including in machine learning and cryptology, and in climate change. Other recent examples include contributions of ISI made in the areas of currency management, understanding extinction risk of wildlife, accurate assessment of consumer confidence, development as well as assessment of encryption methodologies, assessment of risk from counterfeit currencies, improvement of defense production systems, understanding level of cleanliness of towns and cities calibrated by their inherent complexity and development of national coal index. ISI scientists made significant contributions in understanding the biology of covid-19, the epidemiological aspects of its spread and modelling and predicting the infections. Several notable contributions have also been made in the field of Artificial Intelligence, Cryptology & Cyber Security, Data Science, Pattern Recognition, Computational Intelligence, Bioinformatics and Statistical Quality Control, etc. The studies undertaken by the institute have been recognized by several awards at National/International level.

The institute takes initiatives to widen its reach by encouraging the multi-disciplinary studies as also promoting research programmes and courses in statistics; mathematics; computer science; quantitative economics; quality, reliability and operations research;

quality management science; cryptology & security; library & information science; statistical methods and analytics and various fields of physics & natural sciences and social sciences in the emerging areas and to benefit public at large.

5.5 The Ministry has released a draft 'The Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Bill, 2025' on 25.09.2025 to elevate its institutional status by providing incorporation of ISI Society as a statutory body corporate and upscaling its governance framework, thereby aligning it with peer Institutions of National Importance (INIs). Once enacted, the Bill shall replace the Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959. When asked to specify the current situation in this regard, the Ministry replied as follows:

"As per pre-legislative consultation policy, comments and suggestions were invited on the draft ISI Bill, 2025 from all stakeholders and the general public during the period 25.09.2025 and 03.11.2025. After receipt of public comments, a revised draft of 'The Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2025' was placed in public domain on 28.11.2025 for further pre-legislative consultation till 15.12.2025. In view of stakeholders' request, timeline seeking further public comments on the revised draft Bill was further extended up to 05.012026. In light of continued pre-legislative consultation, further revisions were made in the revised draft Bill. Besides, an inter-ministerial consultation with concerned Ministries/ Departments on the draft ISI Bill was done and positive support have been gained on the draft Bill. The inter-ministerial consultation on the revised draft Bill is undergoing and is likely to conclude soon.

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 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 also 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.”

5.6 The Ministry have apprised the Committee that the existing society-based governance model has limited potential for institutional reform and growth. It has emerged from past reviews that the governance structure of ISI is characterized by many structural and legacy issues. At present, the ISI Council is the governing body of ISI Society. Owing to large size (33 members) of the ISI Council and greater internal representation (17 internal members out of 33) in the ISI Council, the fourth RC recommended sweeping modifications for restructuring/ downsizing of the large-sized Council. The fourth Review Committee (2021) also recommended discontinuance of elections for Heads of Divisions and Dean. These have however, not been implemented. In the past fifty years, no significant changes have been introduced in Society instruments towards reforming the Institute.

5.7 The Ministry further stated as follows:

“By the introduction of the draft Bill, the existing governing body (ISI Council) will be replaced by an empowered Board of Governors. The Board of Governors will be the principal policy making executive body of the Institute. The Board will be leaner body consisting of 11 members and having a balanced representation of internal and external members. The Board will be chaired by an eminent person and there will four external members having expertise in statistical sciences. There will be only one government nominee on the Board. The Board also includes 5 representatives of the Institute, namely – Director, Dean of Studies, one Centre-Director, and two members of Academic Council nominated by the Board. In fact, the internal representation in the Board (5 out of 11) is higher as compared to peer INIs, for example, IITs (3 out of 9) and IIMs (3 out of 16). The adequate institutional representation in the Board enables academic and governance autonomy of the Institute (ISI). Regarding the power of appointments to be made by the Board in the draft ISI Bill, it is mentioned that these provisions are in line with the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 and the Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017 whereby the same power of appointments have been given to respective Boards in these peer INIs.

By the introduction of the draft Bill, the legal status of the existing Academic Council will be upgraded. All full time Professors and other full-time faculty determined by the Board are included in the proposed statutory Academic Council. It is mentioned that at present Academic Council (under ISI regulation of Society) can only make recommendations to ISI Council. However, the proposed

statutory Academic Council is given mandatory as well as recommendatory powers. The Academic Council would be the principal academic body with wide-ranging responsibilities for courses, eligibility, examination systems and promotion of interdisciplinary research. The Academic Council's core functions—organisation and modification of courses, eligibility norms, selection procedures, and evaluation systems—remain central and are mandatory in nature. Recommendatory functions are separately mentioned.”

5.8 The Committee during the evidence, expressed apprehensions about implications of some provisions for the institutional autonomy of ISI and the extent of involvement of the Institute's academic and administrative leadership in the legislative process of the proposed ISI Bill. The Secretary has deposed as below:

“One of the main problem in the present governance mechanism is that the ISI Governing Council is composed of 33 Members and the composition of nearly one third of them is through an election process which is one of the unique things in a highly technical institution to have a large number of positions and in the Governing Council through an election process which constitutes of the faculty, non-faculty and people outside the institution who really do not have any direct association with the ISI. We have sent it to the ISI Council. We have got input from them. We had a discussion with eminent people from across the country. Ex-ISI Directors, Directors of Indian Institute of Science, eminent statisticians who have passed out from ISI, alumni of ISI, who all felt that there is a need to revamp the governance structure of the ISI keeping in view that we are approaching the 100 year anniversary of ISI and statistics is the basis for machine learning and artificial Intelligence. We need to revamp. ISI is one of the few institutions which is still only having a few hundreds of students being admitted per year and there is some resistance from a group of people based in ISI Kolkata but I am not too sure how representative that is of the entire stakeholders who are concerned with ISI.”

5.9 When the Committee desired to know the status of ISI Bill, the Secretary informed the Committee as follows:

“We had put out an initial draft and then we took into account the observations and we put out a second draft bill. We have got all the inputs and now it is under finalisation. It is not yet finalised.

5.10 The Committee during the evidence on Demands for Grants raised the issue that Rangarajan Commission on Statistics, constituted in January 2000 under the

Chairmanship of C. Rangarajan had recommended the National Statistical Commission to be established as a statutory, permanent and autonomous body to serve as the nodal agency for all core statistical activities in the country. The Committee further stated that they have reiterated the need for granting statutory status to the Commission in their 27th Report (18th Lok Sabha). However, there was no mention in the Ministry's submission regarding the steps taken in this regard. The Committee, therefore, asked about the present status of the proposal to accord statutory status to the National Statistical Commission. In reply, the Secretary, MoSPI deposed before the Committee as follows:

“Regarding the Rangarajan Commission, there were more than 600 recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission. We have now come to a stage that we have been able to complete more than 95 per cent. There are a few, which were found to be infeasible to be adopted, and there were around 12 strategic recommendations which require a broader consensus across Governments. So, after a long gap, we are soon submitting it, in fact, separately to the Parliament also, fulfilment of that assurance.”

CHAPTER VI

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECT MONITORING

6.1 The Infrastructure Projects Monitoring Division of MoSPI undertakes the monitoring of projects above 150 crores. As per Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, this division of Programme Implementation (PI) wing of MoSPI is mandated to fulfill the following:

- Project Monitoring - Monitoring of projects of 150 crores and above
- Performance Monitoring - Monitoring of the performance of Infrastructure Sectors
- Monitoring of Twenty Point Programme 2006

Project Monitoring

6.2 IPMD performs the implementation status of Projects above ₹150 crore through the project related data of Ministries/Departments captured through the new portal called PAIMANA. A range of parameters are captured through PAIMANA (Project Assessment Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-Building) in respect of the progress of the projects, financial parameters (cost and expenditure related), reasons/ issues accounting for slippages in the projects with respect to the planned schedule and original cost. Based on the aforementioned project data, MoSPI analyses the time and cost overrun of the projects and releases a monthly Flash Report.

6.3 PAIMANA (Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring & Analytics for Nation-building) portal is integrated with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's (DPIIT) IPMP (Integrated Project Monitoring Portal) via Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), enabled to automatically fetch data reported by the Central Ministries/ Departments/ Project Implementing Agencies. Based on the PAIMANA portal, detail of the number of delayed projects sector-wise (in states) during the last three years and the current fiscal year is as follows:

State-Wise Delayed Projects <i>[number of projects]</i>								
State Name	as of 31 March 2023 (OCMS)		as of 31 March 2024 (OCMS)		as of 31 March 2025 (OCMS)		as of 31 January 2026 (PAIMANA)	
	Total Projects	No. of Delayed Projects	Total Projects	No. of Delayed Projects	No. of Projects	No. of Delayed Projects	Total Projects*	No. of Delayed Projects*
Andaman & Nicobar	8	5	9	2	10	1	1	1
Andhra	56	24	108	29	105	32	95	64

State-Wise Delayed Projects [number of projects]								
State Name	as of 31 March 2023 (OCMS)		as of 31 March 2024 (OCMS)		as of 31 March 2025 (OCMS)		as of 31 January 2026 (PAIMANA)	
	Total Projects	No. of Delayed Projects	Total Projects	No. of Delayed Projects	No. of Projects	No. of Delayed Projects	Total Projects*	No. of Delayed Projects*
Pradesh								
Arunachal Pradesh	37	15	27	13	16	6	15	7
Assam	55	26	63	29	64	29	77	46
Bihar	70	48	96	42	91	46	84	61
Chhattisgarh	42	28	62	28	52	28	57	30
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Delhi	25	12	28	15	21	11	15	9
Goa	11	4	8	2	3	1	2	1
Gujarat	58	34	95	52	92	43	103	63
Haryana	24	15	38	21	28	16	20	16
Himachal Pradesh	19	5	30	6	29	9	23	17
Jammu And Kashmir	30	18	50	24	53	35	44	36
Jharkhand	52	26	72	27	61	20	68	32
Karnataka	44	32	83	42	81	26	75	51
Kerala	12	5	33	14	32	16	26	18
Ladakh	8	1	8	4	6	5	4	4
Madhya Pradesh	60	45	87	35	59	24	76	43
Maharashtra	203	83	202	64	185	55	153	96
Manipur	33	20	33	26	31	25	32	25
Meghalaya	15	5	14	7	14	9	14	7
Mizoram	25	20	21	6	19	14	23	13
Multi-state*	73	44	67	41	52	37	175	126
Nagaland	32	25	34	15	30	20	21	15
Odisha	70	47	82	45	79	49	75	43
Offshore	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6
Pan India	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Puducherry	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Punjab	20	15	44	16	39	24	36	27
Rajasthan	69	38	79	23	63	37	48	32
Sikkim	20	16	21	14	21	16	12	9
Tamil Nadu	48	32	81	29	63	33	43	33
Telangana	45	18	55	13	52	17	55	43
Tripura	17	12	12	3	14	5	12	6

State-Wise Delayed Projects [number of projects]								
	as of 31 March 2023 (OCMS)		as of 31 March 2024 (OCMS)		as of 31 March 2025 (OCMS)		as of 31 January 2026 (PAIMANA)	
State Name	Total Projects	No. of Delayed Projects	Total Projects	No. of Delayed Projects	No. of Projects	No. of Delayed Projects	Total Projects*	No. of Delayed Projects*
Uttar Pradesh	79	49	138	49	127	53	123	74
Uttarakhand	31	15	31	11	31	9	25	15
West Bengal	57	39	62	32	54	21	54	28
Total	1449	821	1873	779	1677	772	1702	1105

**Note 1 – In the published Flash Report, Multi-state or linear projects are reflected in the count of each State through which they pass. However, the above table reflects unique project counts, with such projects recorded only once under 'Multi-state'. Therefore, the figures may differ from those in the published Report.*

6.4 On being asked to furnish the reasons for time and cost overrun in projects and the steps that are being undertaken to mitigate the further delay and expedite the projects, the Ministry has replied as follows:

“The reasons for time and cost overruns are project-specific, depending upon a number of factors which include technical, financial and administrative issues. As reported by the project implementing agencies on this Ministry’s PAIMANA portal, the major reasons for cost and time overrun are inter-alia as follows: under-estimation of original cost, changes in rates of foreign exchange and statutory duties, delay in regulatory clearances (environmental, land acquisition and forest clearance etc.), shortage of skilled manpower/ labor, changes in project scope, law and order issues, utility shifting, delay in civil work, monopolistic pricing by vendors, general price rise/ inflation and cascading effect of the time overrun.

Some of the major steps taken by the Government to mitigate the delays and expedite the infrastructure projects are as follows: Periodic review of projects under PRAGATI through video conferencing by Hon’ble Prime Minister, rigorous project appraisal, PAIMANA portal for better monitoring, setting up of Revised Cost Committees in the Ministries for fixation of responsibility for time and cost overruns, regular review of infrastructure projects by the concerned administrative Ministries.”

6.5 PAIMANA (Project Assessment Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-Building) portal was officially launched on 25 September, 2025; replacing the erstwhile OCMS-2006 (Online Computerized Monitoring System). The salient features of the PAIMANA portal over OCMS are as below:

- (i) An API based application to pull information from the unified IIG-PMG-OCMS and generate reports/ dashboard. This has averted the existing limitation of the multiple data entry by Line Ministries/ Departments/ Implementing Agencies on similar project monitoring portals.
- (ii) An analytics and data-visualization intensive Dashboard.
- (iii) Login based Reports/dashboard to facilitate the apex level monitoring (PMO/CabSec/NITI)
- (iv) Minimizing the manual intervention to generate reports i.e. Reports Automation.
- (v) Mobile Application.

Performance Monitoring

6.6 IPMD also releases Monthly Review Report on Infrastructure Performance in India on monthly basis on 16th of every month (or next working day, if 16th falls on holiday) with a time lag of six weeks of the reference month, and the Report is compiled with data received from Line Ministries/Departments. The Review Report undertakes monthly and cumulative analyses of 11 key infrastructure sectors—namely Power, Coal, Steel, Railways, Shipping and Ports, Fertilizers, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Civil Aviation, Roads, and Telecommunications. The performance of these sectors is assessed against set targets and compared with achievements during corresponding periods of the previous year to analyze trend of these sectors.

CHAPTER VII

RECENT STATISTICAL INITIATIVES

7.1 During the oral Evidence, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation apprised the Committee of several initiatives undertaken to modernize and strengthen the National Statistical System, as indicated below:

“On the National Accounts Statistics, we are in the process of revising the base year from 2011-12 and updating it to 2022-23. So, this is a major work which has been going on for the past two years and next week, we would be formally releasing the new numbers. We are doing some changes. There are methodological changes keeping in view the international recommendations. We have better surveys now. For example, the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) and the Periodic Labour Force Survey. ASUSE is now available quarterly and PLFS is monthly. We are using GST and other data that now we have. We have done a number of studies also to update the quantum of materials used in them. We have had a number of discussions with researchers, academics, and other institutions. By next Friday, we would be formally releasing the new numbers. We adopted the latest international classification in terms of standards and definitions. We increased the number of markets. We increased the number of goods and services. We included e-commerce information from e-commerce markets also. We have done a number of administrative data. The feedback from the market has been extremely positive and they have appreciated the hard work that the team from MoSPI and the external experts had done over the past two years. This would also enable our much more nuanced inputs for the Monetary Policy which the RBI brings out regularly.”

7.2 The Ministry further elaborated as under:

“The IIP base year revision is still work in progress. The Technical Advisory Committee has been at work for more than one and a half years. We would be coming out with a new index in May 2026 which will be based on 2022-23 base. So, this will update the industrial products. New products have come in. There will be greater granularity of the items that we have. How to take care of closed factories, etc. that has been taken care of. It is also proposed to introduce for the first time in the macro-economic measurement system, in India, a chain-base index. That means we will not have to rebase it once in 10 years. We will have a

chain-base, but obviously, after four or five years, there would be some revamp required. But this would ensure that the data remains current all the time.

We are the largest statistical organisation in the world. The sample sizes that we do are the largest with normally the minimum sample size being about a lakh of respondents that we have. We have continuously been looking at how to incorporate other administrative data and alternate data. As I have mentioned earlier, we are already doing it in the new indices.”

7.3 While mentioning about the new services introduced, the Secretary, MOPSI deposed as under:

“We are bringing out PLFS data now monthly from last January. We would be bringing out the first annual report next month sometime. That will give a much more detailed picture of the labour and unemployment situation in the country, much more details than we ever had in the past years. ASUSE is now a quarterly data which gives a sense of what is happening in the informal sector on a quarter to quarter basis which we did not have.we are adding a new survey of the service sector. That work will start from April this year and we will be bringing out the report next year. We are going to be doing a new All India Debt and Investment Survey which will start in the middle of the year this year. The Time Use Survey was released recently. We are also going to start an income survey for the first time. There have been attempts in the past and we would be starting a new survey this time.”

PART II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Budgetary Allocation

1. The Committee note that the Ministry have been allocated only Rs. 4,522.25 crore against their projected Budgetary demand of Rs. 5826.11crore. The Ministry itself has admitted that reduced funding poses risks to the Scheme's viability and will have strategic implications such as the inability to fund front-loaded costs for IT infrastructure (tablets, laptops), mobilize manpower for fieldwork, and conduct training/workshops for field staff and Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) staff in the first two quarters of Financial Year 2026–27. It has been further stated that this could lead to a loss of sub-national data granularity and hinder the digital transformation of statistical systems. The Committee have also been informed that the Projected Budgetary Demands was higher due to the revamp and redesign of the Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) Scheme, activities such as training and awareness creation for the upcoming 8th Economic Census, the conduct of multiple surveys including Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Household Income Surveys, CMS modules, All India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS), Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) under the Capacity Development (CD) Scheme, and the engagement of contract staff to carry out new demand-based surveys. The Committee observe that the increased projected outlay was also required to support Digital Transformation initiatives, the Data Innovation (DI) Lab initiative, and other miscellaneous expenditures. Considering the importance of the Ministry's diverse programmes, the Committee recommend that the Ministry proceed with its planned initiatives as per the projected trajectory and ensure optimal utilization of the currently allocated funds. If further financial requirements emerge to meet the physical targets, the Ministry may seek additional fund through Supplementary Demands for Grants.

Integrated Government Data Dashboard

2. The Committee observe that data across various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) presently exists in multiple formats and is updated at varying intervals. In many cases, the absence of standardized formats and seamless interoperability limits the availability of consolidated and timely data across sectors. This fragmented approach makes it difficult to combine, compare, and analyze data in a meaningful manner which may constrain its full potential for evidence-based policymaking and coordinated governance. While platforms such as data.gov.in provide access to several government datasets, the Committee observe that sectoral data is still dispersed across multiple portals and formats, limiting its integration and real-time usability. The Committee further note that the absence of a unified and accessible data framework also affects transparency and effective public access to information. When data is dispersed across multiple platforms and presented in different formats, it becomes difficult for researchers, institutions and citizens to access, interpret and utilise it effectively. This not only constrains academic research but also limits the ability of citizens to engage constructively with public policy and assess government performance. The Committee, considering the pivotal role of data in policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and research, recommend that the Ministry may explore the development and operationalisation of an integrated digital dashboard that consolidates key sectoral data from various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). Such a platform should aim to provide authentic, verified and periodically updated standardized data in a user-friendly format accessible to all.

Survey on Child Labour

3. The Committee have been very often emphasizing the dire and non-negotiable need for timely and reliable statistics to safeguard child rights and monitor programs concerning their survival, protection, participation, and development. This evidence base is fundamental for effective policy formulation. Consequently, the Committee note that, as per their 18th Report on Action Taken by the Government (presented in Parliament on 31 July 2025) regarding the Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), discussions have initiated to conduct a National Child Survey in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD). This initiative aims to map the needs of children under Mission Vatsalya, specifically focusing on children in need of care and protection and juveniles requiring legal and social rehabilitation.

While a robust legal framework exists—comprising the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012, and the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986—the Committee observe that the abolition of child labour remains a complex challenge. Recent initiatives like Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao and the integration of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) into Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) have sought to bolster these efforts, alongside the PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) portal for complaint tracking. However, despite these efforts and the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Rules, 1988 providing for District Nodal Officers (DNO) and Task Forces, coordination gaps and the lack of updated data continue to hinder State Action Plans. The Committee further observe that since Labour is under the Concurrent List, there is an imperative need for coordinated efforts across all stakeholders, including Central Ministries and State/UT Governments. In this regard, it is also essential that District Nodal Officers under District Magistrates are empowered to facilitate inter-departmental action between the police, social welfare, and labour departments.

The Committee, therefore, urge MoSPI to expedite the process of conducting the National Child Survey in coordination with the Ministry of Women and Child Development to move beyond the discussion stage, establishing a clear and time-bound schedule for the commencement and completion of the survey activities as the cornerstone of a comprehensive National Child Well-Being Statistical Framework. To address the core issues of child rights, this framework must specifically capture statistics for children working in the informal sector, street children, and out-of-school children. In this regard, the Committee suggest that MoSPI tie up with State Governments to engage Panchayats and Municipal bodies to facilitate localized data collection. These datasets should be used to develop a periodic child well-being statistical dashboard and a National Child Index in synergy with MWCD to evaluate the performance of Districts and States. The Committee may be apprised of the latest developments at the time of submitting the Action Taken Statement.

MPLAD Scheme

4. The Committee note that the Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme implemented by the MPLADS Division under the Programme Implementation Wing of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), with the primary objective of enabling Members of Parliament (MP) to recommend the creation of durable community assets of national priority in the interest of the public. Under the scheme, each MP is allocated Rs 5.00 crore annually. With a view to make the scheme more flexible, efficient, and effective, and to align it with the evolving development needs of communities, revised Guidelines came into effect on 1st April 2023. The Committee, appreciate that in line with these revisions, the Ministry, in collaboration with the State Bank of India and Tata Consultancy Service (TCS), has developed the e-SAKSHI portal to implement the revised fund flow procedure, streamline processes, and enhance transparency. However, the Committee observe that certain operational issues and technical

glitches persist in the functioning of the e-SAKSHI portal and its integration with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) which require prompt rectification. The Committee also note challenges at the ground level relating to the efficiency of implementing agencies, including inadequate monitoring mechanisms and discrepancies between reported figures and actual expenditure.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry further strengthen the digital portal to enable accurate and real-time tracking of the status of projects whether completed or under implementation. The Committee also recommend that the process of onboarding new implementing agencies, which currently poses significant challenges, be made seamless and that procedures for disengaging incompatible agencies and engaging new ones be simplified to improve the effectiveness of the scheme and achieve its intended outcomes.

Indian Statistical Institute

5. The Committee note that the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) is an autonomous institution devoted to research and teaching in Statistics and its applications across natural and social sciences, and that its contributions to theoretical and applied work are acknowledged globally. The Committee recognize that the proposed Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2025 introduces comprehensive legislation aimed at upgrading the existing Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959, bringing it on par with governing legislations of other Institutions of National Importance (INIs) such as Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Management (IIMs), with the objective of modernizing the Institute's governance framework, enhancing its autonomy and accountability, and enabling ISI to emerge as a globally recognized centre of excellence in statistical and allied disciplines. The Committee have been apprised that the Bill was prepared after preliminary consultations with stakeholders and underwent multi-level scrutiny to refine the draft legislation. However, the Committee observe that certain concerns have been expressed regarding the

implications of some provisions for the institutional autonomy of ISI and the extent of involvement of the Institute's academic and administrative leadership in the legislative process. In view of the unique academic character and long-standing institutional traditions of ISI, the Committee recommend that the Ministry, before finalising the legislative process, should undertake wider and more structured consultations with the relevant stakeholders including Institute's management and faculty so that due deliberation is ensured and the core academic autonomy and independent functioning of the Institute are fully preserved. The Committee further recommend that an implementation roadmap be prepared to address the concerns raised by them and to facilitate a smooth transition to the proposed framework. Further, sustained and timely Grants-in-Aid from the Ministry be ensured to support infrastructure modernization, faculty recruitment and advanced research in national statistical systems thereby strengthening ISI's capacity to deliver world-class education and research.

Statutory Status for National Statistical Commission

6. The Committee observe that the Rangarajan Commission (which submitted its report to the Government in 2001), has made one of its key recommendation or establishment of a Statutory National Commission on Statistics to function as a nodal and empowered body for overseeing core statistical activities of the country. While the Commission had recommended the creation of a permanent statutory framework for official statistics, the National Statistical Commission (NSC), which was established in 2005, has so far not been accorded statutory status. The Committee further note that the Government has taken a proactive initiative to strengthen the institutional framework of the statistical system by proposing to grant statutory status to the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) through the proposed Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2025. The Committee appreciate this step aimed at enhancing the stature and functioning of a premier national institution in the field of statistics. However, the Committee express concern that there has been no significant progress regarding the grant of statutory status to

the National Statistical Commission despite their categorical recommendation in the 27th Report (18th Lok Sabha). During the course of evidence, the representatives of the Ministry informed the Committee that most of the over 600 recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission have been implemented. A few were found infeasible, and about 12 strategic recommendations require broader inter-governmental consensus. The Committee were further informed that the status report will be submitted shortly, including separately to Parliament, in fulfilment of the assurance. He also assured that a detailed note would also be provided to the Committee.

The Committee are of the view that the National Statistical Commission (NSC), which was originally envisaged as the apex body for guiding and coordinating statistical activities in the country, could play a more effective role if supported by an appropriate statutory framework. The Committee, therefore, would like to reiterate their recommendation and desire the Ministry to examine the feasibility of granting statutory status to the National Statistical Commission (NSC) in a time-bound manner so that it may function as an empowered and autonomous body for overseeing core statistical activities in the country. Also, the Committee expects that as assured by the Ministry, a detailed note on the status of implementation of the recommendation of Rangarajan Commission will be provided at the earliest.

Infrastructure and Project Monitoring

7. The Committee note that as of 31 January 2026, out of 1,702 ongoing Central Sector infrastructure projects monitored on the PAIMANA (Project Assessment Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-Building) portal, 1,105 projects are reported as delayed, indicating an overall delay incidence of approximately 64.92 per cent. The Committee view this level of delay as a matter of serious concern, particularly in view of the cascading impact of time overruns on cost escalation, asset productivity and public resource efficiency. While the Committee appreciate the transition from Online Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) to the PAIMANA portal and its integration with Department for

Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's (DPIIT) IPMP (Integrated Project Monitoring Portal) under the 'One Data One Entry' principle, it emphasize that digital monitoring must translate into measurable reduction in delays.

The Committee, therefore, emphasise that digital monitoring infrastructure, however sophisticated, has limited value unless it drives a measurable and sustained reduction in actual project delays. Therefore, they desire that the portal serves as a foundation for decisive administrative action, not merely a reporting mechanism. Recognising that MoSPI's mandate is primarily observational rather than executive, the Committee recommend that the Ministry systematically leverage its monitoring data to operationalise a structured escalation matrix. Rather than a static threshold, this matrix should be calibrated on a dynamic basis. Ministries and Departments whose project delay rate either exceeds 50 per cent within a financial year and shows no year-on-year improvement or whose delay rate deteriorates significantly relative to the previous year, may be flagged by MoSPI to the Cabinet Secretariat/PMO for review under apex forums such as PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation). The Committee further recommend that PAIMANA's analytical capabilities be further enhanced to generate sector-wise risk dashboards and early warning signals on a rolling basis to the Secretaries of the concerned executing Ministries at defined intervals. These outputs should be designed not merely as status summaries but as forward-looking alerts that identify projects approaching critical delay thresholds before overruns become irreversible.

Initiatives to Strengthen Statistical Capacity

8. The Committee commend the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for undertaking significant initiatives to modernise the national statistical system, including the revision of the National Accounts base year to 2022–23, the updating of the Consumer Price Index, the proposed chain-based Index of Industrial Production, the introduction of monthly estimates under the Periodic Labour Force Survey, and the quarterly results of the Annual Survey of

Unincorporated Sector Enterprises. The Committee also note the Ministry's plans to undertake new surveys on the service sector, income, and debt and investment, which would further strengthen the availability of granular and high-frequency economic data. Building upon these initiatives, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry establish a dedicated Economic Nowcasting and Data Analytics Unit to utilise high-frequency datasets such as Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) and Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) for the early assessment of macroeconomic trends. The Committee note that several advanced statistical and monetary institutions use similar analytical models to generate near real-time economic insights and support policy decision-making.

The Committee further recommend that, while the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation already employs satellite accounts in selected areas, it expands similar supplementary statistical frameworks to better capture informal economic activity and emerging service-sector dynamics. In particular, the Committee suggest leveraging datasets from the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE), the proposed service-sector survey, and household income surveys to improve the measurement of complex and under-represented economic activities. The Committee also encourage the Ministry to expand the use of administrative datasets and work closely with State Governments to develop district-level statistical estimates, which would strengthen evidence-based policymaking and support more localised economic analysis.

The Committee also recommend strengthening secure and timely access to anonymised microdata for research purposes so as to enable deeper policy analysis and greater academic collaboration. In this regard, the Committee note that statistical agencies such as Statistics Canada in Canada and the Office for National Statistics in the United Kingdom operate structured systems that allow controlled access to survey microdata while maintaining strict confidentiality safeguards. The Committee believe that strengthening analytical capabilities and

research access around these ongoing initiatives would significantly enhance the policy relevance, timeliness, and global credibility of India's official statistics.

New Delhi;

13 March, 2026

22 Phalguna, 1947 (Saka)

Bhartruhari Mahtab

Chairperson,

Standing Committee on Finance

Minutes of the Eighteenth Sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2025-26)

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 19th February, 2026 from 1415 hrs. to 1600 hrs in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe (PHA), New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Arun Bharti
3. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
4. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
5. Shri Kishori Lal
6. Smt. Sandhya Ray
7. Prof. Sougata Ray
8. Shri Manish Tewari
9. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Narain Dass Gupta
11. Shri Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy
12. Shri S. Selvaganabathy
13. Shri Sanjay Seth
14. Dr. M. Thambidurai

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Bharti Sanjeev Tuteja | - | Director |
| 2. | Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 3. | Shri T. Mathivanan | - | Deputy Secretary |

WITNESSES

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

1. Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary
2. Shri Narender Kumar Santoshi, DG (CS)
3. Shri P.R Meshram, DG (DG)
4. Smt. Geeta Singh Rathore, DG (NSS)
5. Shri Deepak Narain (AS & FA)
6. Ms. Puja Singh Mandol, AS(PI)
7. Shri Siddharth Kundu, ADG (NAD)
8. Shri Kishore Baburao Surwade, ADG (CICD)
9. Dr. Dalip Singh, ADG(ESD)
10. Shri Chandramani Sharma, ADG(CQCD)
11. Shri. Supreet Singh Gulati, JS(Admin.)
12. Dr Ashutosh Ojha, DDG(CICD)
13. Shri M S Subramanya Rao, DDG(CQCD)
14. Shri C F Joseph, DDG (MPLADS)
15. Shri Prakash Chandra Lakhchaura, DDG(NSCS)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members and the witnesses to the sitting of the Committee. After customary introduction, the Ministry gave a PowerPoint Presentation on reforming the national statistical system and budget allocations. The Ministry elaborated its major activities; an overview of the National Statistical System; release of major macroeconomic and social sector indicators compiled by NSO; steps taken to improve estimates by National Accounts Statistics; key changes in new CPI series; planned improvement in new IIP series; compilation and results of diverse socio-economic surveys; reforms taken in national statistical system; monitoring of MPLAD Scheme; enhancements made in eSAKSHI portal; new initiatives taken for strengthening of Infrastructure Project monitoring; draft Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026; status of India's membership of the UN Statistical Commission; reports released by MoSPI during 2025 and 2026 and overview of Capacity Development Scheme. The

subsequent issues discussed include new services introduced such as monthly PLFS data; recent enhancements regarding updation of MPLADS URL; introduction of PAIMANA portal; API integration of projects with several Ministries; introduction of National Infrastructure Enablement Index to evaluate infrastructure development; revamping of ISI Act; publication of advance release calendar and reports on social-statistics; statistics regarding child labourers; budget estimates and reappropriation of funds. The Members asked their queries about alignment of IMF grading with efficacy and integrity of statistics produced by Ministry; efficiency of implementing agencies in MPLADS; improvisation of monitoring of MPLAD Scheme; shortfall in fund utilization in NSC; status of 8th economic census; survey on women and child migration; change in base year of GDP and IIP; shortage of manpower; discrepancy in data reflected on MPLADS portal; glitches in PFMS software; measures taken to address data quality issues and introduction of artificial intelligence in digital data systems and steps taken to strengthen the framework for organized data collection towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

3. The witnesses responded to the queries raised by the Members and the Chairperson then directed the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to furnish written replies to the points raised by the Members which could not be readily replied by them during the discussion upto 26th February, 2026 to the Secretariat.

The witnesses then withdrew.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

**Minutes of the Twenty-Second Sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance
(2025-26)**

The Committee sat on Friday, the 13th March, 2026 from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs in Committee Room Samanvya -5, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
3. Shri Rajesh Naranbhai Chudasama
4. Shri Kishori Lal
5. Shri N. K. Premachandran
6. Prof. Sougata Ray
7. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
8. Dr. K. Sudhakar
9. Shri Manish Tewari

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Narain Dass Gupta
11. Shri Sanjay Seth
12. Smt. Darshana Singh

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Shri Gaurav Goyal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Smt. Bharti Sanjeev Tuteja | - | Director |
| 3. Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. Shri T. Mathivanan | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following draft Reports for consideration and adoption:

- i) Thirty-Third Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Public Enterprises and Investment & Public Asset Management).
 - ii) Thirty-Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Ministry of Planning (NITI Aayog).
 - iii) Thirty-Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
3. After deliberations, the Committee adopted the above draft Reports with minor modifications and authorised the Chairperson to finalise them and present the Reports to the Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

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