

27

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
(2025-26)

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME  
IMPLEMENTATION

PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL  
COMMISSION (NSC)

TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

*December, 2025/ Agrahayana, 1947 (Saka)*

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**MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

### **PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMISSION (NSC)**

***Presented to Lok Sabha on 02 December, 2025***

***Laid in Rajya Sabha on 02 December, 2025***



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

***December, 2025/Agrahayana, 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. Smt. Mradula Dubey	Assistant Committee Officer

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27. Shri Sanjay Seth
28. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
29. Smt. Darshana Singh
30. Dr. M. Thambidurai
31. Shri Pramod Tiwari

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorized by the Committee, present this Twenty-Seventh Report on the subject 'Performance review of National Statistical Commission (NSC)'.

2. The Committee, on 09 January, 2025, held deliberations with the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on the subject. Thereafter, on 06 August, 2025, the Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on the same subject.
3. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 26 November, 2025.
4. 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 requisite material and information desired by the Committee in connection with the examination of the subject.
5. 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.
6. For facility of reference, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold at the end of the Report.

**NEW DELHI;**  
**26 November, 2025**  
**05 Agravahana, 1947 (Saka)**

**BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Standing Committee on Finance**

**REPORT  
PART- I  
CHAPTER – I**

**1. INTRODUCTORY**

**Evolution of the Indian Statistical System**

1.1 In 1945, the Government of India set up an Inter-Departmental Committee with the Economic Adviser to the Government of India as Chairman to consider the statistical material available and to make recommendations for filling up of the gaps and for improvement in the existing organisations. Among the organisational recommendations was a scheme coupled with the formation of a Central Statistical Office for coordination, the institution of a statistical cadre, establishment of Statistical Bureaus at the Headquarters of State Governments and the preparation of overall statistics for the entire country.

1.2 Professor P.C. Mahalanobis, who is regarded as a pioneer in the field of statistics, was appointed as the first Statistical Adviser to the Cabinet, Government of India in January 1949. He was the architect of the statistical system of independent India. Professor P. V. Sukhatme, as Statistical Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture, was responsible for the development of Agricultural Statistics.

1.3 The coming of the era of developmental planning in India, gave significant impetus to the development of statistics. The important phases of this development are enumerated below:

- (i) A nucleus statistical unit was set up at the Centre in the Cabinet Secretariat in 1949. This unit was developed later on in 1951 into the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO). The main responsibility assigned to the CSO was to bring about coordination of statistical activities among various statistical agencies in the Central Government and of Statistical Bureaus of State Governments, which was set up for similar coordination of activities of statistical agencies at the State level.

- (ii) A National Income Committee was appointed in 1949 to work out a system for reliable estimation of national income.
- (iii) The National Sample Survey (NSS) came into being in 1950 to collect information through sample surveys on a variety of socio-economic aspects.
- (iv) In 1954, the National Income Unit was transferred from the Ministry of Finance to the CSO and a new Unit for Planning Statistics was set up.
- (v) In 1957, the subject of Industrial Statistics was transferred from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to the CSO.
- (vi) In April 1961, the Department of Statistics was set up in the Cabinet Secretariat and the CSO became a part of it.
- (vii) In 1972, a Computer Centre in the then Department of Statistics was set up.
- (viii) In 1973, the Department of Statistics became a part of the Ministry of Planning.
- (ix) In February 1999, the Department of Statistics and the Department of Programme Implementation were merged and named as the Department of Statistics and Programme Implementation under Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation.
- (x) In October 1999, the Department of Statistics and Programme Implementation was declared as the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

#### **Background of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**

1.4 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 the planned and organized development of the statistical system in the country and coordination of statistical activities among different

stakeholders in Government of India, State Governments as well as for meeting requirements of the International Agencies.

### **Establishment of National Statistical Commission**

1.5 A Commission set up by the Government of India in January 2000 under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan reviewed the statistical system and the entire gamut of Official Statistics in the country. The Rangarajan Commission submitted its report to the Government in 2001. One of the key recommendations of this Commission was to establish a Statutory National Commission on Statistics to serve as a nodal and empowered body for all core statistical activities of the country to evolve, monitor and enforce statistical priorities and standards and to ensure statistical co-ordination among the different agencies involved. The Rangarajan Commission also recommended that the Commission be set-up initially through a Government order. In line with the recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission, the Government of India set up a National Statistical Commission (NSC) through the Resolution dated 1 June 2005. In pursuance of the Resolution, the NSC was constituted and has been functioning with effect from 12 July 2006. As per provisions of the said Resolution, the Commission has the requisite autonomy to discharge its functions effectively and efficiently. Revised notification was issued vide notification no.478 dated 19 December 2019, which contained the details of Composition of NSC, Selection Process of NSC Chairperson and Members, Tenure of NSC Chairperson and Members, Functions of National Statistical Commission, Powers of National Statistical Commission, Responsibility of Commission to the Parliament, Budgetary support to the Commission etc.

### **Capacity, Availability of infrastructure and accountability**

1.6 National Statistical Commission (NSC) is chaired by an eminent statistician and its four members have specialization and experience in specified statistical and allied fields. The Chairman and Members of the NSC are selected on the basis of the recommendations of a Search Committee duly constituted by the Government of India for the purpose, from time to time. The service conditions of the Chairperson and

Members of the NSC have been laid down in the Government of India Notification No.465 dated 10 May 2006 published in the Gazette of India.

### **Composition of the Commission**

1.7 The National Statistical Commission consists of :

- a) a part-time Chairperson who is, or has been, an eminent statistician or social scientist to be nominated by the Government of India;
- b) four part-time Members, one each from the following fields, to be nominated by the Government of India, from amongst the persons having specialization and experience in –
  - i. Economic statistics in such areas as agriculture, industry, infrastructure, trade or finance,
  - ii. Social and environment statistics in such areas as population, health, education, labour and employment or environment,
  - iii. Statistical operations in such areas as censuses, surveys, statistical information system or information technology, and
  - iv. National accounts, statistical modelling or State Statistical Systems
- c) The Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) as ex officio Member.
- d) The Chief Statistician of India, who is the Secretary of the Commission. He is also the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

1.8 The Chairman and Members are selected on the basis of the recommendations of a Search Committee duly constituted by the Government of India from time to time for the purpose. The tenure of the Chairperson and the Members is three years. The status of the Chairperson is that of a Minister of State and the Members are equivalent to

Secretary to the Government of India. The present composition of the Commission is as follows:

Sr. No.	Designation	Name
1.	Chairperson	Prof. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar Professor Emeritus, CMI, Chennai
2.	Member	Prof. A. Ganesh Kumar Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai
3.	Member	Prof. Debasis Kundu Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
4.	Member	Prof. Mukesh Mohania Professor, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi
5.	Member	Shri Asit Kumar Sadhu, DG (Retd.), M/ o Statistics & PI
6.	Member, ex-officio	Shri B. V. R. Subrahmanyam, IAS (Retd.) CEO, NITI Aayog
7.	Secretary to the NSC	Dr. Saurabh Garg, IAS (Retd.) Secretary, M/ o Statistics & PI

The Service Conditions of the Chairperson and Members of the NSC are laid down by the notification dated 8 May 2006 and further revised vide Notification dated 7 November 2024.

1.9 The honorarium or remuneration of Chairman and Members of the NSC have been enhanced by the Government of India Notification No. 4446 dated 7 November 2024 published in the Gazette of India. The annual expenditure on account of the establishment of the National Statistical Commission including salary and wages, domestic travel, office expenses, hiring of accommodation, professional services, administrative services and requirements for day to day administration of the Commission is met from a demand under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation through a separate budget head and is voted by the Parliament. NSC has a separate website ([www.nsc.mospi.gov.in](http://www.nsc.mospi.gov.in)) where all the information including regulations, Annual Reports and Action Taken Reports are available. National Statistical Commission (NSC) has a dedicated office in RK Puram and is serviced by a Secretariat

headed by Secretary of the Commission who is supported by an officer of the Indian Statistical Service in the Senior Administrative Grade (DDG) and other officials. The Annual Report for each financial year which is prepared by the Commission along with approved action taken reports are laid before each House of Parliament.

### **Role and responsibilities of NSC**

1.10 The mandate of the National Statistical Commission constitutes the following:

- a) to identify the core statistics, which are of national importance and are critical to the development of the economy;
- b) to constitute professional committees or working groups to assist the Commission on various technical issues;
- c) to evolve national policies and priorities relating to the statistical system;
- d) to evolve standard statistical concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies in different areas in statistics and lay down national quality standards on core statistics;
- e) to evolve national strategies for the collection, tabulation and dissemination of core statistics, including the release calendar for various data sets;
- f) to evolve national strategies for human resource development on official statistics including information technology and communication needs of the statistical system;
- g) to evolve measures for improving public trust in official statistics;
- h) to evolve measures for effective co-ordination with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations on statistical activities including strengthening of existing institutional mechanisms;
- i) to exercise statistical co-ordination between Ministries, Departments and other agencies of the Central Government;
- j) to exercise statistical audit over the statistical activities to ensure quality and integrity of the statistical products;
- k) to recommend to the Central Government, or any State Government, as the case may be, measures to effectively implement the standards, strategies and other measures evolved under clauses (c) to (h);

- l) to advise the Government on the requirement of legislative measures on statistical matters including the statute for the National Statistical Commission; and
- m) to monitor and review the functioning of the statistical system in the light of the laid down policies, standards and methodologies and recommend measures for enhanced performance.

1.11 The Commission has the authority to formulate its short and long term programmes. NSC has evolved necessary measures and mechanism by constituting professional committees, expert committees and working groups to assist the Commission on various technical issues. NSC has also been assigned the functions of oversight of the implementation of the reforms for 'Strengthening of the Indian National Statistical System'. For all the matters placed before the Commission, the action taken by respective stakeholders is monitored by NSC through the Action Taken Reports, which is presented to the Commission in every meeting. Thus, NSC has a robust framework in place and it continues to serve as a nodal body for statistical activities and it ensures effective statistical co-ordination among the different agencies of the National Statistical System.

1.12 The representatives of Ministry in their presentation during the sitting of the Committee held on 09.05.2025 deposed as below:

*“...the National Statistical Commission regularly monitors the functioning in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, predominantly the National Statistics Office. It works through various working groups and professional committees, which support them on various technical issues. So, they give guidance and directions in evolving standards, concept definitions, detail work on the national sample surveys, the sample design and all the sample survey-related matters. They guide NSO in all this through these technical committees.”*

## **Technical support available to the Commission**

### ***Steering Committee***

1.13 NSC has also been exercising the functions of the *erstwhile* Governing Council (GC) of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) through a Steering Committee. The functions of GC included deciding the subjects for coverage in each NSS round, formulating methodology, and overseeing the processing of data and the release of survey reports/ unit level data by the NSS. The Steering Committee of NSC recommends on various aspects pertaining to National Sample Surveys and comprises of subject-matter experts as well as the representatives from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), NITI Aayog and State Governments.

1.14 The Steering Committee of NSC reviews the extant framework and addresses the issue from time to time on the subject results, methodology, questionnaire, sampling frame, sampling design, concepts and definitions, surveys instruments etc. related to all National Sample Surveys. The finalization and approval of survey results/ reports for release is also done by the Steering Committee of NSC.

### ***Technical Advisory Committees (TAGs)***

1.15 There are two Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) under the aegis of the Steering Committee, which provide technical guidance on matters related to household surveys and enterprise surveys. The members are experts from MoSPI, respective Ministries, academia and members from RBI and Institutes of repute such as NCAER, NIPFP, IEG, Universities etc. The recommendations of Steering Committee and reports of TAGs are placed before the NSC for deliberations and finalization.

### ***Expert Committees***

1.16 NSC formed five Expert Committees on the following subjects, which gave a number of recommendations:

1. Expert Committee on Revisiting Survey Design
2. Expert Committee on Shortening of Questionnaire and Definitional Issues
3. Expert Committee on Various Surveys and Redundancies in Government of India
4. Expert Committee on Modernisation of Information and Technology
5. Expert Committee for Analytics on Government Data

These Committees headed by experts in different subject matters gave recommendations regarding various technical matters including updation of sampling methodology of NSO, address definitional issues, using external data sources for the

sampling frame, use of "Geo-tagging" and mobile to ensure correctness of data and ensuring data quality, Use of Information and Technology for improving the speed of data collection, processing and dissemination, reduction in canvassing time of questionnaires, mechanism of coordination between MoSPI and other Ministries/Departments to bring synergy in conduct of surveys etc.

The tiered mechanism in form of TAGs, Steering Committee, Expert Committees and overarching guidance of NSC provide a rigorous framework for all National Sample Surveys.

1.17 Besides, the functions of the Governing Council of the NSSO were also entrusted to the NSC in 2006. The NSC has since been assigned the functions of oversight of the implementation of the reforms for 'Strengthening of the Indian National Statistical System'. The Commission prepares its Annual Report for each financial year giving a full account of its activities during the financial year and forwards the same to the Central Government. The Annual Report and the Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the Commission are laid before each House of Parliament.

1.18 The oversight of the reform initiatives of the MoSPI has been entrusted to the NSC. The objectives of these reforms are to ensure the timeliness, accuracy and reliability of the official statistics which are brought out by the Ministry of Statistics, better data governance, having uniform guidelines, adoption of new technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) / Machine Learning (ML) and promoting data-driven decision-making, improving credibility, and enhancing credibility of system so that people trust data, and making data more accessible and user-friendly. The reform initiatives have been divided in eight broad parts which deal with administrative statistics, sample surveys, derived statistics, non-official data, institutional structures and mechanism, capacity building, enhancement of the credibility of the statistical system, and overall technical up-gradation in data management and sharing.

### **Statistical Reforms driven by the NSC**

1.19 National Statistical Commission has recommended various reforms for improving

statistical system including capacity building, modernization of information technology, review of framework of National Sample Surveys wherever necessary. The Commission has, over the years, made recommendations on various aspects such as survey methodology, classification standards, and data quality frameworks. With the overall guidance of NSC and the technological advancements adopted by MoSPI for conducting surveys, the time lag for releasing survey reports has been reduced considerably. Currently, NSO releases all its annual reports within 90 days and quarterly reports within 45 days. MoSPI apprises the NSC from time to time about various initiatives undertaken related to data harmonization, data standardisation, improved data quality, data dissemination and data innovation. The Commission gives their suggestions in this regard.

1.20 A set of recommendations on 'Strengthening the Indian National Statistical System' is under implementation by MoSPI. National Statistical Commission (NSC) functions as the Oversight body and periodically review the progress of the action/implementation plan under the roadmap. The representatives of Reserve Bank of India and Department of Economic Affairs participate in these reviews.

1.21 MoSPI has prepared the action plan for implementation of these recommendations by dividing them into eight specific goals and for each goal, a dedicated team of senior officers (DDG level officers) under Divisional Heads has been formed and the progress on each goal is being monitored by Secretary, MoSPI through bi-monthly review meetings. The reforms are aimed at improving the data management and governance ecosystem across the Government, wherein MoSPI, various Ministries/Departments, States/UTs are the key stakeholders. The objectives of the reforms are as follows:

- Enhanced accuracy, timeliness and reliability of Official Statistics
- Better data governance by way of uniform guidelines
- Adoption of new technologies and techniques
- Enhancing credibility of the National Statistical System
- Making data more accessible and user-friendly
- Promote data-driven decision making
- Appropriately impart skills and knowledge to the human resources in MoSPI and across Ministries/ Departments to take forward these reforms.

1.22 The representatives of Ministry in their representation during the sitting of the Committee held on 09.05.2025 also briefed about major reform initiatives as follows:

- (i) Administrative statistics - To strengthen the administrative statistics, interaction is being done extensively with various Ministries and Departments. Major datasets have been identified and their usability, comparability and consistency in terms of concepts and definitions is being examined. A National Metadata Standard has been laid down, which is being disseminated to all the Ministries so that they also follow it to ensure that the prescribed standard of the datasets is achieved.
- (ii) Sample Surveys - Methodological improvements have been done by defining concepts, definitions, standards, and making them uniform. A full-fledged stabilized CAPI-e-SIGMA (e Survey Instrument and Generalised Multimodal Application) platform is being developed for data collections to reduce time lag of surveys. Quality checks are ensured at various levels. The survey ecosystem is in the process of being revamped with provision of using IT in all aspects to fast track survey results and reduce time lag.
- (iii) Derived statistics - Derived statistics Area are the ones which help in decision making at different levels and are also very important indicators of how the economy is doing across different areas. The NSO brings out a number of macroeconomic indicators like GDP, IIP, and CPI. The exercise towards base year revision is underway to improve the methodology across derived statistics area.
- (iv) Credibility of the official statistical system -Interactive sessions, Data User Conferences and panel discussions with different stake holders and researchers provide a platform for open discussions, allowing attendees to pose questions, share insights, and provide feedback to enhance the credibility of the official statistical system. Work is also being done on quality framework and International Metadata Standards. A Research and Analysis Unit (RAU) has been opened and the Ministry is also collaborating with institutes of repute like IITs, NITs etc so that they undertake research and come up with feasible solutions to the identified problem statements.
- (v) Technical upgradation - An e-Sankhyiki portal was launched through which all macroeconomic indicators, survey data, unit level data and micro data for the past 30 years are available for users to access. To revamp IT infrastructure, Data Innovation

Lab have been set up to undertake research work to help facilitate in providing solutions for better data extraction, data dissemination and data use in official statistics.

(vi) Capacity Building Programmes- Training courses for behavioural, functional and domain specific areas for capacity building of Officers both at the organisational level and individual level have been conducted in offline as well as online mode.

(vii) Institutional structures -There is National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA) where training is imparted in the field of official statistics to the statistical personnel, not only of the Central and State /UT Governments of the country but also of the developing countries of Asia-Pacific Region. Collaboration is also done with international institutes and organisations for adoption of global best practices and standards.

(viii) Non-official data - Earlier, MoSPI was bringing out inflation data, unemployment data and different data sets at the national and the State levels only. Now, changes have been made in sample strategies to collect granular data at the district level also.NSC works through the various committees i.e steering committee for NSC surveys. The steering committee is a 17-member Committee chaired by the Chairman, NSC. The survey results which were released during last year are Household Consumption Survey, Periodic Labour Force Survey, ASUSE, ASI, NSS-79<sup>th</sup> and CAMS etc.

A detailed brief about the reform initiatives under the eight goals as mentioned above is attached at **Annexure A**.

#### **Major Activities undertaken by the Commission**

1.23 Four (04) meetings and an interaction with Government of Karnataka were held by the Commission during the current Financial Year 2024-25 (from 01.04.2024 to 31.10.2024). Thirteen (13) meetings were held by the Commission during the previous three financial years (05 each in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and 03 in 2023-24).

1.24 Major issues deliberated by the Commission and their findings / recommendations are as under:

## **FY 2024-25**

- i. Based on the recommendation of NSC, a ‘Steering Committee on National Sample Surveys (NSS)’ was constituted on 03.04.2024 to review the extant framework and to address the issue on the subject results/ methodology, questionnaire, sampling frame, sampling design, concepts and definitions, surveys instruments etc. related to all National Sample Surveys. The Steering Committee will look into all the pertinent issues as per the terms prescribed to it and would place its recommendations before the Commission which have the final authority for making decision on those recommendations. The terms and composition of the Steering Committee were further expanded on 14.06.2024. Four (04) meetings of the Steering Committee have been held and recommendations taken thereon were apprised to the NSC in subsequent meetings of the Commission.
- ii. The Reports of the five Expert Committees constituted previously by the NSC were placed before the Commission and brief presentations on the recommendations were made by the respective Member Secretaries of those Committees.
- iii. Commission observed that the prospect of demand for surveys through MoSPI has to be identified in a holistic manner. The Commission felt the need to assess the demand-expectation of various Central Ministries/ Departments.
- iv. Pursuant to the Commission’s recommendation for setting up of a ‘Research Wing for implementation of data analytics’, MoSPI constituted the ‘Research and Analysis Unit’.
- v. The Commission was briefed about the IT implementation plan of MoSPI. The action plan, *inter alia*, contained short-term and medium-term strategies for data collection and curation, data processing and data dissemination.
- vi. A brief presentation was made before the NSC on the Report that looked into the aspect of Underestimation of Population and to evolve a good calibration technique for NSS estimates. In this context, the NSC decided that a study be undertaken on the divergence in population estimates arising from the Census and NSS surveys.
- vii. NITI Aayog conducted a meeting on the feasibility of the proposal pursuant to the

Commission's recommendation for examining the DPIIT's proposal on the Producers Price Index (PPI).

- viii. With regard to the proposed statistical reforms and transformation of sample surveys, the broad contours of the roadmap goals and implementation plan was shared with the Commission. The Commission suggested that the already available recommendations of various committees be utilized and augmented in the implementation plan.
- ix. State and Regional Interaction on the Official Statistical System with Karnataka State was held on 16 May 2024 at Bengaluru. The officials of Government of Karnataka (GoK) apprised the Commission about various statistical activities and initiatives of the State Government including Karnataka State's IT-enabled data analytics and evidence-based policy making, extensive use of GIS data, use of predictive Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI-ML) in planning and traffic management and use of Data Lake integrating data from various sources. Several data portals and IT-based applications had been showcased to the Commission. The Commission appreciated the State's proactive accomplishment in IT-enabled data management systems. The Chairman, NSC highlighted the need for reliability of data and timeliness of dissemination of information.

#### **FY 2023-24**

- i. The Commission reviewed the progress of the Five Expert Committees constituted by it.
- ii. As Members of NSC recommended that the Commission need to review the practice of NSC taking over the task that was with the governing council of NSSO. Accordingly, a Committee was formed by MoSPI to holistically review all decisions of the Cabinet regarding the Governing Council of NSSO. The Committee submitted the report to the Commission which has since been accepted.
- iii. The report of the NSC Expert Committee on Modernization of Information Technology and the Report of the NSC Expert Committee for Analytics on Government data were discussed.

- iv. The proposal on Producer Price Index (PPI) (with base year 2017-18) from DPIIT was discussed and placed in the 129<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Commission. The Senior Advisor, DPIIT highlighted the notable features of the proposed PPI. He underlined the use of a dedicated web portal for its data collection, complete with quality checks.
- v. A request from Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications was also reviewed by the Commission regarding 'Proposal prepared for meeting regarding finalization of RFP and TOR to conduct a Household (HH) level survey on Telecom indicators.'

#### **FY 2022-23**

- i. The Commission was presented with an overview of the activities of various divisions of MoSPI. The Commission deliberated on issues pertaining to Surveys of MoSPI and CEO, NITI Aayog suggested that the Commission should follow its mandate while taking up specific agenda items and decided its future roadmap accordingly. NSC decided to constitute five expert committees on important issues existing in the present statistical system.
- ii. A presentation was made before the Commission on the Report of the Committee on Use of Alternative Sources of Data to reduce survey burden. The report was deliberated and NSC accepted the same and recommended for their implementation by the MoSPI in consultation with line Ministries at the Centre.
- iii. NSSO presented the status of ASUSE to the Commission. It also apprised the Commission on Pilot Survey on Living Condition of Tribals in India (PSLCT). Commission recommended that a Survey on Living Conditions and other related aspects of Tribals in India would be conducted by NSS as a part of the NSS 79<sup>th</sup> Round. The 'Survey on consumption basket for Development of Chain Base Indices (SCBDCBI)' was renamed as "Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)" to be followed by the year in which it is conducted.
- iv. The Commission was also apprised about the outcome of the meeting held with NITI Aayog on 1 June 2022 regarding the utility of the proposed survey data on Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE)/ Household Consumer

Expenditure Survey (HCES) for compilation of Poverty Estimates. The Commission was apprised about the Tabulation Plan and Estimation Procedure of NSSO 79<sup>th</sup> Round and the same was approved.

- v. The report on Multiple Indicator Survey had been taken up during the 78<sup>th</sup> Round (January, 2020 - August, 2021) and the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the PLFS was presented before the Commission and it was concurred by the Commission.
- vi. Field Operations Division (FOD) apprised the Commission on the Policy for providing tablets to contractual employees for undertaking survey related work in respect of surveys undertaken by MoSPI. The Commission was of the view that as a step towards digitalization and for reducing time-lag in collection of data from the field, tablet computer is a functional requirement and should be provided to all the field functionaries as essential equipment for the purpose of survey.

#### **FY 2021-22**

- i. The Commission decided that for release of all NSS Reports, the Reports will be presented before the corresponding Working Group/Committee then it will be circulated to all NSC members for their comments within three days. If no further modifications are needed, the Report will be released immediately.
- ii. The Commission agreed that MoSPI's efforts needed to focus on reducing the excessive time-lag in release of PLFS results. They advised that Secretary, MoSPI and DG (NSS) should review the system to bring about improvements on this aspect.
- iii. Commission sought stage-wise expected time-lines of the new eSIGMA platform and NSO was advised to summarize all the glitches observed in the new platform and to be brought before the NSC.
- iv. The survey instruments, sampling design and the launch date of the fieldwork for survey on Consumption Basket for Development of Chain-Base Indices was discussed and approved by the Commission.
- v. NSS apprised the Commission on the developments and discussions with the Ministries and consequent modification suggested in the survey Plan of NSS 79th

Round. The Commission took note of the developments and directed to proceed further and also desired that the data of first sub-round may be presented before the NSC.

- vi. The schedule of Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS) and Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH), as approved by Working Group of NSS 79th round, had been presented before the NSC. After deliberations, both the schedules of CAMS and AYUSH were approved by the NSC.
- vii. The Commission was apprised that the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises had not made any further necessary communication with NSS for conduct of survey on Credit Linked Facilities available for MSME. After detailed deliberations in the Commission, the survey had been dropped.
- viii. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) presented the Revision of Base Year of Wholesale Price Index from 2011-12 to 2017-18 to NSC. With some observations, the methodology and the proposed new series of WPI with Base Year 2017-18 had been approved by the NSC.

### **NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (NSO)**

1.25 The Chief Statistician of India, the post created specifically as the Head of the National Statistical Office is the Secretary of the Commission. He is also the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. 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 GDP estimates are released quarterly and annually as per an advance release calendar. 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 42 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 12<sup>th</sup> of every month (next working day if 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

1.26 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.

1.27 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.
- viii. To conduct the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI).
- ix. To conduct Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).
- x. To conduct other surveys like price collection surveys, agriculture area enumeration and crop cutting experiments, urban frame surveys, etc.

- xi. To conduct periodic all-India Economic Censuses and related activities.
- xii. 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 Organisation (ILO), etc.
- xiii. 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.

## CHAPTER II

### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS AND UTILIZATION

2.1 The Demands for Grants under Demand No. 96 for the Ministry also includes Budgetary Allocation for major head 3451 under Demand No. 96 of National Statistical Commission (NSC). The allocation of funds and utilization of NSC for previous financial years are as follows:

(Rs. In crore)			
<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Actuals</b>
<b>2021-22</b>	1.37	1.37	0.70
<b>2022-23</b>	1.44	1.44	0.74
<b>2023-24</b>	1.42	1.23	0.70
<b>2024-25</b>	1.26	0.92	0.75 (as on 31.03.2025)

2.2 There has been a shortfall in fund utilization by Rs. 0.67 crore, 0.70 crore and 0.72 crore against the BE of Rs. 1.37 crore, 1.44 crore and 1.42 crore in 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 under budget allocation for National Statistical Commission. When asked about the reasons for the mismatch between budgetary allocation and its utilization, the Ministry in its written reply submitted as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Reasons</b>
2021-22	1.37	1.37	0.70	<i>Owing to Covid-19 pandemic there were limited official tours and official meetings. Also, one post of Member of the Commission was vacant for the whole FY.</i>
2022-23	1.44	1.44	0.74	<i>There were limited official tours and physical official meetings; some procurement and printing proposals did not materialize. Also, two posts of Member of the Commission were vacant for the whole FY.</i>
2023-24	1.42	1.23	0.70	<i>There were limited official tours and physical official meetings; some procurement and printing proposals did not materialize. Also, two posts of Member of the Commission were vacant for most of the FY.</i>

2.3 When asked about the impact of decreasing trend in funds allocation and utilization on the performance and development of National Statistical Commission (NSC), the Ministry submitted as under:

“The expenditure incurred under Demand No. 96 of National Statistical Commission mainly relates to meetings of NSC during the year and payment of honorarium to the Chairperson and Members of the Commission. The expenditure on conducting the meetings of Steering Committee of NSC for National Sample Surveys including payment of sitting fee to the non-official members, travel and logistics, etc., are booked under Major head 3454-Census, Survey and Statistics.

Post-pandemic, the normal functioning of the National Statistical Commission (NSC) has resumed. During FY2024-25, six meetings of NSC have taken place so far. The fund allocation for the current year is adequate for performance and development of NSC.”

2.4 Owing to Covid-19 pandemic there were limited official tours and official meetings of NSC. Also, one post of Member of the Commission was vacant during Financial Year 2021-22 and two posts of Member of the Commission were vacant during Financial Years 2022-23 and 2023-24. Thus an amount of 0.67 crore, 0.37 crore and 0.54 crore have been surrendered for Financial Years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively. However, *vide* Ministry's O.M. dated 15.07.2024 and 17.01.2025, the Divisions were advised to prepare Budget Estimates considering the expenditure of the earlier years and the actual requirement of the current year to ensure that balances under the funds are optimally utilized and savings under various heads can be avoided/minimized.

2.5 The National Statistical Commission (NSC) prepares its Annual Report for each financial year giving a full account of its activities during the financial year and forwards the same to the Central Government. The Central Government laid the Annual Report together with the action taken report on the recommendations therein before each House of Parliament.

2.6 Despite the broad audit mandate of NSC, the only notable example is the audit of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in 2011. When asked about this, the Ministry in its reply has stated that following steps have been taken to strengthen the NSC's role in statistical auditing to ensure data quality, transparency, and accountability:

- NSC decided to have a statistical audit conducted on the All India Index of Industrial Production (IIP), as a test case, before laying down comprehensive methodology for the purpose and a report was published in 2011.
- MoSPI circulated the Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF) in April 2025. SQAF, based on United Nations Quality Assurance Framework 2019, lays down quality dimensions to facilitate and ensure effective management of quality in the National Statistical System and its processes and products. The Ministries/Departments/States/UTs are required to assess their data/statistical products and processes generated by them. The SQAF rests upon 19 Principles and 85 requirements. The assessment will help each Ministry/Department/State/UT in identifying and prioritise the gaps to improve data quality.
- NSC has been briefed about various statistical products viz. National Metadata Structure, Compilation of unique identifiers, Compilation of national and international classification, Compendium of datasets and registries in India and Assessment tools developed by MoSPI. There is mechanism put in place where NSC guides on definitional divergence of data. NSC is also overseeing the current exercise of base revision for GDP, IIP and CPI, which is to be adopted during Feb to May 2026.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **STATUTORY STATUS FOR NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMISSION**

3.1 The National Statistical Commission (NSC) is chaired by an eminent statistician and its four members have specialization and experience in specified statistical and allied fields. The Chairman and Members of the National Statistical Commission are selected on the basis of the recommendations of a Search Committee duly constituted by the Government of India for the purpose, from time to time.

3.2 As per provisions of Resolution dated 1 June 2005, the Commission has the requisite autonomy to discharge its functions effectively and efficiently. The Commission also has the authority to formulate its short and long term programmes. The NSC has evolved necessary measures and mechanism by constituting professional committees, expert committees and working groups to assist the Commission on various technical issues.

3.3 The Steering Committee for National Sample Surveys, which is chaired by the Chairperson of the NSC, comprises of subject-matter experts as well as the representatives from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Department of Economic Affairs, Reserve Bank of India, NITI Aayog and State Governments. The Steering Committee of NSC, *inter alia*, reviews the extant framework and addresses the issues from time to time on the subject results, methodology, questionnaire, sampling frame, sampling design, concepts and definitions, surveys instruments etc. related to all National Sample Surveys.

3.4 Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government may submit their proposal or apprise to the Commission regarding statistical activity envisaged or being undertaken by them. The Commission from time to time holds interactive sessions with State Governments on their statistical systems and activities.

3.5 In addition, the NSC functions as the Oversight body and periodically reviews the progress of the roadmap on 'Strengthening the Indian National Statistical System'. The representatives of Reserve Bank of India and Department of Economic Affairs participate in these reviews.

3.6 When asked about any mandate provisioned for NSC through which it can give recommendations to the Ministry, the Ministry in its written reply submitted as follows:

*"As per the provisions in the Resolution dated 1 June 2005, the National Statistical Commission (NSC) can give recommendations to the Ministry. The NSC may recommend to the Central Government or State Government(s) measures to effectively implement the standards, strategies and other measures evolved by it. Further, the NSC may monitor and review the functioning of the statistical system in the light of the laid down policies, standards and methodologies and recommend measures for enhanced performance"*

### **Draft National Statistical Commission (NSC) Bill, 2019**

3.7 The draft NSC Bill 2019 proposes to establish a National Statistical Commission (NSC), as the nodal and autonomous body for all core statistical activities for the country, to evolve, monitor and enforce statistical priorities and standards and to ensure statistical coordination. The salient features of the Bill are following:

- a) The Composition of NSC: The Bill proposes for the Commission to be composed of a fulltime Chairman and Members nominated from amongst eminent persons. It is proposed to include, amongst others, Deputy Governor, RBI as a member of Commission and the Chief Economic Adviser as ex-officio member. The revised composition of NSC aims to reinforce its independence and also align it with the vision and broad contours of national policies and priorities.
- b) Chief Statistician of India (CSI): The position of Chief statistician of India has been created by the same executive order that established the present NSC in 2005. The Act proposes to reaffirm the position and also include him as a Member of NSC.
- c) Statistical Audit: In the draft Bill, provision for Statistical Audit is proposed to be included. The bill provides for establishing a National Statistical Audit and Assessment Organization within NSC with a Chief Statistical Auditor in the rank of Secretary to the GoI.

- d) Independent Secretariat for the Commission: To further strengthen the autonomy of the Commission, the Bill also proposes setting up of an independent secretariat for the Commission headed by a Secretary rank officer of GoI. The Bill also envisages financial autonomy for the Commission through an independent National Statistical Fund. The Bill also proposes the NSC to be a body corporate.
- e) Functions of NSC: The functions assigned to National Statistical Commission by the Rangarajan commission broadly classified into:
  - 1) Nodal empowered body for setting up mandatory standards in respect of Core Statistics defined as statistical indicators which are critical for monitoring the economy.
  - 2) Evolve, monitor and enforce statistical priorities and standards by way of periodical review and audit.
  - 3) Ensure strong coordination through close linkage between budget and statistical programming.

The Draft Bill deals in detail with the advisory role assigned to NSC in terms of regular periodical review of all aspects of Official statistical System at various levels, including legislative, overall policy, HR and technology intervention issues of Center as well as State statistical systems, including administrative data. While NSC can take up such matters *suo moto*, the Bill primarily envisages encouraging Government agencies to proactively bring forth issues pertaining to the national statistical system proactively for discussion in the Commission.

3.8 The Committee wanted to know that despite seeking Public comments/suggestions on 'Draft National Statistical Commission (NSC) Bill, 2019', little progress has been made so far in terms of making it a law or giving it a statutory status, the Ministry in its written reply submitted the following:

*"The NSC has autonomy to discharge its functions effectively and efficiently. The NSC has evolved adequate measures and mechanism in this regard. In view of this, at present, regarding Statutory Body there is no such proposal under consideration."*

## CHAPTER IV

### NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY OFFICE (NSSO)

4.1 The National Sample Survey (NSS) is responsible for conducting large-scale sample surveys in diverse fields on all India basis. NSS functions with requisite autonomy in matters relating to data collection, processing and publication/dissemination of results/data based on its surveys. Director General (NSS) is responsible for overall coordination and supervision of all activities of NSS, who is assisted by four Additional Director Generals, each one being in-charge of a separate Division responsible for distinct aspects of large-scale surveys viz. household surveys, enterprise surveys, fieldwork/data collection and coordination between different Divisions of NSO alongwith quality control.

#### **Divisions of National Sample Survey (NSS)**

4.2 There are four main divisions of National Sample Survey which are as follows:

(i) **Coordination and Quality Control Division (C&QCD)** This Division is responsible for proper monitoring and maintaining the quality of the NSS Surveys. It also coordinates the technical as well as administrative activities of various Divisions of NSS, besides being a nodal point for all Inter Ministerial consultations, Cabinet Notes, Legislation and Bills etc. with respect to NSS. It also brings out the bi-annual journal of NSS, titled '**Sarvekshana**'. The Division organizes National Seminars on the results of various socio-economic surveys undertaken by NSS and conducts Data User Conferences after release of results of NSS surveys with an aim to engage stakeholders and enhance understanding of the survey's findings, focusing on data access, interpretation, user concerns and survey methodology. The Division also serves as the secretariat to the Steering Committee of NSC for NSS.

(ii) **Household Survey Division (HSD):** This Division, located at Kolkata is responsible for conceptualizing, designing, processing, analysing and publishing survey results for various household surveys. The Division assists the States through training/workshops or other interactive methods as per requirements. Following surveys are covered under HSD:

- Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)
- Land Holding Survey (LHS)
- Situation Assessment Survey (SAS)
- Surveys on Health
- Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)
- Time Use Survey (TUS)
- Survey on Migration
- NSS Rounds
- Rural Price Collection (RPC)

(iii) **Enterprise Survey Division (EnSD):** This Division, located at Kolkata, is responsible for conceptualizing, designing, processing, analysing and publishing survey results for various enterprise surveys. It is also responsible for development of digital platform for data collection and processing including CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview). It also assists the States in providing IT solutions for their data processing related activities for the enterprise surveys, as also through periodic training/workshop and other interactive methods. Following surveys are covered under EnSD:

- Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE)
- Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)
- Annual Survey of Services Sector Enterprises (ASSSE),
- Forward Looking Survey on Private Corporate Sector CAPEX Investment Intentions
- Ad-hoc Surveys/ Short term surveys

(iv) **Field Operations Division (FOD):** The Division with its headquarters at Delhi and a network of 52 Regional Offices and 117 Sub-Regional Offices spread throughout the country, is responsible for the collection of primary data for the surveys undertaken by MoSPI. The Agricultural Statistics Wing of FOD, headquartered at Faridabad, is entrusted with the responsibility of providing technical guidance and assistance to the States in developing suitable survey techniques for obtaining timely and reliable estimates of crop area and yield, and imparting training to State field personnel.

4.3 When enquired about the steps that are being taken by Ministry to reduce MGNREGA data differences and to mitigate variation among data collected and grass root level data, the Ministry in their reply have stated as under:

*“Synchronization of data/datasets collected and disseminated by the Central Ministry/Departments/Organisations, administrative Departments/Organisations, has been a long felt need in the National Statistics Office (NSO). MoSPI institutionalized a mechanism for reconciliation of divergent datasets in the NSO. The Central Ministry/Departments/Organisations, and State/UT Departments/Organisations, may make references of any matters relating to data/ definitional divergences to NSO for suggesting ways and means of harmonious resolution of these divergences, or credibly explaining the reasons for such divergences. The NSO, however, may also take suo moto cognizance of such divergences for resolution. These may also be placed before National Statistical Commission (NSC) for their guidance, if divergence persists even after stakeholder consultations.*

*The scope of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) being workers at large without special focus on a specific group of workers (like MGNREGA worker). This, the sample design of PLFS is not tailored to specifically net worker engaged in MGNREGA. The number of MGNREGA workers in the PLFS sample is not enough to get reliable estimates of these category of workers even at all-India level.”*

4.4 When asked to specify various social-economic surveys that are being conducted by NSSO, the Ministry has given the following reply:

*“Presently NSO conducts the following surveys to capture the economic activities in organized and unorganized sectors (both for manufacturing & services):*

1. **ASUSE:** *Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) is carried out with the primary objective of measuring various economic and operational characteristics of unincorporated non-agricultural establishments in manufacturing, trade and other services sectors (excluding construction). The survey collects data on various economic characteristics of this sector including number of workers, Gross Value Added (GVA), emoluments paid, fixed asset owned, outstanding loan, besides, different types of operational characteristics such as type of ownership, nature of operation, registration status, etc.*
2. **ASI:** *Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the principal source of industrial statistics of the registered organized manufacturing sector in India conducted annually since 1959. It provides statistical information to assess and evaluate, objectively and realistically, the changes in the growth, composition and structure of organized manufacturing sector comprising activities related to manufacturing processes, repair services, gas and water supply and cold storage.*
3. **CAPEX Survey:** *Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched Forward-Looking Survey on Private Corporate Sector CAPEX Investment Intention in October 2024. This is the first survey being conducted by NSS to collect data on Private Corporate Sector CAPEX Investment Intentions. Main objective of the survey is to measure capital investment intentions of private corporate sector covering non-financial and financial corporation through collection of information from major resident enterprises on:*
  - i. Capital Expenditure incurred during last three financial years,*
  - ii. Capital Expenditure incurred or to be incurred during the current and forthcoming financial years on different asset groups and industries,*

*In accordance with the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, notices are issued to selected enterprises drawn from a frame of active resident private enterprises registered under the Companies Act, 2013 with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Data collection is carried out via a dedicated web portal.*

4. **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):** *The nationwide Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) was launched from April 2017. The objective of PLFS is*

*primarily two-fold viz. (i) to measure the labour force indicators in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the Current Weekly Status (CWS) and (ii) to generate estimates of all important labour force parameters in both usual status (principal status + subsidiary status) and CWS annually for both rural and urban areas and quarterly for urban areas.*

5. **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES):** The NSO has been conducting surveys on household consumption expenditure at regular intervals since the inception of the National Sample Survey (NSS) in the year 1951. HCES is designed to collect information on consumption and expenditure of the households on goods and services. It helps to understand the consumption and expenditure pattern, standard of living and well-being of the households. Besides, the data of HCES provides the budget shares of different commodity groups which is used to prepare the weighting diagram for compilation of official Consumer Price Indices (CPIs).

*The following Survey Reports have been released during 2024.*

- a. *Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23*
- b. *Survey on Ayush 2022-23, NSS 79<sup>th</sup> Round*
- c. *Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24*
- d. *Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)*
- e. *Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) (2022-2023)*
- f. *Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (July 2022- June 2023)"*

4.5 On being asked about the steps that are being taken to address the discrepancy regarding the significant variations/overlap between the sample survey data collected by the NSSO and that gathered by State Governments, particularly in relation to data on persons with disabilities, the Ministry in its written reply have stated as under:

*"The Ministry has recently advised the Ministry/Departments to review their data collection mechanism so as to harmonize all datasets produced already or are being produced, through all possible data collection venues in the Government. It was further suggested that the surveys may be designed/recommended to fill up the data gaps, when such data are desirable and that if such data are available already in the Ministry/Departments, either through administrative data sources, statutory returns, alternative data sources, or through MIS portals, collecting them through surveys may be avoided, except if*

*such collection of data are taken up for a specific purpose of authentication or validation of existing datasets”*

4.6 When queried about the recent comprehensive survey of Persons with Disabilities carried out and the criteria to adopt different standards to measure disability impact services, the Ministry in its Post-Evidence reply have stated:

*“National Statistics Office (NSO), MoSPI had conducted a comprehensive survey on Persons with Disabilities during July – December 2018 as part of NSS 76<sup>th</sup> round. In this survey, a provision was made to collect information on persons with disabilities as per classification used in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (PWD Act) 2016.*

*Disability impact services are services that help people with disabilities improve their daily lives. In the NSS 76<sup>th</sup> round survey on persons with disabilities provision for collection on information on the following aspects related to the disability impact services were collected*

- *Status of education and vocational/technical training among persons with disabilities;*
- *Treatment for disability and aid/appliances*
- *Living arrangement, care giver, receipt of aid/help*
- *Difficulty faced in accessing/ using public transport and accessing/using public building*
- *Whether having certificate of disability and percentage of disability as per certificate.”*

### **Merger of CSO and NSSO**

4.7 MoS&PI vide its order dated 23 May 2019 merged CSO and NSSO into National Statistical Office (NSO) in order to streamline and strengthening the nodal functions of MoS&PI with respect to Indian Official Statistics System and to bring in more synergy by integrating its administrative functions within the Ministry. It aimed at streamlining administrative functions with the involvement of DG level officers. Merging of CSO and NSSO achieved better coordination among the survey and central statistics verticals. PLFS and ASUSE are helping in estimation of GDP for the unorganized sector. The base revision exercise of GDP, CPI and IIP, is also making use of survey results effectively. Further, vide order dated 07 August 2024, the National Sample Survey

(NSS) was re-organized from process-based to product-based ecosystem with the objective to ensure that survey methodologies are strengthened and NSS is able to release qualitative results/ reports in shortest possible time. As a part of the re-organization, two survey-wise verticals/ divisions, namely, Household Survey Division and Enterprise Survey Division, have been created in NSS to provide turnkey services with respect to a particular product/survey. The survey results are now released within 3 months of the completion of data collection.

4.8 The recent step for the merger of CSO and NSSO was originally aimed at leveraging the strengths of the two organisations so that it can meet the increasing demands. When asked about how this exercise proved successful in achieving its objective, the Ministry in its reply stated as below:

Recently, MoSPI has created /restructured verticals for new and focused functions and re-assigned human resources. The following initiatives have been undertaken:

- Administrative Statistics and Policy Division for strengthening Administrative Statistics across Ministries/ Departments
- Research and Analysis Division for undertaking research and encouraging research and innovation
- Media and Publicity unit for creating awareness about MoSPI and its activities/products and for reaching out to data users, researchers and academia
- Direct Recruit officers posted at the field level in Sub-Regional offices for monitoring and supervision of the survey work
- Quality control in the Survey through regular monitoring and capacity building
- Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Unit for enhanced data analysis
- International Cooperation Unit for better coordination at international level as India became member of UNSC
- Improved State Unit for enhanced coordination and providing support to States/UTs
- Improved Project Monitoring through revamped portal and regular capacity building

## CHAPTER V

### STRENGTHENING STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

5.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has stated that it places significant emphasis on the coverage, accuracy, and quality of statistical data released in the country. There are various sources and sampling methods that are being used to compile these statistics.

#### **Coverage**

- (i) **Household Surveys:** The Household Survey Division conducts large-scale sample surveys based on household queries. The primary data is collected using well-devised schedules, which are canvassed by trained survey enumerators.
- (ii) **Enterprise Surveys:** ASUSE 2022-23 covered unincorporated non-agricultural establishments of rural and urban areas of India (except the villages in Andaman and Nicobar Islands which are difficult to access) belonging to three sectors viz., Manufacturing, Trade and Other Services.
- (iii) The **ASI** survey covers all factories registered under sections 2m (i) and 2m (ii) of the Factories Act, 1948. The survey also covers *bidi* and *cigar* manufacturing establishments registered under the Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966. All electricity undertakings engaged in generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, not registered with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) are also covered under ASI. The coverage of ASI has been further extended to cover units with 100 or more employees, not registered under Section 2m (i) and 2m (ii) of the Factories Act, 1948 but registered under any one of the seven Acts / Board / Authority (Companies Act, 2013, Factories Act, 1948, Shops and Commercial Establishment Act, Societies Registration Act, Cooperative Societies Act, Khadi and Village Industries Board, Directorate of Industries [District Industries Center]).

(iv) The **CAPEX** covers two Institutional Sectors confined to private corporations viz. Non-financial and Financial.

### **Accuracy and quality of Statistical data**

5.2 MoSPI apprises the NSC from time to time about various initiatives undertaken related to data harmonization, data standardisation, improved data quality, data dissemination and data innovation. The Commission deliberates on issues relating to data quality, inconsistencies, and duplication in its meetings and provides recommendations, to promote standardization, harmonization and consistency in statistical practices.

5.3 When asked about any proper mechanism derived by NSC for resolving inter-agency statistical inconsistencies and to address issues of data discrepancies and duplication, the Ministry in its post evidence replies have stated as under:

“MoSPI in January, 2025 laid down an institutional mechanism for the Ministry/Departments/State/UT Governments for referring the matter of definitional divergence to MoSPI. MoSPI undertakes resolution of these divergences in consultation with the concerned Ministry/Departments/State/UT Governments to place them before the NSC for concurrence.

MoSPI has undertaken the following initiatives related to datasets for data standardisation, improved data quality, data dissemination and data innovation. A dedicated vertical has been formed in MoSPI to form policies, directives, guidelines, practices to support acquisition, management and efficient use of Administrative Data. National Metadata Structure (NMDS 2.0) issued (Oct 2024) to Ministries/Departments for compliance, to ensure that data and information are uniformly represented and to bring in improved understanding of various data sets in public domain such as census, surveys, administrative and those from other sources.

#### ***i. Compendium of Datasets and Registries***

A Compendium of 257 datasets and registries has been prepared based on the inputs received from M/Ds. M/Ds will need to prioritize the implementation strategy for the data related initiatives to improve data quality.

*ii. Follow the system for National Metadata Structure (NMDS)*

National Metadata Structure (NMDS) provides a guideline for the data producer to adhere to a holistic and integrated approach to the presentation and dissemination of statistical data and enhance ease in sharing data. The key principles of NMDS 2.0 are data description and presentation, institutional mandate, quality management, accuracy and reliability, timelines, coherence and comparability, data processing and metadata update. All datasets need to adhere to NMDS 2.0.

*iii. Adherence to statistical standards/classifications*

Compliance to the systems of International/National Classification are an essential requirement for uniformity, consistency and coherence in the statistical datasets. MoSPI has so far compiled, circulated and released a total of 10 National and 87 International Standards/Classification in the fields of Demographic and Social, Economic Statistics, Environment Statistics, and Others. The list provides for the details of the agency publishing the standards, availability of their latest version, and the brief about the classification. The M/Ds can select the relevant standards and ensure its implementation.

*iv. Usage of unique identifiers for improved interoperability of the datasets*

Unique identifiers (UIDs) are distinct codes or numbers assigned to objects, people, or data to distinguish them from others. They are crucial for identification, tracking, and management of data across various industries and systems. MoSPI compiled and circulated amongst the Ministry/Departments, recently in April, 2025 a list of 17 UIDs, in the individual (7 IDs), enterprise (5 IDs), Geographical /Locational (4 IDs), and Vehicle (1 ID) categories. Each M/D can select identifiers based on the feasibility and relevance.

*v. Implement the Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF)*

SQAF lays down quality dimensions to facilitate and ensure effective management of quality in the NSS and its processes and products. MoSPI circulated the SQAF in the month of April 2025. The Ministries/Departments are required to assess all their data/statistical products and processes generated by them. The SQAF rests upon 19 Principles and 85 requirements. The assessment will help each M/D identify and prioritise the gaps to improve data quality.

***vi. Identification and resolution of definitional divergences***

MoSPI in January, 2025 laid down an institutional mechanism for the Ministry/Departments/State/UT Governments for referring the matter of definitional divergence to MoSPI. MoSPI proposed resolving these divergences consultation with the concerned Ministry/Departments/State/UT Governments and placing them before the National Statistical Commission (NSC) for concurrence.

***vii. Assessment tools for website and web-portals***

MoSPI has published and circulated the tools to assess "Institutional Readiness for Adoption of Emerging Technologies such as AI, ML and Big Data in Official Statistics", "Assessment of Websites for Effective Dissemination of Data", and "Assessment of Portals for Digital Dissemination of Data". This is a tool for improving the practices in these sectors.

***viii. Using empaneled survey agencies***

MoSPI, in March, 2025, empaneled 14 (fourteen) Survey Institutions for conducting sample surveys 'on Socio Economic indicators for Government of India. The list of the empanelled Survey Institutions along with the Grade, Sectoral Experience in Field Surveys, and Experience in Types of Surveys has been placed in the public domain. M/Ds may use these agencies to conduct various surveys which are not covered by MoSPI in their Calendar of surveys during 2025-27.

***ix. Leverage the use of the services of Statistical Advisors***

The Role of Statistical Advisors (SAS) posted in the Ministry/Departments has been laid down in August 2024, wherein they have been advised to undertake all data related work, including the NMDS, SQAF, IT, coordination with MoSPI etc. Further, Statistical Advisors have been advised to be integrated with Statistics vertical of the Data Strategy Unit (DSU) established in Ministry/Departments.

***x. e-Sankhyiki Portal***

MoSPI launched e-Sankhyiki portal, a user centric data portal which facilitates use and reuse of information and consists of three modules viz. Data Catalogue module, Macro Indicators module and the Economic Census. It currently consists of more than 135 million records across the three modules. M/Ds can help putting in more data through API in the e-Sankhyiki Portal for use by the people.

#### ***xi. Data Users Conference***

The Data User Conferences are organized on the statistical products of the MoSPI, including surveys and various macro-economic indicators. M/Ds are invited to participate and contribute in such Data User Conferences.”

5.4 The Ministry has informed that the enterprise and household surveys are also being conducted using CAPI or web-based application with in-built validation mechanism to ensure consistency at the stage of data collection. Collected data are thoroughly scrutinized by the supervisory level officers from FOD as well as by the Data supervisors to identify inconsistency. Before commencement of any NSS surveys, extensive training on survey instruments as well as use of CAPI are provided to the field officials. Clarifications are also given on a regular basis on the queries raised by field officials during the course of the survey. Data quality workshops are also organised to address the conceptual queries and monitoring the survey data quality time-to-time.

#### **Sampling Design**

1. **ASUSE:** A multistage-stratified sampling design is adopted.
2. **ASI:** The sampling strategy is a mix of complete enumeration and sampling. While a significant number of units are completely enumerated on census basis (based on some predefined criteria), from the rest of the units, samples are drawn using a stratified circular systematic approach based on size-class of employee criteria.
3. **CAPEX:** The enterprises are stratified based on the Principal Business Activity. If the number of enterprises within a stratum is less than or equal to 100, the entire stratum is completely enumerated. The strata having more than 100 enterprises were divided into Census Sector and Sample Sector using certain criteria.
4. **Household Surveys:** Household surveys deploy a multi-stage stratified sampling methodology, where stratification variable and sampling scheme at different stages vary, is used to draw samples from the population and subsequently to estimate the targeted indicators based on sample observation.

The first stage units are villages in the rural sector or UFS blocks in the urban sector. The ultimate stage of the unit is households in both sectors.

MoSPI is responsible for compiling and releasing CPI & CFPI and their corresponding inflations on fixed date and time for States/UTs and at All India level as per international standards. Monthly price data are collected from 1181 villages and 1114 markets in 310 selected towns by the Field Operations Division of NSO and the specified State/UT Directorates of Economics and Statistics. These markets are selected using robust statistical methods under the guidance of the Expert Group.

5.5 When asked about major steps taken for streamlining the statistics collection machinery in recent period, the Ministry in its written reply mentioned as under:

*"In respect of systemic improvement and technological advancements, modern IT tools are being adopted for improved data capturing and processing. The NSS surveys are conducted through a dedicated web-portal or CAPI based application through digital platform. These have in-built validations, both soft and hard and a mechanism to reduce inconsistency at the stage of data collection. It enhances the efficiency of data collection by enabling real-time data entry and validation through handheld devices, significantly reducing manual errors. Moreover, it facilitates the real-time submission of survey data by field officials, ensuring timely and accurate data transmission. Almost all the activities related to the survey life cycle like frame updation, sample selection, data collection, scrutiny, validations etc. are carried out through this dedicated portal.*

*Various measures have been taken to ensure the efficiency and accuracy of data collected by the National Statistics Office (NSO). For example, in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (2022-23 and 2023-24), the complete questionnaire of HCES was split into three separate questionnaires. These questionnaires were canvassed in three separate visits to reduce the occurrence of non-sampling error through reduction of canvassing time and respondent fatigue. Further, efforts were made to reduce canvassing time in different surveys by shortening the length of the schedules.*

*Additionally, a multi-layered training system is adopted to ensure thorough training of primary field workers, supervisors and all officials associated with a survey. Regular inspection of fieldwork and scrutiny of data is undertaken by supervisory staff to ensure the quality of data being collected."*

5.6 There are mainly two types of indices presently available and are being published by the Government of India viz. IIP and CPI. When asked about what further

reforms are being proposed to modernize statistical system on State level, the Ministry in its written reply stated as below:

*"MoSPI releases Grant in Aid to States/UTs under the ongoing Central Sector sub-scheme Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) to strengthen the statistical capacity and operations of state statistical system for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics. Under the scheme, State /UTs undertake various activities such as, compilation of local level statistics, creation of integrated State databases, studies and surveys to address data gaps, compilation of core indicators at State/Sub-State level, workshops, training programmes for statistical personal, awareness campaigns for statistics, strengthening of IT infrastructure etc.*

*Guidelines of SSS scheme have been revised in 2024 to facilitate optimum fund availability and utilization by states/UTs. Guidelines have been made more concise and implemented States/UTs are also allowed to seek additional funds upto 50% of their original allocation.*

*MoSPI organized the 28th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (CoCSSO) on 12–13th August 2024. The theme of the conference was "Use of Data for Decision Making: Strengthening State Statistical Systems." This event provided an institutional platform for discussions and improved coordination between Central and State statistical organizations, aiming to enhance the efficiency of the Indian Statistical System through a collaborative approach.*

*A Meeting of State Secretaries (Planning & Statistics) was organised by MoSPI on 14th November, 2024 with the aim to strengthen the statistical coordination between MoSPI and State Governments/UT Administration.*

*Appropriate sampling design is adopted to give reliable State level estimates. Provision for generating District level estimates has been kept in the sampling design adopted for ASUSE 2025. District level estimates may be generated combining Central and State samples by the participating states."*

### **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**

5.7 IIP is a composite indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to that in the base period. IIP covers three sectors viz. Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity. The current base year of IIP is 2011-12. The current series has a total of 407 items groups in the item basket of IIP.

(a) Of these, the manufacturing sector comprises of 405 item groups. These have been selected from Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) covering at least 80

percent of the output of each manufacturing industry as per National Industrial Classification (NIC).

- (b) The Mining Sector consists of 29 minerals which are represented in all India IIP by a composite index for the sector compiled by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM).
- (c) The Electricity Sector is represented by a composite index, based on total electricity generation from both conventional and renewable sources. The data for this sector is sourced from Central Electricity Authority.

### **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**

5.8 CPI is designed to measure the changes over time in general level of retail prices of selected goods and services that households purchase for the purpose of consumption. MoSPI compiles and releases Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Rural, Urban and Combined for all States/UTs and also at All India levels. CPI measures price changes by comparing, through time, the cost of a fixed basket of commodities. The item basket and their corresponding weight of the existing series is based on Consumer Expenditure Survey conducted in 2011-12 by NSS. There are 299 total items in commodity basket comprises of 6 groups and 23 sub-groups.

5.9 When asked about scope for rationalisation and integration of these indices, the Ministry have stated as under:

*"A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the base year (BY) revision of IIP has been constituted vide OM dated 27.09.2024. One of the committee's ToRs is to align the base year of IIP with the base year for National Accounts (2022-23). Under the aegis of TAC-IIP, the methodology for compilation of the index is being reviewed to bring improvement in the same. In this regard potential to integrate the GST data in the IIP compilation process is being explored in base year revision of IIP.*

*The exercise for Base year revision for CPI has been commenced under the guidance of an Expert Group comprising of academic experts, RBI officials, officers from other Ministries/ Departments. MoSPI has decided to update the base year of the CPI from the calendar year 2012 to 2024, using data from the*

*Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) conducted during 2023-24. The envisaged improvements in new CPI series would include enhanced market coverage, data collection using Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) devices, capturing slab-wise data for Electricity index, and dissemination of State-level item indices. The inclusion of price collection from e-commerce platforms in the New Series (Base Year 2024) is also being explored”*

5.10 Administrative data systems like GST can be used for better statistical estimates to replace Index of Industrial Production (IIPs) or for revising price indices. On being asked whether any plan has been made to make GST database accessible to researchers and policy makers and the steps that are being taken to integrate income tax, land records and other administrative datasets with statistical system, the Ministry in its reply have stated as under:

*“Standardization is one of the basic pre-requisites for any statistical production process. It helps in making statistical processes more efficient and robust, and improve reporting on the quality of processes and output. Standards support the sharing of knowledge-based experiences and methodologies and, consequently, the sharing of tools, data, services and resources. The implementation of standard methods and tools, in turn improves the comparability of statistical outputs, thus benefiting users of statistics.*

*As a standard, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the National Metadata Structure (NMDS). These standards encourage sharing of information of Official Statistics and the spread of best practices, in particular for quality and metadata reporting. It aims to promote harmonized quality reporting across the National Statistical System (NSS) and facilitate cross-comparisons of processes and outputs. The standard applies to all the stakeholders of NSS and others in their roles as producers, compilers and disseminators of Indian official statistics.*

*Further, in order to enhance the inter-operability of government data bases a list of identifiers have been sent to all Ministries/ Departments vide communication dated 24 January 2025 with a request to integrate at least one of the listed identifiers in the data sets maintained by the Ministry/Department either directly or through the backend with a one to one mapping with any of the identifiers.*

*The base year revision process of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is in progress and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for base year revision of IIP has been constituted. Under the aegis of TAC-IIP, ESD is reviewing the methodology for compilation of the index and improvement in the same. In this regard potential to integrate the GST data in the IIP compilation process is being explored in base year revision of IIP.”*

## **Research and Analysis Unit (RAU)**

5.11 Pursuant to the recommendations of the NSC, the Research and Analysis Unit (RAU) was established in the Ministry on 07 Feb 2024 with an objective to create in-house capacity for Research and Data Analytics. The mandates of RAU *inter-alia* include the following functions:

- (i) Analyse various statistical products of MoSPI and suggest improvements as research and policy inputs.
- (ii) Study various survey data for assessment of quality of the surveys and suggest possible improvements
- (iii) Analyse publicly available datasets and share the findings of the analysis with government stakeholders as research and policy inputs
- (iv) Encourage various reputed Institutes /organizations for various research work utilizing official statistics or for development of official statistics

5.12 The major activities that have been undertaken by Research and Analysis Unit (RAU) in FY 2024-25 are as under:

- (i) International best practices on Press Releases of different statistical products were studied and model press releases on GDP, IIP, CPI, PLFS, etc. were prepared. Press Briefs on MoSPI now bring out highlights as well as infographics for better understanding by the readers/users.
- (ii) Working Papers/Note based on research and analysis of publicly available data have been prepared on the following subjects and shared with stakeholder Ministries/Departments in the Government as policy inputs:
  - a. How to Enhance Labour Force Participation Rate of Women in India - Evidence-based Policy Suggestions
  - b. Consumption of food by Indian households and ICMR-recommended quantity - An analysis based on HCES 2022-23 data
  - c. Pattern of Seasonal Price Volatility of Essential Vegetables in India: A Study on Tomato, Onion and Potato
  - d. Note on Observations on methodology of estimation of 'Prevalence of undernourishment' (PoU) by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of UN in respect of India.
  - e. An assessment of skill gap of the workforce in India based on analysis of Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023-24

- f. Some of the focus areas for enhancing domestic manufacturing and reducing reliance on imports: An Analysis based on data from Annual Survey of Industries, etc.
- g. As per the requirements of MoSPI, a consolidated list of research topics has been prepared for inviting research proposals from eligible institutions under the grant in aid component of the Capacity Development Scheme of the Ministry.

5.13 The Ministry has further informed that RAU also engages with reputed Institutions to encourage them to take up research work in development of Official Statistics. When asked about usage of emerging technologies like Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence to collect and analyze data, the Ministry replied as under:

***“For collection and analysis of data***

*The enterprise and household surveys are being conducted using CAPI or web-based application with in-built validation mechanism to ensure consistency at the stage of data collection.*

- *In the Forward-Looking Survey on CAPEX 2024, a dedicated web portal was deployed for data collection, allowing access only to selected companies through their Corporate Identification Numbers (CINs).*
- *A Natural Language Processing (NLP) based chatbot to assist in addressing the queries asked by the enumerator during field survey.*
- *Dynamic range-based checks (soft checks) for real-time data validation during submission.*
- *Manual verification by experienced data supervisors (DS users), ensuring accuracy and resolving anomalies observed in the data by referring back to the field.*

***For data dissemination***

*MoSPI launched the e-Sankhyiki portal on Statistics Day, 2024 (29 June 2024), to create a comprehensive system for managing and sharing data, facilitating the easy dissemination of official statistics across the country. The portal currently has 134 million records encompassing legacy data of various products brought out by MoSPI as well as other Ministry. In addition, all the reports and other release are also disseminated through the website of the Ministry. For providing easy understanding of data a dedicated visualization section with more than 1700 visualizations has also been created.”*

## **IT Modernization Plans and Data Innovation Labs**

5.14 The use of emerging technologies like AI, big data, and real-time analytics is gaining importance and the Ministry has informed that the Commission is cognizant of rapidly evolving landscape. In May 2023, the NSC has constituted an expert committee for 'Modernisation of Information and Technology' under the chairmanship of Member (IT), NSC. Implementation plan has been prepared by Ministry based on inputs/ recommendations of NSC, NITI Aayog and previous committees and apprised to NSC for their guidance.

5.15 When asked about role of NSC in regulating and guiding the use of emerging technologies like AI, big data, and real-time analytics, while ensuring ethical and privacy-compliant practices, the Ministry in its reply has submitted as under:

"To explore transformative potential of AI in official statistics and public sector decision-making, MoSPI has organized an AI Literacy Workshop in New Delhi on 19 June 2025. The Workshop brought together various stakeholders including Voluntary Organisations working in the field of Artificial Intelligence, Multilateral Organisation (World Bank) and officers from MoSPI. The summary of deliberation, key takeaways and way forward were presented to the Commission. The Commission advised MoSPI to prepare a list of use cases of mobile phone data.

The privacy-related aspects are covered by various laws which are administered by respective Ministries/ Departments. The Collection of Statistics (CoS) Act, 2008 (7 of 2009) was enacted by Parliament on 7 January, 2009. The Act provides for disclosure of information in certain cases and restrictions of their use. The Act inter-alia provides that the information collected from individuals would be kept confidential and would be used only for statistical purposes. In case, there is a need to publish/ disclose individual information, it would be done only after suppressing the identification details of the individual.

Further, in accordance with National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP), 2012, formulated by the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India notified the Guidelines on Statistical Data Dissemination on April 1, 2019. It provides for classification of data as shareable and non-shareable, guidelines for dissemination and pricing, etc. within the overall framework laid down in NDSAP 2012.

The data collected by MoSPI through National Sample Surveys are categorized into shareable and non-shareable; wherein, the data containing information, which may compromise national security and/or those containing identification particulars of individual informants/establishments, are not shared. Any data, which directly or indirectly attempts to reveal the identity of individual informant, are also not shared.

The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 has been enacted on 11 August, 2023 that casts obligations on Data Fiduciaries to safeguard digital personal data, holding them accountable, while also enshrining the rights and duties of Data Principals. The DPDP Act, acts as a framework and sets out key principles in respect of processing of personal data. As per Section 17(2) of the DPDP Act, processing of personal data that is necessary for research, archiving or statistical purpose is exempted from the provisions of the DPDP Act, provided that such processing is undertaken in the form and manner prescribed there under.”

5.16 As part of IT Modernization Plan of MoSPI, a Data Innovation (DI) Lab has been established to harness emerging technologies including AI/ML and big data analytics to enhance data collection, processing and dissemination. The Governing Council of DI Lab has included experts/professionals outside the government to broaden the policy perspective in respect of DI lab and its activities.

5.17 When queried about establishment of Data Innovation Lab during evidence held on 09.01.2025, the representative of the Ministry deposed as below:

*“...This has also been set up... Data Innovation Lab is the one which is spearheading our e-Sankhyiki portal, which is where a lot of our data is placed in a manner which is easily usable by people. Otherwise, we had the data, but it was in a PDF form or in Excel sheets, which required a certain level of familiarity with computers and software before they can do it. Now, we are making it in charts and graphs so that it is easily usable by people. Data of the last 30 years has already been put. We are ensuring that the entire data from 1950 onwards would be available on this. I think that we have already put 17 million records on this, and once this data is in the public domain in a usable format, then it will spur other researchers and PhD students to try and use it further and that is the linkages which the Data Innovation Lab is also focusing on.”*

### **Collaboration with International Institutions and follow Global Best Practices**

5.18 NSC plays a crucial role in overseeing and guiding the statistical system in India, providing independent advice to the government, and ensuring the credibility, transparency, and quality of national statistics. NSC has helped promote independence within India's statistical system, by ensuring quality and credibility of data. Its creation was a significant step forward in enhancing independence and it has been strengthened

since then. Through its review and oversight, NSC ensures that statistical outputs are impartial, credible, and based on rigorous methodologies. The Commission with all outside experts as well as the Steering Committee of NSC for national sample surveys with a vast majority of outside members, both ensure a forum catering to external view of distinguished experts on the methodology and quality of surveys. Globally, different countries have different structures of Statistical Systems and they operate with different legal and institutional frameworks, sometimes supported by statutory mandates. A comparative table is attached at **Annexure B**.

5.19 When asked about best practices that are being adopted in partnership with Global Statistical Organizations and Universities, the Ministry in its written reply have stated as under:

*“India is a member of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) for the period 2024-2027 and actively participated in the discussion during the session of United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). India also chaired the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council (GC) of UN Statistical Institute for Asia Pacific (SIAP) during 9-10 December 2024. India has also become a member in various working groups/ committees such as UN Committee of Experts of Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UNCEBD), Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, to leverage the best practices. Meetings have been held with Statistics Finland’s to gain their insights in leveraging administrative data for generating statistics. Bilateral Meetings have been held with National Statistics Offices of UAE, South Africa and Brazil during the BRICS Summit in October 2024.”*

5.20 Adding further, the representative of the Ministry deposed during evidence as below:

*“...we are also actively pursuing to become members of different Committees in the UN system. In December, we have sent the request and they have accepted our request. There is a UN Committee of Experts on Big Data..... Recently, we had the BRICS National Statistical Offices meeting in Russia and they have a grouping of the CIS States on Statistics and they want to collaborate with us. We are working with them”.*

5.21 The Ministry has further stated that India subscribes to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and has been fulfilling the requirements like (a) Data coverage, periodicity, and timeliness (b) Access by the public (c) Integrity of data and (d) Quality since 2001. India meets all of these requirements as Quarterly Estimates of GDP at current and constant prices for different sectors are released on the last working day of second month of next quarter, that is one month earlier than the required deadline of timeliness, adhering to the pre-announced Annual Release Calendar. It ensures simultaneous release of data, as no agency is provided with pre-release information. To achieve the objective of integrity, it provides requisite commentary on release of data, as part of press note; and to maintain quality, the latest UN System of National Account (SNA) 2008 is followed to the extent possible. All the methodology and data sources are documented and placed in public domain.

### **SDG Indicators**

5.22 On a pointed query on specific indicator list used to measure progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during its Sitting, the Ministry in its Post-Evidence replies stated as under:

*"MoSPI has developed the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in sync with Global indicator Framework for SDGs, after thorough consultation with concerned Ministries/ Departments, UN Agencies and other stakeholders, to facilitate monitoring of the SDGs at national level. The NIF, comprising of national SDG indicators along with identified data sources and periodicity, serves as the backbone for monitoring SDGs at the national level, offering valuable guidance to policymakers and the implementing agencies of various schemes and programs.*

*The NIF is evolving in nature. Government of India has established a High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) on SDGs under the Chairmanship of the Chief Statistician of India (CSI) & Secretary, MoSPI to periodically review and refine the NIF. This committee includes members from NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the Ministry of Finance, and the MoSPI.*

*A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on SDGs has been constituted to provide technical support to HLSC. Proposals for the addition, deletion, or refinement of SDG indicators in the NIF, submitted by the line Ministries and Departments, are technically examined in TAC and presented to the HLSC for approval and*

*subsequent updation of SDGs-NIF. The latest SDGs-NIF was released on Statistics Day 2024 (29 June 2024)."*

5.23 The Aspiration District Programme (ADP) aims to reduce inter-district multidimensional inequalities. When enquired whether any survey been conducted in these districts for collection of data, the Ministry in a written reply stated as under:

*"Comprehensive household survey has not been conducted specifically to assess the socio-economic aspects of Aspirational Districts. However, in various NSS household surveys, samples have been allocated to the Aspirational Districts for collection of data"*

5.24 Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) is also conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation with the primary objective of systematically collecting information on various operational and economic characteristics of these units. When asked about the importance as well as various aspects of the ASUSE in offering detailed insights into the unincorporated sector and efficacy of this data in formulating policies that address the sector's specific challenges and opportunities, the Ministry replied as follows:

*"The survey results provide detailed insights into the unincorporated non-agricultural sector in terms of various indicators like estimated number of establishments, number of workers, Gross Value Added (GVA) per worker, GVA per establishments, percentage of female headed establishments, emoluments per hired worker, percentage of establishments using internet for entrepreneurial purposes etc. that may serve as critical inputs for policymakers in both the government and private sector, guiding informed decision-making and strategic planning."*

### **Mitigation of Data Overlap**

5.25 The Ministry has recently advised the Ministry/Departments to review their data collection mechanism so as to harmonize all datasets produced already or are being produced, through all possible data collection venues in the Government. It was further suggested that the surveys may be designed/ recommended to fill up the data gaps, when such data are desirable and that if such data are available already in the Ministry/Departments, either through administrative data sources, statutory returns,

alternative data sources, or through MIS portals, collecting them through surveys may be avoided, except if such collection of data are taken up for a specific purpose of authentication or validation of existing datasets.

5.26 While replying to a query of the Committee during evidence regarding instances of Data overlap between ISI, NSC, MoSPI and other Ministries and development of any mechanism or framework to mitigate the occurrence of data overlap, the representative of Ministry deposed as below:

*“...We have recently sent out a circular to all Ministries regarding the metadata that they need to maintain for each data. The metadata means, for each data set they have, what kind of structure they should have, what should be the periodicity of that renewal, and what kind of fields that they should maintain. We have issued those metadata uniformity guidelines also in the recent past. And largely the data that each Ministry publishes, relates to that domain it is...”*

### **Engagement with Institutions, Students and Researchers**

5.27 The Ministry has informed that it regularly engages with reputed Institutions to encourage them to take up research work in development of Official Statistics. As per the requirements of MoSPI, a consolidated list of research topics has been prepared for inviting research proposals from eligible institutions under the grant in aid component of the Capacity Development scheme of the Ministry. Publicity campaigns are being done for enhancing awareness about MoSPI's data and reports.

5.28 When asked about whether any structured system has been developed to involve students, researchers from various research institutes, entrepreneurs, scientists to help collect research induced data, the Ministry replied as below:

*“IIT, Kanpur is undertaking a research project on development domestic software for seasonal adjustment in time series data on CPI. Proposals are also being received from various Institutes to undertake research projects on subject matter relating to development of Official Statistics. IIT, Kanpur has introduced in their curriculum, a component of project work to be done by their students using MoSPI data.*

*MoSPI is implementing the National Internship in Official Statistics for pursuing or completed undergraduate/graduate/postgraduate/research scholars in recognized Institutes / Universities / Research Institute. During 2024, 219 interns were engaged for undertaking research work on various topics. In 2025, a*

*total number of 272 interns are proposed to be selected during Phase I of 2025. The broad fields/disciplines for internship include National Accounts Statistics, Index Numbers, Energy Statistics, National Economic Classifications, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Environment Statistics & Environment Accounting, Global Indices, Survey Subjects such as ASI, AS, SE, UFS, MCPC etc., Public Policy, Information Technology for Official Statistics, Official Statistics of respective field of different Departments of MoSPI and State Official Statistics.”*

5.29 Further, on being queried about any dedicated App that has been developed by Ministry to ask concerned queries related to statistics, the Ministry stated as under:

*“MoSPI has launched the e-Sankhyiki portal on Statistics Day 2024 i.e. 29 June 2024. This portal contains time series data of important macro indicators and a catalogue of major data assets of the Ministry and has two sections viz. Macro Indicators and Data Catalogue. All major data assets of the Ministry e.g. National Account Statistics, Consumer Price Index, Index of Industrial Production and NSS surveys are listed in the Data Catalogue at one place for ease of access.*

*The portal would facilitate data driven decision making as various indicators are readily available in a user-friendly format. It will facilitate ease of Data Management for Official Statistics in the Country. Through e-sankhyiki portal, the WPI data from DPIIT can also be accessed, which has been ingested through API provided by DPIIT.”*

### **Interactive Sessions and Panel Discussions**

5.30 Interactive sessions and panel discussions provide a platform for open discussions, allowing attendees to pose questions, share insights, and provide feedback. As part of the initiative towards strengthening the National Statistical System, MoSPI implemented a series of reform initiatives. The initiatives included continuous engagement and regular feedback from the data users and stakeholders, in order to improve data quality. Towards this, MoSPI organised a series of Data User Conferences with data users and stakeholders to take feedback from them and improve the statistical processes and products and promote effective utilization of official statistics and data for policymaking. The following interactions have been held in the past year:

- Issue of Non-response in survey by high income groups/gated societies

- Conference with trade groups, associations, and business organizations on Upcoming Enterprise Surveys
- Interaction with Forecasters & Economists of GDP and CPI
- Estimation of Informal Sector in Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Monitoring Frameworks of Sustainable Development Goals, compilation of Environment Accounts, and Gender statistics
- Conceptual Framework of Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP) Measurement
- Leveraging Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India
- Leveraging Non-Conventional Data Sources for Official Statistics
- Using Alternate Data Sources and Frontier Technologies for Policy Making
- AI Literacy Workshop

5.31 The Ministry informed that the Chairperson and Members of NSC regularly attend, actively interact with stakeholders and provide guidance during data user conferences and other workshops conducted by MoSPI.

5.32 On being asked about details of data user conferences that have been held from last three years on various surveys to address strategies for fostering collaborative engagement, including creating inclusive environments for data discussions and leveraging technology for enhanced interaction, the Ministry in its written reply replied as follows:

- i. *“Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 – 19 June 2024*
- ii. *Annual Survey on Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2022-23 – 23 August 2024*
- iii. *Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24 – 26 September 2024*
- iv. *Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2022-23 – 5 Dec 2024*

*MoSPI also organised workshops/ sessions with stakeholders:*

1. *To raise awareness about the upcoming enterprise surveys of MoSPI namely Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector*

*Enterprises (ASUSE), Economic Census (EC), Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises (ASSSE) and CAPEX, on 12 Sep 2024, MoSPI organised a Conference with Business Associations on Upcoming Enterprise Surveys to engage with various trade groups, associations, and business organizations.*

2. *To address the issue of non-response in Sample Surveys, on 20 Sep 2024, MoSPI organised a Brainstorming session on the issue of non-response to sample surveys particularly by high income groups/gated societies/ high-rise housing facilities. Discussions were held on various facets of issue of non-response in high income groups to develop strategies that encourage the aforementioned target population to contribute valuable data and build trust among them by educating on the importance of data and privacy policies.*
3. *To explore potential enhancements in CPI Compilation Methodologies, another brainstorming session was organised by MoSPI on 20 Nov 2024, on the "Treatment of PDS items and other necessities in Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) & Consumer Price Index (CPI) compilation."*

## PART II

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. Provision of statutory authority to NSC and empowering it as the nodal national body for statistics

The Committee acknowledge that the vast information generated across various sectors has the power to reveal new insights and address complex societal issues. The real value of this data lies in accurate interpretation and effective application, which is crucial for informed policy-making, resource management, and sustainable development. The Committee observe that a strong, independent statistical authority is essential for ensuring public trust in official statistics. The Rangarajan Commission (2000) recommended creating a permanent, statutory body for official statistics, but the National Statistical Commission (NSC), established in 2005, was never given this legislative framework. The Committee further observe that the existence of different data producers, including a growing number of private data providers, creates the possibility of discrepancies between their statistical estimates and those published by the NSC, particularly for key indicators like GDP. These potential inconsistencies, which can undermine stakeholder confidence, are largely a result of the NSC's lack of statutory authority to enforce uniform standards and methodologies across all data producers, including those in the private sector.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the National Statistical Commission (NSC) be established as the nodal and autonomous body for all core statistical activities, with full statutory backing. This empowerment would allow the NSC to prescribe and coordinate statistical standards and methodologies for both government and private sector data producers. To achieve this, the Committee desire that the NSC constitutes a permanent technical committee, including representatives from private statistical agencies, academia, and industry experts. The goal is to align definitions, methodologies, and data sources for critical economic and social indicators. The NSC should

also develop a comprehensive National Statistical Standards Framework, similar to the accounting standards set by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), to harmonize data collection procedures, sampling designs, and reporting protocols. The Committee further recommend institutionalizing regular data sharing, joint methodological reviews, and publishing reconciliation reports to explain and minimize differences between official and private sector estimates. By granting the NSC statutory authority, the credibility, comparability, and reliability of India's official statistics will be significantly improved, strengthening evidence-based policy decisions and public trust.

## 2. NSC Statistical Audits: The Backbone of Reliable Data

The Committee note that the quality and reliability of official statistics are vital for effective policymaking and public trust. The Committee observe that methodological gaps and a lack of standards can cause inconsistencies in statistical outputs, and that other countries, like the UK, have established regular statistical audit processes for quality assurance. While the National Statistical Commission (NSC) is mandated to perform statistical audits, its only notable action was an audit of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in 2011. In response to questions about this limited activity, the Ministry highlighted several recent efforts. These include the circulation of the Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF) in April 2025, which is based on the UN framework and aims to help various government bodies assess and improve their data quality. The Ministry also informed that the NSC is aware of the new statistical tools and is actively overseeing the base revision for key indicators like GDP, IIP, and CPI, which is planned for adoption in early 2026.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the NSC build on these efforts by formalizing a Statistical Audit function. This function should conduct periodic, comprehensive reviews of statistical processes, data collection methods, and outputs across both government and private agencies. The NSC should also develop a standardized audit framework and guidelines, aligning them with international best practices. This framework should define the audit's scope to

include critical aspects like methodology compliance, data validation, and sampling integrity. The Committee further recommend that audit findings be published in transparent reports that identify weaknesses, propose remedial actions, and track their implementation. This will ensure greater consistency and accuracy in official statistics, enhance transparency and trust among data users, and allow for the proactive correction of data quality issues. The institutionalization of this audit function will empower the NSC to build a sustainable and credible statistical system for the nation.

### 3. GDP Data and Policy Formulation

The Committee assert that official statistics are a public good and must be grounded in principles of professional independence, impartiality, and transparency. Despite India's agrarian history, the informal or unorganized sector now accounts for over 60% of the economy, making its economic contribution substantial. The Committee acknowledge that the National Statistical Office (NSO) generates vital macroeconomic indicators such as GDP, IIP, and CPI, and a base year revision is currently underway to refine their methodologies. The Committee emphasize that complete and accurate data are indispensable for effective policymaking, as deficiencies can create a policy void and harm the economy. Thus, a comprehensive reflection of all economic activities and services, including those within the informal sector, is imperative for a clear and accurate understanding of the economic landscape.

The Committee, therefore, advocate for the refinement of GDP data to precisely capture all economic activity, particularly within the informal sector. Furthermore, the Committee desire for the establishment of a mechanism to explore novel administrative statistics, which would facilitate the generation of high-frequency data. Such an initiative would provide more robust inputs for the GDP, IIP, and CPI indices. By ensuring a more holistic representation of the unorganized and informal sectors, these refined GDP figures will empower policymakers to create interventions that are accurately aligned with the nation's economic realities.

#### **4. Harmonizing Data Discrepancies and Overlap**

The Committee observe that there are different instrumentalities of the Government putting out data on the same subject causing discrepancies and instances of data overlap between Indian Statistical Institute, NSC, MoSPI and other Ministries and this continue to persist due to differences in set of samples, data collection and processing, resulting in mis-leading differences in outcomes of data analysis and results. The Committee have been apprised that to address the issue, MOSPI has recently advised the Ministry/Departments to review their data collection mechanism so as to harmonize all datasets produced already or are being produced, through all possible data collection venues in the Government. The Committee have also been apprised that metadata uniformity guidelines have been issued to Ministries for publication of data. The Committee are of the opinion that the issue of data overlap should be addressed at the earliest by making sincere efforts for accuracy and reliability of data. Also, the Committee recommend the synchronization and integration of all statistical activities including the publication of various indices to facilitate comprehensive analysis and support well-informed decision-making.

#### **5. Integrating Artificial Intelligence into the National Statistical System and Capacity Building**

The Committee acknowledge the Ministry's proactive approach towards integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) within the National Statistical System (NSS) as part of the broader IT modernization efforts spearheaded by the Data Innovation (DI) Lab. The use of AI holds immense promise for enhancing data collection, processing, and analysis by improving efficiency, accuracy, and timeliness. This aligns well with the Ministry's goal of leveraging emerging technologies such as AI, big data, and real-time analytics to modernize statistical operations.

However, the Committee observe that alongside technological integration, there is a pressing need to build the necessary capacity within the NSS. This includes

developing specialized skills in AI and data science among personnel at all levels, ensuring that the workforce is well-equipped to implement and manage AI-driven solutions effectively and ethically. The Committee also highlight the importance of establishing clear operational guidelines, ethical frameworks, and oversight mechanisms to govern the use of AI, particularly given the sensitive nature of statistical data.

Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Ministry prioritize the development and implementation of a comprehensive AI integration strategy within the NSS. This strategy should focus on capacity building through targeted training programs, collaboration with academic and research institutions, and continuous skill development. Further, the Ministry should institutionalize robust ethical and privacy standards specific to AI applications, ensuring compliance with existing laws such as the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. To promote transparency and stakeholder engagement, the Committee also urge the Ministry to periodically publish detailed reports on AI adoption progress, its impact on data quality and efforts made towards workforce capacity building programmes.

## **6. Promoting International Collaboration and Research and Development Initiatives**

The Committee acknowledge the Ministry's engagement with international statistical organizations and global forums such as the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), and various UN expert groups. India's active participation including chairing the Governing Council of UN SIAP and membership in committees on Big Data and SDG Indicators demonstrates a strong commitment to aligning with global best practices in official statistics. The Committee also welcome bilateral collaborations with the National Statistics Offices of Finland, UAE, South Africa, and Brazil, which are instrumental for knowledge exchange and capacity building.

Further, the Committee commend India's adherence to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) since 2001, which has contributed significantly to ensuring data transparency, integrity, and timeliness. The development of the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), supported by a High-Level Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee, reflects a coordinated and standards-driven approach to monitoring national progress.

However, the Committee observe that despite these efforts, a gap remains in translating international engagements into tangible and outcome-oriented research and policy implementation. Participation in global forums and bilateral exchanges must be accompanied by substantive collaborations yielding measurable improvements in domestic statistical systems. The Committee are of the view that international affiliations should evolve into long-term, strategic partnerships focused on joint research, technical exchange, and capacity development with reputed global institutions and universities. Likewise, the recently established Research and Analysis Unit (RAU) and Data Innovation Lab must be more effectively utilized to spearhead high-impact, evidence-based research and strengthen data-driven policymaking within the Ministry.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry prepare and implement a comprehensive roadmap to operationalize international collaborations through formal MoUs and institutional partnerships. Priority should be given to joint research initiatives, adoption of global data standards, and structured capacity-building programs. Simultaneously, efforts should be made to involve domestic doctoral students, researchers, and young professionals in these initiatives, thereby building a sustainable talent pool for India's statistical ecosystem.

The Committee further desire that a detailed progress report be submitted outlining the concrete outcomes of international collaborations and the performance of the RAU and Data Innovation Lab in driving research-led, globally aligned statistical advancements.

## 7. Conclusion

The Committee firmly believe that a robust, reliable, and independent statistical system is the cornerstone of informed governance, effective policy formulation, and public trust. In the era of data-driven decision-making, it is imperative that India's official statistics ecosystem be strengthened with legal authority, institutional independence, and modernized infrastructure. The National Statistical Commission (NSC), originally envisioned as the apex body for statistical governance, has yet to realize its full potential due to the absence of statutory backing and limited enforcement capacity. By granting the NSC statutory authority, empowering it to coordinate and prescribe national statistical standards, and institutionalizing functions such as regular statistical audits, India can establish a harmonized, transparent, and credible statistical framework. Drawing from global best practices, particularly models like the UK Statistics Authority, the NSC should be restructured as an autonomous and accountable institution reporting to Parliament, supported by a professionally managed statistical office.

Furthermore, integrating Artificial Intelligence into data workflows, strengthening research and development initiatives, standardizing methodologies across government and private entities, and promoting international collaboration are essential steps to modernize and future-proof the national statistical system. A revitalised and empowered NSC will not only enhance the accuracy, comparability, and timeliness of India's statistics but will also ensure that policy decisions are based on comprehensive and inclusive data. This is crucial for India to achieve its long-term developmental goals and establish itself as a data-resilient, knowledge-driven economy by 2047.

New Delhi;  
26 November, 2025  
05 Agrahayana, 1947 (Saka)

**BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB,**  
Chairperson  
Standing Committee on Finance

**A brief on the reform initiatives for ‘Strengthening the National Statistical System’**

MoSPI has prepared the action plan for implementation of these recommendations by dividing them into eight specific goals and for each goal, a dedicated team of senior officers (DDG level officers) under Divisional Heads has been formed and the progress on each goal is being monitored by Secretary, MoSPI through bi-monthly review meetings. The reforms are aimed at improving the data management and governance ecosystem across the Government, wherein MoSPI, various Ministries/Departments, States/UTs are the key stakeholders. The objectives of the reforms are as follows:

- Enhanced accuracy, timeliness and reliability of Official Statistics
- Better data governance by way of uniform guidelines
- Adoption of new technologies and techniques
- Enhancing credibility of the National Statistical System
- Making data more accessible and user-friendly
- Promote data-driven decision making
- Appropriately impart skills and knowledge to the human resources in MoSPI and across Ministries/ Departments to take forward these reforms.

**Goal 1: Sample Surveys**

Survey reports have been released as per timelines in last one year. To meet the increasing demand for data, MoSPI has taken the following initiatives:

a. Frequency of surveys results has been enhanced

- Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) – monthly and quarterly results from 2025
- Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) after completion of every three years
- Time Use Survey (TUS) after every five years
- Regular Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) with quarterly results
- Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey
- Forward looking CAPEX intentions– Annual

b. New surveys are being undertaken/planned

- Two Annual Enterprise Surveys (ASUSE and ASSSE) to comprehensively capture the three components of the country’s economy along with Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) to bridge the existing data gap; services sector and unincorporated sector, having significant share in GDP
- Forward-Looking Survey on Private Corporate Sector Capex Investment Intentions to assess investment plans and anticipated capital spending of major resident private enterprises
- Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey to collect data on domestic tourism spending

- National Household Travel Survey to gather data on daily domestic travel patterns
- Health Survey: Household Social Consumption to gather information on household social consumption, related to health (out of pocket expenditure)
- Household Income Survey (2026) for information on income distribution
- Index of Services Production (ISP) to assess growth of services sector

c. Transformation of Sample Surveys has been done with the following changes

- Introduction of technology in survey work
- Use of Computer Aided Personal Interview (CAPI)
- In-built validations, menu driven data entry for ensuring data quality
- Statistical survey processes streamlined leading to reduction in time lag in releasing the reports; Survey data lag reduced from 8-9 months to 45-90 days
- District level estimates can be generated by States participating in surveys of MoSPI

## **Goal 2: Institutional Structure**

MoSPI has formed new verticals for new and focused functions and restructured existing verticals to make them more efficient and also taken steps to strengthen its field offices located across various States in the country. The following steps have been taken:

- Administrative Statistics and Policy Division for strengthening Administrative Statistics across Ministries/ Departments
- Research and Analysis Division for undertaking research and encouraging research and innovation
- Product based Household and Enterprise Survey verticals created to handle end-to-end survey process and reduce timelines in processing the survey data
- Media and Publicity unit for creating awareness about MoSPI and its activities/products and for reaching out to data users, researchers and academia
- Direct Recruit officers posted at the field level in Sub-Regional offices for monitoring and supervision of the survey work
- Quality control in the Survey through regular monitoring and capacity building
- Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Unit for enhanced data analysis
- International Cooperation Unit for better coordination at international level as India became member of UNSC
- Improved State Unit for enhanced coordination and providing support to States/UTs
- Improved Project Monitoring through revamped portal and regular capacity building

## **Goal 3: Derived Statistics - Base Revision of Key macro-economic Indicators**

MoSPI has started the process for base revision of its macro-economic indicators viz. CPI, IIP and GDP initiated. Technical Committees have been constituted for the same and the work has been started. The new bases expected to be adopted by Feb to May 2026.

For, CPI base revision enhanced market coverage across sectors, data collection using Computer Assisted Personal Interview devices, enhanced coverage of services data, inclusion of data from online platforms is under progress. MoSPI is pro-actively working on expansion of data sources (GST, eVAHAN, NPCI, PFMS), improvement in methodology, use of alternative data and adoption of SNA 2025 (statistical standard for national accounts, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2025). Re-engineering of processes is being undertaken and MoSPI would be shifting to digital platform for preparation of macro-economic indicators. The process is also going on for wider consultation with State/UT Directorates of Economics and Statistics and other stakeholders.

#### **Goal 4: Measures for strengthening Administrative Statistics**

A new vertical has been put in place policies, directives, guidelines, practices to support acquisition, management and efficient use of Administrative Data. The following measures have been taken for harmonization of data sets across Minsitries/Departments:

##### *1. Compendium of Datasets and Registries*

A Compendium of 257 datasets and registries has been prepared based on the inputs received from M/Ds. M/Ds will need to prioritize the implementation strategy for the data related initiatives to improve data quality.

##### *2. Follow the system for National Metadata Structure (NMDS)*

National Metadata Structure (NMDS) provides a guideline for the data producer to adhere to a holistic and integrated approach to the presentation and dissemination of statistical data and enhance ease in sharing data. The key principles of NMDS 2.0 are data description and presentation, institutional mandate, quality management, accuracy and reliability, timelines, coherence and comparability, data processing and metadata update. All datasets need to adhere to NMDS 2.0. Administrative and National Metadata Structure (NMDS 2.0) issued (Oct 2024) to Ministries/Departments for compliance

- To ensure that data and information are uniformly represented
- To bring in improved understanding of various data sets in public domain such as census, surveys, administrative and those from other sources.

##### *3. Adherence to statistical standards/classifications*

Compliance to the systems of International/National Classification are an essential requirement for uniformity, consistency and coherence in the statistical datasets. MoSPI has so far compiled, circulated and released a total of 10 National and 87 International Standards/Classification in the fields of Demographic and Social, Economic Statistics, Environment Statistics, and Others. The list provides for the details of the agency publishing the standards, availability of their latest version, and the brief about the classification. The M/Ds can select the relevant standards and ensure its implementation.

##### *4. Usage of unique identifiers for improved interoperability of the datasets*

Unique identifiers (UIDs) are distinct codes or numbers assigned to objects, people, or data to distinguish them from others. They are crucial for identification, tracking, and

management of data across various industries and systems. MoSPI compiled and circulated amongst the Ministry/Departments, recently in April, 2025 a list of 17 UIDs, in the individual (7 IDs), enterprise (5 IDs), Geographical /Locational (4 IDs), and Vehicle (1 ID) categories. Each M/D can select identifiers based on the feasibility and relevance.

#### *5. Implement the Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF)*

SQAF lays down quality dimensions to facilitate and ensure effective management of quality in the NSS and its processes and products. MoSPI circulated the SQAF in the month of April, 2025. The Ministries/Departments are required to assess all their data/statistical products and processes generated by them. The SQAF rests upon 19

Principles and 85 requirements. The assessment will help each M/D identify and prioritise the gaps to improve data quality.

#### *6. Identification and resolution of definitional divergences*

MoSPI in January, 2025 laid down an institutional mechanism for the Ministry/Departments/State/UT Governments for referring the matter of definitional divergence to MoSPI. MoSPI proposed resolving these divergences consultation with the concerned Ministry/Departments/State/UT Governments and placing them before the National Statistical Commission (NSC) for concurrence.

### **Goal 5: Non-official data**

MoSPI has taken initiatives to counter the incorrect narratives on India with reference to global indices published. In this regard, a study of methodologies behind the indices of international organisations who do cross-country comparisons has been done and review of 28 Global indices undertaken. The methodology and data sources for these indicators have been studied and findings shared with line Ministries for necessary action and suggested improvements. Wherever data/method ambiguities exist, Ministries have been requested to engage with publishing agencies keeping MoSPI in loop. The exercise would facilitate Ministries/Department in ensuring that correct and updated official data are available for use by international organisations for calculations of indices.

### **Goal 6: Capacity building**

MoSPI has prepared a comprehensive 2-3 years' capacity-building plan for ISS Officers, SSS Officers as well as the contractual staff with a strong focus on technical, domain-specific as well soft skills . The following are its main features:

- Regular interactions with experts on emerging new technologies /subjects
- Strengthening of infrastructure in Zonal Offices for imparting training to SSS officers and contractual staff
- Encouraging ISS officers to undertake research work in collaboration with eminent Institutes/ Organizations
- Upgradation of technical skills (R, Python etc.) of ISS officers for enabling them to extract and analyze data and to strengthen the Statistical verticals in MoSPI as well as in Ministries/Departments
- MoUs are being entered into with specialized Institutes/ Organizations for knowledge and resource sharing.

- Training oriented towards addressing tangible issues through a project-based approach
- Capacity building in collaboration with Capacity Building Commission

### **Goal 7: Enhancement in credibility of Statistical System**

MoSPI has taken various steps to enhance the credibility of the Statistical System. This is being done by strengthening the coordination with Ministries/Departments, States/UTs, enhancing interaction with stakeholders and promoting dialogue for better data and also encouraging research and innovation.

#### **a. Strengthening Statistical Coordination with Central Ministries/ Departments and States / UTs**

- ISS officers are being re-designated as Statistical Advisors by amendment in Service Rules .
- Role of Statistical Advisers (SAs)/Senior ISS officers in different Ministries has been clearly defined for better coordination amongst Ministries/Departments
- Sensitization workshops of SAs of Central Ministries held to improve coordination and to ensure a well-integrated monitoring and data system, with focus on data quality and security providing support for creating mechanisms for regular data analysis within the Ministry/Department and facilitate informed policy decisions.
- Resources have been provided to more number of Ministries/Departments for strengthening of their Statistical Units as per their requirements
- 09 new Ministries/ Departments have been allocated ISS posts at various level
- To strengthen their statistical verticals in Ministries, higher level posts of STS and JAG are being augmented
- 28th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (CoCSSO) on the theme "*Use of Data for Decision Making: Strengthening State Statistical Systems*" in 2024. The CoCSSO for 2025 is being planned.
- All India Conferences held at the level of State Ministers and State Principal Secretaries have been organized.
- Strengthening statistical systems of States through financial and technical support under the State Statistical Strengthening Scheme

#### **b. Stakeholder Consultations/ Data User Conferences for enhancing data quality**

From 2024-25, MoSPI has published its Advance Release Calendar for all surveys and statistical products to inform users of the data/reports planned for release by MoSPI. All the reports/data releases are being done as per the pre-fixed release calendar.

MoSPI has also been organizing Data User Conference to seek inputs/suggestions from academia/researchers/users of data for all data releases. Regular engagement with data providers and data users are organized through Brainstorming sessions/ Conferences/ Workshops. The following sessions/Conferences/Workshops have been organized in the past year:

- Issue of Non-response in survey by high income groups/gated societies

- Conference with trade groups, associations, and business organizations on Upcoming Enterprise Surveys
- Interaction with Forecasters & Economists of GDP and CPI
- Estimation of Informal Sector in Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Monitoring Frameworks of Sustainable Development Goals, compilation of Environment Accounts, and Gender statistics
- Conceptual Framework of Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP) Measurement
- Leveraging Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India
- Leveraging Non-Conventional Data Sources for Official Statistics
- Using Alternate Data Sources and Frontier Technologies for Policy Making
- AI Literacy Workshop

### **c. Research, Analytics and Innovation**

MoSPI has taken steps to promote research, analysis and innovation and has created new vertical for undertaking research and analysis in-house. Data Innovation (DI) Lab has been set up to promote innovation and adoption of new technologies. Research and Analysis Unit has been set up to promote innovation, adoption of emerging technologies etc. in field of Official Statistics, to analyse publicly available datasets and share findings of analysis for policy inputs.

#### **Data Innovation Lab (DI-Lab)**

- Self-evaluation tool to assess readiness of M/D to adopt emerging technologies and Big Data in Official Statistics
- Self-assessment tool for Websites for Effective Dissemination of Data and for Portals for Digital Dissemination of Data

#### **Research and Analysis Division (RAD)**

- Promote innovation, adoption of emerging technologies etc. in field of Official Statistics, to analyse publicly available datasets and share findings of analysis for policy inputs
- Collaborate with institutes of repute for undertaking research
- Measures taken to create awareness about the work of MoSPI and its data /reports/publications through print and social media
- Multiple Hackathons organized for engaging students/Institutes to leverage Data Sciences For Official Statistics

#### **Goal 8: Technical Upgradation**

- All surveys undertaken in CAPI mode replacing the pen and paper mode
- MoSPI launched eSankhyiki in June 2024, for enhanced user experience and data accessibility through cutting-edge technology
- Data Catalogue of around 2300 datasets with
- Specific metadata and visualization
- Time series data of key macro indicators with features for filtering, visualizations
- 135 million records

- Pool of more than 1900+ data visualizations for key products of Ministry
- Revamped micro-data portal
- GolStats Mobile app released in June 2025

## Initiatives for Harmonisation of Datasets

### 7. Assessment tools for website and web-portals

MoSPI has published and circulated the tools to assess "Institutional Readiness for Adoption of Emerging Technologies such as AI, ML and Big Data in Official Statistics", "Assessment of Websites for Effective Dissemination of Data", and "Assessment of Portals for Digital Dissemination of Data". This is a tool for improving the practices in these sectors.

### 8. Using empanelled survey agencies

MoSPI, in March, 2025, empanelled 14 (fourteen) Survey Institutions for conducting sample surveys 'on Socio Economic indicators for Government of India. The list of the empanelled Survey Institutions along with the Grade, Sectoral Experience in Field Surveys, and Experience in Types of Surveys has been placed in the public domain. M/Ds may use these agencies to conduct various surveys which are not covered by MoSPI in their Calendar of surveys during 2025-27.

### 9. Leverage the use of the services of Statistical Advisors

The Role of Statistical Advisors (SAS) posted in the Ministry/Departments has been laid down in August 2024, wherein they have been advised to undertake all data related work, including the NMDS, SQAF, IT, coordination with MoSPI etc. Further, Statistical Advisors have been advised to be integrated with Statistics vertical of the Data Strategy Unit (DSU) established in Ministry/Departments.

### 10. e-Sankhyiki Portal

MoSPI launched e-Sankhyiki portal, a user centric data portal which facilitates use and reuse of information and consists of three modules viz. Data Catalogue module, Macro Indicators module and the Economic Census. It currently consists of more than 135 million records across the three modules. M/Ds can help putting in more data through API in the e-Sankhyiki Portal for use by the people.

### 11. Data Users Conference

The Data User Conferences are organized on the statistical products of the MoSPI, including surveys and various macro-economic indicators. M/Ds are invited to participate and contribute in such Data User Conferences.

## Annexure B

Comparative Table of Statistical Systems in various countries

Country	NSO	Commission/ Authority	Key Functions of Commission/Authority	Nature of Body
<b>Countries where Commission set up through an Act</b>				
<b>UK</b>	Office for National Statistics (ONS)	UK Statistics Authority (UKSA)	Regulates statistics, oversees ONS, ensures transparency & public trust	Independent statutory body directly reporting to UK Parliament
<b>Switzerland</b>	Federal Statistical Office	Committee for Federal Statistics	Advises the Federal Council and the federal statistics generators on important issues related to federal statistical bodies	Article 13 of the Federal Statistics Act stipulates the introduction of a Federal Statistics Committee by the Federal Council. The Federal Department of Home Affairs appoints members to the Federal Statistics Committee.
<b>Australia</b>	Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC)	Key advisory body to the Minister and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on statistical services.	Established in 1975 under the authority of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975
<b>Canada</b>	Statistics Canada	National Statistics Council	NSC advises the Chief Statistician on issues of statistical policy and priorities.	On December 12, 2017, the Act to amend the Statistics Act received Royal Assent, providing the authority for the Government of Canada to establish the Canadian Statistics Advisory Council.
<b>Other Countries</b>				
<b>Netherlands</b>	Central Bureau of Statistics (internationally known as Statistics Netherlands)	Central Commission for Statistics	The Central Commission for Statistics (CCS) is an independent administrative body without corporate rights that, under the Act on the Central Bureau of Statistics (Statistics Netherlands) of 2003, is assigned a number of tasks related to the Statistics Netherlands and the provision of official statistics for central government.	Members appointed by the Minister of Economic Affairs on recommendations by the Commission
<b>USA</b>	Different statistical agencies including Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census	--	In the U.S. decentralized statistical system, authority for statistics is in the separate statutes for each agency.	

**Minutes of the Ninth Sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2024-25)**  
**The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 from 1100 hrs. to 1300**  
**hrs in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.**

**PRESENT**

**Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
3. Shri K. Gopinath
4. Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap
5. Shri Harendra Singh Malik
6. Thiru Arun Nehru
7. Shri N. K. Premachandran
8. Smt. Sandhya Ray
9. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
10. Shri Manish Tewari

**RAJYA SABHA**

11. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
12. Shri Sanjay Seth
13. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
14. Shri Pramod Tiwari

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa	-	Director
2. Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana	-	Deputy Secretary

**WITNESSES**

**Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**

1. Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary
2. Smt. Geeta Singh Rathore, DG (NSS)
3. Shri Narendra Kumar Santoshi, DG (CS)
4. Shri P.R Meshram, DG (DG)
5. Smt. Puja Singh Mandol, AS (PI)
6. Shri Tanveer Qamar Mohammad, JS (Admin)

7. Shri Anindya Banerjee, DDG
8. Shri Arindam Modak, DDG (PI)

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 the background and mandate of the National Statistical Commission. The Ministry emphasized upon the overview of Indian Statistical System and monitoring of functioning and reform initiatives of MoSPI by NSC. The Ministry briefed the Committee about administrative statistics, sample surveys, derived statistics, non official data institutional structures and mechanism, capacity building, enhancement of credibility of the statistical system and overall technical up-gradation in data management and sharing. The subsequent issues discussed include Data Innovation Lab, collaboration with Ministries, States, UTs and international institutions, survey on AYUSH, short and medium term strategies for data collection, development of mechanism to capture economic activities and services of unorganized sector, Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector and Services Sector Enterprises, inclusion of GST data in GDP calculations. The Members asked their queries on exercise over diverse landscape of data dissemination, National Statistical Institute, integrity and reliability of data, sample size of primary data, variations among data collected, use of census data as primary source with regard to derivative data, flaws in socio economic data, statistical data on unemployment, authority of NSC to monitor issues regarding contradictory data, revision of GDP Base Year, credibility of economic data, delayed Economic Census, involvement of research institutes for collecting data, budget allocation, procedure adopted for compilation and dissemination of data, fixation of indicators for performance review, evolving a plan for creation of an App to ask questions, focusing on Aspirational Districts for collection of data, shortfall in fund utilization, telecom survey, survey on disabled persons, specific indicator list to measure progress towards achieving of SDGs, overlap of data etc.

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 within two weeks' time to the Secretariat.

The witnesses then withdrew.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

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**Appendix-II**

**Minutes of the Thirty First Sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2024-25)**  
**The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 from 1500 hrs. to 1700 hrs**  
**in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annex, 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 K. Gopinath
6. Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap
7. Shri Kishori Lal
8. Shri Chudasama Rajeshbhai Naranbhai
9. Thiru Arun Nehru
10. Shri N. K. Premachandran
11. Dr. C. M. Ramesh
12. Smt. Sandhya Ray
13. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
14. Dr. K. Sudhakar
15. Shri Manish Tewari
16. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni
17. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy

**RAJYA SABHA**

18. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
19. Shri Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy
20. Shri S. Selvaganabathy
21. Shri Sanjay Seth
22. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
23. Smt. Darshana Singh
24. Dr. M. Thambidurai
25. Shri Pramod Tiwari

**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**

1. Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary
2. Shri. Narender Kumar Santoshi, DG(CS)
3. Shri. P.R Meshram, DG (DG)
4. Ms. Puja Singh Mandol, AS(PI)
5. Shri. S C Malik, ADG(SSD)
6. Dr. Dalip Singh, ADG(ESD)
7. Shri. Sanjay, ADG(NAD)
8. Shri. Supreet Singh Gulati, JS(Admin.)
9. Shri. C F Joseph, DDG (MPLADS)
10. Shri. Brijendra Singh, DDG(NAD)
11. Ms. Ankita Singh, DDG(ESD)
12. Ms. Deepti Srivastava, DDG(PSD)
13. Shri MS Subramanya Rao, DDG(CQCD)
14. Shri. Siljo V.K, DDG(NSC)
15. Smt. Anindita Sinharay, DDG(RAU)
16. Shri. Antony Cyriac, Economic Advisor

### **PART I**

2.	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX.

### **PART II**

3.	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX.

### **PART III**

4. After that, the Chairperson welcomed the Members and the witnesses to the sitting of the Committee. After customary introduction, the Ministry gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the subject 'Macroeconomic and Social Sector Indicators of the Economy and Initiatives by MOSPI'. The Ministry elaborated its major activities; release of major macroeconomic and social sector indicators complied by Ministry; broad sectors of macroeconomic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Price Index (CPI), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and social sector indicators related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); growth of India's GDP in last decade; international comparison of GDP and PPP from 2018 onwards; base revision of GDP; new initiatives undertaken in current base revision; importance of robust state level accounts; key uses of CPI data; groups and sub-groups under CPI; trend of inflation rate based on CPI; progress related to base revision in CPI; planned improvements in the new series of IIP data, trends in IIP and its base revision; development of National Indicator Framework (NIF) to measure and monitor the SDGs; technical support for State and sub State level Indicator frameworks, publications on social sector indicators; inputs from National Sample Survey (NSS) for compilation of Macroeconomic Indicators; flagship socio economic surveys of MOSPI; improvements in Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS); telecom survey; major initiatives taken in Infrastructure Project Monitoring Division (IPMD); revamping of OCMS portal to PAIMANA etc. The Members asked their queries about adequate autonomy and authority of NSC to enforce its recommendations; measures taken by Government to address the disparity between GDP and employment growth; need for a permanent 'Data Portal for Fiscal Federalism'; challenges in data collection from higher income sections and gated societies and measures taken to address this issue; fiscal indicators deficit debt revenue; India's current account and foreign reserves; trends of Gross Capital Formation and Private Investment; variations between the sample survey data collected by the different Government and private entities; mandate of NSC to lay down national quality standards; suggestions to include Gross National Happiness Index akin to Bhutan; details of regular statistical audits conducted by NSC; reasons for delay in setting up of a national child index; use of statistical data in shaping policies to reduce

unemployment among the higher-educated; current legal, financial, and institutional status of NSC and reforms that are needed to improve its autonomy etc.

5. 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 11 August, 2025 to the Secretariat.

The witnesses then withdrew.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

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**Appendix-III**

**Minutes of the Fourth Sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2025-26).**  
**The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 from 1230 hrs. to**  
**1310 hrs in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.**

**PRESENT**

**Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
3. Shri Kishori Lal
4. Shri Harendra Singh Malik
5. Thiru Arun Nehru
6. Shri N. K. Premachandran
7. Smt. Sandhya Ray
8. Shri Manish Tewari

**RAJYA SABHA**

9. Shri Narain Dass Gupta
10. Shri Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy
11. Shri S. Selvaganabathy
12. Shri Sanjay Seth
13. Smt. Darshana Singh
14. Dr. M. Thambidurai
15. Shri Pramod Tiwari

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Smt. Bharti Sanjeev Tuteja - Director
2. Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana - Deputy Secretary
3. 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. Twenty-Seventh Report on 'Performance review of National Statistical Commission (NSC)'; and
- ii. Twenty-Eighth Report on 'Review of working of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and Emerging Issues'.

3. After some 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 in the upcoming Winter Session.

The Committee then adjourned.

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