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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2022-23)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2023-24)**

FIFTY- EIGHTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2023 / Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)

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(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

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(2023-24)

Presented to Lok Sabha on ²³..... March, 2023

Laid in Rajya Sabha on ²³..... March, 2023



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2023 / Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (2022-23)

Shri Jayant Sinha - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
3. Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal
4. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
5. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
6. Smt. Sunita Duggal
7. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
8. Shri Sudheer Gupta
9. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
10. Shri Pinaki Misra
11. Shri Hemant Shriram Patil
12. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
13. Shri Nama Nageshwara Rao
14. Prof. Sougata Ray
15. Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy
16. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
17. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh
18. Dr. (Prof) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki
19. Shri Manish Tewari
20. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni
21. Shri Rajesh Verma

RAJYA SABHA

22. Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agarwal
23. Shri Raghav Chadha
24. Shri P. Chidambaram
25. Shri Damodar Rao Divakonda
26. Shri Ryaga Krishnaiah
27. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi
28. Dr. Amar Patnaik
29. Dr. C.M. Ramesh
30. Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao
31. Vacant*

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Siddharth Mahajan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan - Director
3. Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora - Additional Director
4. Ms. Abhiruchi Srivastava - Assistant Committee Officer

*Dr. Manmohan Singh resigned from the Committee w.e.f. 9th February, 2023.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorised by the Committee, present this Fifty-Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

2. The Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation were laid on the Table of the House on 08 February, 2023 under Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 28 February, 2023. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the material and information which the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants (2023-24).

4. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their Sitting held on 15 March, 2023.

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

New Delhi;
15 March, 2023
24 Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)

SHRI JAYANT SINHA,
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Finance

REPORT
PART-I
CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTORY-BRIEF PROFILE OF THE MINISTRY

A. ORGANISATION AND ITS FUNCTIONS:

1.1 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) came into existence as an independent Ministry on 15th October 1999 after the merger of the Department of Statistics and the Department of Programme Implementation. The ministry is the nodal agency for 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 meeting requirements of the International Agencies.

1.2 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation attaches considerable importance to coverage and quality aspects of statistics released in the country and uses technology to achieve the same. The statistics released by the Ministry are based on administrative sources, surveys and censuses conducted by the Central and State Governments and non-official sources and studies. The surveys conducted by the Ministry are based on scientific sampling methods and are supervised by the National Statistical Commission. Data is collected through dedicated field staff who are regularly trained in the concepts and definitions of the items and the scope of the survey. In line with the emphasis on the quality of statistics released by the Ministry, the methodological issues concerning the compilation of national accounts are over seen by an Advisory Committee on National Accounts, Industrial Statistics by a Standing Committee on Industrial Statistics and price and cost of living indices by a Technical Advisory Committee on Price Indices. The Ministry compiles data sets based on current data, after applying standard statistical techniques and extensive scrutiny and supervision.

1.3 The Ministry has two wings, viz. Statistics Wing, called National Statistics Office (NSO) and Programme Implementation (PI) Wing. The Programme Implementation Wing has two Divisions, namely (i) Infrastructure and Project Monitoring and (ii) Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme. Besides these two wings, there is a National Statistical Commission (NSC) created through a Resolution of Government of India and one autonomous institute viz. Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) which is declared as an institute of national importance by an Act of Parliament, known as "Indian Statistical Institute Act No. 057 of 1959".

B. NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (NSO)

1.4 The National Statistics Office (NSO), an attached office of the Ministry, coordinates the statistical activities in the country and evolves statistical standards. Its activities inter-alia includes compilation of National Accounts, Index of Industrial Production, Consumer Price Indices for Urban/Rural/Combined, Human Development Statistics including Gender Statistics and Economic Census and imparting training in Official Statistics. National Sample Survey activities are conducted through a subordinate office of this Ministry namely, Field Operations Division (FOD). NSO also assists in the development of statistics in the States and Union Territories and disseminates Energy Statistics, Social and Environmental Statistics and prepares the National Industrial Classification.

National Accounts

1.5 The National Accounts Division (NAD) of NSO is responsible for preparation of national accounts, which include the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), National Income, Government/Private Final Consumption Expenditure, Capital Formation and Saving along with details of transactions of institutional sectors. NAD annually brings out a publication titled "National Accounts Statistics", containing these statistics. NAD is also responsible for preparation and release of Supply-Use Tables (SUT) and Input-Output Transaction Tables (IOTT) from time to time. NAD maintains

liaison with international organizations on matters related to estimation of national income.

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

1.7 In order to ensure comparability between the National and State level estimates, the NAD compiles comparable estimates of Gross and Net State Domestic Product (GSDP/NSDP) by economic activity and Per Capita Income estimates, in consultation with the DESS.

1.8 In compliance with the Special Data Dissemination Standards of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and as per its own policy, the NAD releases annual and quarterly estimates of GDP from time to time as per pre-specified schedule given in Advance Release Calendar. Schedule of release of various estimates by NAD in year 2022 is given below:

Calendar for Quarterly Estimates of GDP

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| (i) Q3 of 2022-23 | : | 28th February 2023 |
| (ii) Q4 of 2022-23 | : | 31st May 2023 |
| (iii) Q1 of 2023-24 | : | 31st August 2023 |
| (iv) Q2 of 2023-24 | : | 30th November 2023 |

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

Calendar for Annual Estimates of GDP

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| (i) First Advance Estimates for 2022-23 | : | 06th January 2023 |
| (ii) First Revised Estimates for 2021-22 | : | 28 th February 2023 |

(iii) Second Advance Estimates for 2022-23	:	28 th February 2023
(iv) Provisional Estimates for 2022-23	:	31st May 2023

Cadre Control –ISS and SSS

1.9 The Administration Division of the Ministry functions as the Cadre Controlling Authority of offices of Indian Statistical Service (ISS) and Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) cadres including matters relating to their training, career progression and manpower planning.

C. THE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (PI) WING

1.10 The Programme Implementation Wing has the following responsibilities:

- (i) Monitoring the performance of the country's eleven key infrastructure sectors, viz., Power, Coal, Steel, Railways, Telecommunications, Ports, Fertilizers, Cement, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Roads and Civil Aviation. The achievement/performance of current month and for the cumulative period of these sectors is analyzed with reference to the pre-set targets for the month and for the cumulative period and the achievements during the corresponding month and cumulative period for the previous year.

- (ii) Monitoring of all Central Sector Projects costing ₹150 crores and above.

The monitoring of the implementation of the Central Sector Projects above Rs. 150 crore is done through the mechanism of Online Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS). The constant persuasion of the IPMD has resulted in improved reporting and now majority of the public sector enterprises are reporting on-line. The physical performance is measured in terms of milestones and percentage physical progress against the target dates and quantities whereas the financial performance is measured on a yearly basis with respect to the link expenditure on each project. IPMD brings out the following reports and forward the same to Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Finance, Niti Aayog, and the concerned administrative Ministries.

(iii) Implementation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

MPLADS

1.11 The Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Programme Implementation wing of the MoSPI. The scheme is governed by a set of Guidelines issued by the Ministry which have been revised from time to time. The basic objective of the MPLAD Scheme is to enable the Hon'ble Members of Parliament to recommend creation of durable community assets of national priorities viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation, and roads, etc. MoSPI, as the Nodal Ministry, is responsible for policy formulation, release of funds and evaluation of implementation of the Scheme. The Ministry releases the entitled funds to the Members and monitors the overall position of funds released, cost of works sanctioned, funds spent, etc. This scheme is Grants-in-Aid from the Government of India, as Special Central Assistance to States for expenditure to be incurred for the creation of developmental community works recommended by Hon'ble Members of Parliament. The allocation of funds under the scheme is made on annual basis. The MPLADS has a fixed yearly allocation of amount of ₹ 3950.00 Crore as per the entitlement of ₹ 5.00 crore per MP (per annum) for 790 Hon'ble MPs of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Under this scheme, the Members of Parliament (LS&RS both) have a choice to recommend to the concerned District Collector(s) for works of capital nature to the tune of ₹ 5.00 crore per year to be taken up in their respective constituencies/States for creation of durable assets based on local needs. The amount of annual entitlement is released by MPLAD Division in two instalments. Funds released to the district authority by the Government of India are non-lapsable. Funds left in the district can be carried forward for utilization in the subsequent years. Further, the funds not released by the Government of India in a year will be carried forward for making releases in the subsequent years subject to the fulfillment of criteria stipulated. The District Authorities execute development works on the

recommendation of Member of Parliament in accordance with the extant guidelines prescribed by the respective State Governments.

D. NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMISSION (NSC)

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

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

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

E. INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (ISI)

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

Degrees/courses offered

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

RC Bose Centre for Cryptology and Security

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

Innovative Multidisciplinary Study Centres

1.18 Apart from contributing to knowledge dissemination and talent development, ISI continues to work on innovative multidisciplinary applications to address issues of national importance. Towards this, ISI has also set up two Centres of Excellence, namely, **Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning at ISI Kolkata**, and **Centre for research on the Economics of Climate, Food, Energy and Environment (CECFEE)** at ISI Delhi. These centres work at cutting edge interdisciplinary areas of research including in machine learning and cryptology, and in climate change. Other

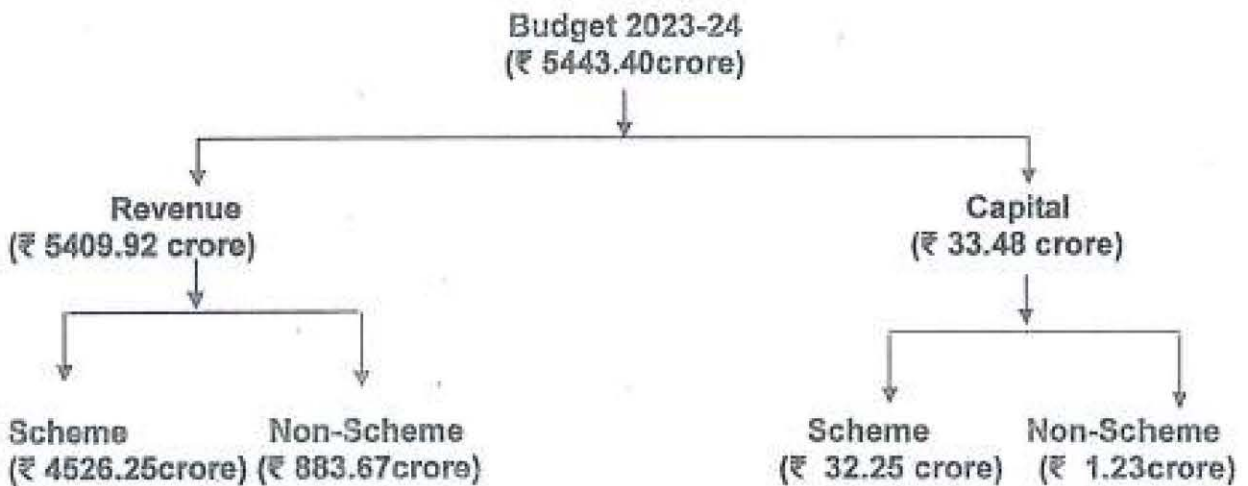
recent examples include contributions of ISI made in the areas of currency management, understanding extinction risk of wildlife, accurate assessment of consumer confidence, development as well as assessment of encryption methodologies, assessment of risk from counterfeit currencies, improvement of defense production systems, understanding level of cleanliness of towns and cities calibrated by their inherent complexity and development of national coal index. ISI scientists made significant contributions in understanding the biology of covid-19, the epidemiological aspects of its spread and modeling and predicting the infections. Several notable contributions have also been made in the field of Artificial Intelligence, Cryptology & Cyber Security, Data Science, Pattern Recognition, Computational Intelligence, Bioinformatics and Statistical Quality Control etc. The studies undertaken by the institute have been recognized by several awards at National/International level.

1.19 The institute take initiatives to widen its reach by encouraging the multi-disciplinary studies as also promoting research programmes and courses in statistics; mathematics; computer science; quantitative economics; quality, reliability and operations research; quality management science; cryptology & security; library & information science; statistical methods and analytics and various fields of physics & natural sciences and social sciences in the emerging areas and to benefit public at large.

CHAPTER II
BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

BUDGET 2023-24

2.1 The Demands for Grants under Demand No. 96 for the Ministry includes a budget proposal of ₹ 5443.40 crore for the year 2023-24. The demand under Revenue is ₹ 5409.92 crore and under Capital is ₹ 33.48 crore. The Ministry proposes to undertake two Schemes namely, (i) Capacity Development (CD) Scheme and (ii) Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).



-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<i>APPEN DIX-I</i>
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION											
Statement showing BE, RE and Actuals for 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and BE for 2023-24											
(Total Scheme and Total Non-Scheme)											
											<i>(Rs.in lakhs)</i>
	2020-21			2021-22			2022-23			2023-24	
	BE	RE	Actua l	BE	RE	Actua l	BE	RE	(*)Exp enditu re (based on e- lekha as on 31.12. 22)	BE	

Non-Scheme(Total MOSP I)	77,800.00	67,804.00	68,291.88	76,215.00	75,650.00	71,803.38	87,097.00	86,459.00	64,122.76	88,490.00
(%ge change)				-(2.0%)	(11.6%)	(5.1%)	(14.3%)	(14.3%)	(73.6%)	(1.6%)
Scheme (With out MPLA DS)	70,600.00	71,396.00	64,714.96	62,688.00	34,700.00	24,170.45	56,211.00	34,750.00	21,783.54	60,000.00
(%ge change)				-(11.2%)	(51.4%)	(62.7%)	-(10.3%)	(0.1%)	(38.8%)	(6.7%)
TOTAL (Scheme + Non scheme) without MPLA DS	1,48,400.00	1,39,200.00	1,33,006.84	1,38,903.00	1,10,350.00	95,973.83	1,43,308.00	1,21,209.00	85,906.30	1,48,490.00
(%ge change)				-(6.4%)	-(20.7%)	-(27.8%)	(3.2%)	(9.8%)	(59.9%)	(3.6%)
MPLA DS	3,96,000.00	200.00	1,10,815.40	2,010.00	2,63,350.00	1,73,211.60	3,96,500.00	3,96,500.00	1,60,558.49	3,95,850.00
(%ge change)				-(99.5%)	(131575.0%)	(56.3%)	(19626.4%)	(50.6%)	(40.5%)	-(0.2%)
TOTAL Scheme (Including MPLA DS)	4,66,600.00	71,596.00	1,75,530.36	64,698.00	2,98,050.00	1,97,382.05	4,52,711.00	4,31,250.00	1,82,342.03	4,55,850.00
(%ge change)				-(86.1%)	(316.3%)	(12.4%)	(599.7%)	(44.7%)	(40.3%)	(0.7%)
G. TOTAL MOSP I (Sche	5,44,400.00	1,39,400.00	2,43,822.24	1,40,913.00	3,73,700.00	2,69,185.43	5,39,808.00	5,17,709.00	2,46,464.79	5,44,340.00

me + Non Sche me)										
(%ge chang e)				- (74.1%)	(168.1 %)	(10.4 %)	(283.1 %)	(38.5 %)	(45.7%)	(0.8%)
Note : %ge increase (+) / decrease (-) has been calculated using figures of the current year over the corresponding figure of previous year.										
* : %ge increase (+) / decrease (-) has been calculated using figures of the current year BE										

NON-SCHEME 2023-24

2.3 The Ministry's Non-Scheme budget of ₹ 884.90 crore in 2023-24 is primarily salary oriented as the major function of the Statistics Wing (NSO) is to conduct census / surveys, collect, analyses and disseminate data, which is a staff intensive function. The major components of the Non-Scheme budget for the Ministry during 2023-24 are given below:

Object Head	Budget (₹ in lakh)	% of total Non- Scheme Budget
Salaries	33539.26	37.902
Rewards	170.35	0.193
Medical Treatment	423.07	0.478
Allowances	19187.75	21.684
TC	585.99	0.662
Training Expenses	33.98	0.038
Domestic Travels	611.67	0.691
Foreign Travel	15.62	0.018
Office Expenses	742.79	0.839
Rent Rates and Taxes for Land and Buildings	337.68	0.382
Printing and Publication	20.97	0.024
Rent for Others	81.76	0.092
Digital Equipment	45.40	0.051
Materials & Supplies	10.00	0.011
Fuels & Lubricants	32.51	0.037
Advertising and Publicity	2.10	0.002
Minor Civil and electric Works	95.56	0.108

Professional Services	35.02	0.040
Repair and Maintenance	114.49	0.129
Other Revenue Expenditure	23.97	0.027
International Contribution	22.00	0.025
Grant in Aid General (IARNIW)	6.06	0.007
Grants-in-aid to ISI, Kolkata	32229.00	36.421
Capital	123.00	0.139
Total	88490.00	

2.4 The Ministry provides Grants-in-Aid to Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) for its functioning, academic activities and infrastructure creation and its maintenance as part of the non-Scheme component of the budget. ISI is devoted to the research, teaching and application of statistics, natural sciences, and social sciences. The institute gained the status of an Institution of National Importance through Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959. Section 4 of the ISI Act empowers ISI, inter-alia, to grant degrees and diplomas in statistics, mathematics, quantitative economics, computer science and such other subjects related to statistics. From the budget of the Ministry, an amount of ₹ 322.29 crore has been kept as grants-in-aid to the Institute, as non-Scheme allocation during 2023-24.

2.5 National Statistical Commission Non-Scheme budget for the year 2023-24 has been pegged at ₹ 1.52 crore.

2.6 Trend of Non-Scheme allocation indicates an increase from ₹ 864.59 crore in 2022-23 (RE) to ₹ 884.90 crore (BE) during 2023-24.

SCHEME 2023-24

2.7 The Ministry is presently implementing two Central Sector Schemes namely, Capacity Development (CD) Scheme and Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The total Scheme budget proposal in 2023-24 for the Ministry is ₹ 4558.50 crore.

2.8 Out of the total Scheme budget of ₹4558.50 crore, ₹600.00 crore is earmarked for Capacity Development (CD) Scheme. The object-head wise allocation of expenditure of CD Scheme is as follows:

Object Head	Budget (₹ in lakh)	% of total CD Scheme Budget
Salaries	699.94	1.167
Rewards	11.89	0.020
Medical Treatment	35.50	0.059
Allowances	454.76	0.758
LTC	13.36	0.022
Training Expenses	91.00	0.152
Domestic Travels	3641.80	6.070
Foreign Travel	245.50	0.409
Office Expenses	3632.11	6.054
Rent Rates and Taxes for Land and Buildings	5626.55	9.377
Printing and Publication	252.22	0.420
Rent for Others	200.00	0.333
Digital Equipment	361.00	0.602
Materials & Supplies	31.96	0.053
Fuels & Lubricants	86.00	0.143
Advertising and Publicity	1307.10	2.179
Minor Civil and electric Works	787.88	1.313
Professional Services	35773.44	59.622
Repair and Maintenance	690.00	1.150
Awards & Prizes	22.75	0.038
Other Revenue Expenditure	104.24	0.174
Grant-in-Aid-General	887.00	1.478
Grant-in-Aid-General for NER	1819.00	3.032
Motor Vehicle	20.00	0.033
Machinery and Equipment	114.00	0.190
ICT Equipment	1590.84	2.651
Buildings and Structures	1086.00	1.810
Infrastructure Assets	80.30	0.134
Furniture & Fixtures	154.00	0.257
Other Fixed Assets	14.86	0.025
Land	165.00	0.275
Total	60000.00	

2.9 An amount of ₹ 3958.50 crore has been provided in BE 2023-24 under MPLADS.

2.10 Grants-in-aid (under Scheme): The proposed outlay under grants-in-aid during 2023-24 is ₹ 8.87 crore for Capacity Development scheme (Non-North East) and ₹ 3950.00 crore under MPLAD Scheme.

Scheme-wise allocation of BE,RE &Actual Expenditure 2020-21,2021-22,2022-23and 2023-24
(Scheme Budget)

(Rs.in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	2020-21	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24
		Actual expenditure	BE	RE	Actual expenditure	BE	RE	Expenditure (based on e-lekha on 31.12.22)	BE
Central Sector Schemes(1to2):									
1	Capacity Development	647.15	598.36	347.00	241.70	562.10	347.50	217.84	600.00
2	NPIQSI		28.52	0.00	-	00.01	0.00	0.00	-
	Total MOSPI(without MPLADS)	647.15	626.88	347.00	241.70	562.11	347.50	217.84	600.00
P.I.Wing									
3	MPLADS	1108.15	20.10	2633.50	1732.12	3965.00	3965.00	1605.58	3958.50
	Grand Scheme Total(MOSPI)	1755.30	646.98	2980.50	1973.82	4527.11	4312.50	1823.42	4558.50

2.11 There has been a shortfall in fund utilization by Rs 356.66 crore in 2021-22 against the BE of Rs 598.36 crore; and Rs344.27 crore in 2022-23against the Budget allocation of 562.10 crore (62.24% shortfall) under Capacity Development. On being asked to explain the reasons for the huge mismatch between budgetary allocation and its utilization, the Ministry inter alia submitted the following written reply as stated below:

The Capacity Development (CD) Scheme has three components namely, CD (Main), Economic Census (EC) and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS). EC and SSS are the Sub-schemes of the CD Scheme. The budget allocated and expenditure incurred under CD Scheme are as under:

Name	2021-22			2022-23		
	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp. (as on 19.02.2023)
CD(Main)	284.92	270.23	235.73	452.46	319.95	251.19
EC	280.00	64.77	0.89	57.01	20.00	0.15
SSS	33.44	12.00	5.08	52.63	7.55	4.31
CD Scheme (Total)	598.36	347.00	241.70	562.10	347.50	255.65

The component / Sub-Scheme wise reasons for savings

CD(Main) :

The major reasons of savings under CD(Main) Scheme includes the following:

- (i) The funds allocated earmarked for Computer Centre under CD(Main) Scheme were to be utilized towards payment to the Service Integrator (SI) in the National Integrated Information Portal (NIIP) Project. However, as the payment under NIIP was linked to achieving of the milestones by the SI and since the SI could not achieve milestones timely, the payments could not be released and hence the budget allocation could not be utilized optimally.
- (ii) Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the various outside training programmes including overseas learning component of the Indian Statistical Service (ISS) officers badly affected. Further, some of the planned meetings could not be conducted in view of the restrictions to control the spread of Covid-19.
- (iii) Budgetary requirement for procurement of tablets which is the essential requirement for shifting of survey operations on digital platform (e-SIGMA) was projected in the proposal for extension of CD Scheme and the procurement process was initiated in 2021-22 pursuant to recommendations of Expenditure Finance Committee for extension of CD Scheme. Procurement has accordingly been completed in 2022-23 for on-going surveys with due approvals.

SSS Sub- Scheme:

Under the SSS Sub – Scheme, funds are released to the Directorates of Economics & Statistics of the States/UTs with which MoU, delineating the activities to be carried out and the targets/outcomes to be achieved under the Sub– Scheme, is signed. The period of MoU is generally three years. After signing of MoU, funds in the form of grants-in-aid are released to the concerned State/UT in the form of instalments. While the first instalment is released as advance, the subsequent instalments are released subject to 80% utilization of previous instalments and achievement of commensurate physical progress.

The total requirement of funds in terms of Budget/Revised Estimates in a particular financial year is worked out after assessing the progress of States/UTs based on the physical and financial progress as reported in their Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs). The BE of Rs.33.44 crore for the FY 2021-22 and the BE of Rs.52.63 crore for the FY 2022-23 was accordingly formulated. The expenditure under SSS sub-scheme is contingent upon raising of demands by the States / UTs which are implementing the sub-scheme. The currently implementing States/UTs which were expected to seek their second or third instalments during 2022-23 have not raised request for further fund release as per expectations. Thus, the allocation in the FY 2022-23 has been reduced from Rs.52.63 crore to Rs.7.55 crore at RE stage.

EC Sub-Scheme

The expenditure for EC in FY 2021-22 was only Rs. 0.93 Crore, mainly due to non-release of payment to the implementing agency (CSC) as they could not achieve the final payment milestone. The final payment milestone includes finalization of 7 EC database, release of National Report, Data/IT asset migration, etc. Vide a communication dated 21.06.2022, CSC has requested for release of dues of Rs. 91.68 Cr. Due to non-resolution of 7th EC data issues, several follow-up activities as per the EFC could not be initiated during the period 2021-23. Further, due to COVID-19 pandemic scenario, field visits of officers, planned studies, meetings/-seminars for 7th EC remained restricted.

Region in respect of various activities by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and SSS Sub-scheme of CD Scheme.

NSSO release Grant-in-Aid to 5 North-Eastern States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim for conducting sample surveys for various rounds of NSSO. The DES's of these NE States take up the work of Socio Economics Survey for Central Sample on behalf of NSSO in addition to the coverage of their State Sample except Sikkim. NSSO compensate them for their services through release of Grants-in-aids every year. Further, part of the budget allocated under GIA transferred to Field Operations Division (FOD) of NSSO which is utilised for carrying out survey activities in the North Eastern region. The expenditure involves, mainly, the remuneration and TA/DA of manpower hired for conducting survey operations and expenditure towards their training and qualitative supervision.

Under the SSS Sub-Scheme, Grants-in-Aid of non-recurring nature are provided to the States/UTs for improving their statistical capacities and operations for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics."

2.14 Further when asked about the reasons for the decline of the percentages share of this head to 57.8 percent in 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23 share, Ministry furnished the following reply :

"The reasons of decline of the percentage share of this head to 57.8% in 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23 share, are as under;

Based on the past trend of utilization of funds under the SSS Sub-Scheme, the proposed BE for North Eastern Region (NER) has been reduced from Rs. 21.07 crore in 2022-23 to Rs.2.850 crore in 2023-24. This has been worked out based on the physical and financial progress of States as reported in their Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs). Additional funds, if required, will be sought at RE stage. However, it may be noted that the proposed BE under the SSS sub-scheme is Rs.10.31 crore for FY 2023-24, out of which Rs.2.850 crore is provisioned for NER, which is more than 10% of the proposed BE.

2.12 When enquired about the existing monitoring mechanism of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation regarding fund allocation at each level and the implementation of Schemes / Programmes being run by the Ministry, MOSPI in a written reply stated:

"MoSPI has two Wings viz. Statistics Wing and Programme Implementation (PI) Wing. The Statistics Wing is responsible for all statistical activities of the Ministry. The PI Wing monitors high value Central Sector Infrastructure Projects (costing Rs. 150 crore and above) with respect to time and cost overrun and monitors the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

The Ministry is taking all measures to ensure that the funds allocated for Schemes are utilized. The expenditure is being closely monitored for taking timely remedial action, wherever required, so as to avoid large scale unspent budget provisions. The activities, which are part / components of the Schemes are monitored regularly, through review meetings on physical and financial progress of the scheme.

Progress and activities under 7th EC are monitored as per its governance structure. In addition to routine review in the Ministry by senior officers; Steering Committee, Expert Group, Central Level Operations Committee, State Level Coordination Committee, State Level Operations Committee, District Level Coordination Committee, Contract Monitoring Committee, etc. are constituted for monitoring & review of various aspects of 7th EC. Allocation and utilization of funds in EC are governed by activities approved in EFC. Financial concurrences and administrative approvals are obtained for release of fund. Disbursement of fund is through PFMS.

2.13 On a query with regard to the nature of expenses incurred under the Demand No. 96 Major Head 2552, Ministry in its written reply stated:

"The budget provision under this head of account of Capacity Development (CD) Scheme is utilized for release of funds to the North Eastern

Further, in so far as National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) is concerned, In accordance with the guidelines on revised procedure of flow of funds under central sector scheme, issued by the Ministry of Finance Govt. of India, expenditure under GIA through Regional Offices of Field Operations Division (FOD) of NSSO may not be feasible. So, the fund allocated under the object head GIA will completely be released to 5 NE states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim for utilization. Therefore, the demand under the object head GIA has been reduced from Rs. 22 crore in FY 2022-23 to Rs.15 crore in FY 2023-24."

2.15 When enquired as to how this decrease of 57.8 percentage share of the BE allocation is expected to impact the implementation of the schemes and programmes of the ministry and its implication on the achievement of physical target under respective schemes, the Ministry in a written reply stated:

In so far as NSSO is concerned, the amount under the object head GIA which is utilized for release of funds to the five North Eastern States has been reduced by Rs.7 crore (from Rs.22 crore in FY 2022-23 to Rs.15 crore in FY 2023-24) to ensure the continuity of the survey work by the five North Eastern States. Further, the part of fund under the object head GIA which was earlier transferred to Field Operations Division of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) has now been stopped from FY 2023-24. The same amount has been demanded in BE 2023-24 by NSSO by increasing the fund in other object heads of CD scheme to ensure the continuity of survey activities.

With regard to the implementation of the SSS Sub-Scheme, it is stated that it is done by the DESs of the States / UTs. The activities to be implemented are delineated in the MoU signed between Govt. of India and the respective States/UTs. The expenditure incurred under the sub-Scheme is contingent upon the requirement of funds by States/UTs. The primary reason for decreasing trend of funds released under the SSS sub - scheme is due to non-receipt of demands from the States. The States in turn could not undertake delineated activities at requisite pace due to COVID pandemic in 2020-21 and 2021-22 thereby leading

to decreased fund utilisation till 2022-23. However, now the activities have gained momentum and States are likely to raise demands in 2023-24. The Ministry has been rigorously following up with the States for smooth operations and successful implementation of the sub - scheme by way of holding Joint Review Meetings and regular communication.

The budget allocated under the head of account 2552 in CD Scheme is utilized for carrying out survey activities in 5 NE states and release of Grants-in-Aid to the States/UTs under SSS Sub-Scheme. The expenditure details under the object head GIA is as follows:

(Rs. In Crore)

Year	BE	RE	Expenditure
2020-21	32.00	20.57	19.20
2021-22	40.10	22.16	20.83
2022-23	43.07	22.59	9.87 (upto 19.02.2023)

2.16 On a specific query as to how the Ministry has fared in the Capacity Development scheme components, the Ministry in its written reply stated as following:

The major components of Capacity Development (CD) Scheme are as under:

- (i) Improvement of National Accounts Statistics.
- (ii) Improvements in Price Statistics and International Comparison Programme (ICP).
- (iii) Improvements in Social, Environment and Allied Statistics.
- (iv) Improvements in Economic Sector Statistics.
- (v) Training / Capacity Building of Statistical Personnel in Official Statistics and also to promote Official Statistics and research in Statistics through Internship Programme, Grant-in-Aid to Institutions, International/National Awards in Statistics, on the spot essay competition, etc.
- (vi) Strengthening of Coordination with Central and State Statistical Organizations.
- (vii) Strengthening of Computer Centre of MoSPI.

(viii) Strengthening of Survey Capabilities of the NSO and undertaking new surveys.

(ix) To facilitate project monitoring of the projects under Infrastructure Project Monitoring Division of this Ministry.

The Capacity Development Scheme has three components namely, CD (Main), Economic Census (EC) and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS). The component wise budget allocated, and expenditure incurred under CD Scheme are as under:

Name	2020-21			2021-22			2022-23		
	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp. (as on 19.02.20 23)
CD(Main)	258.99	218.69	189.30	284.92	270.23	235.73	452.46	319.95	251.19
EC	400.00	488.32	451.76	280.00	64.77	0.89	57.01	20.00	0.15
SSS	47.01	6.95	6.09	33.44	12.00	5.08	52.63	7.55	4.31
CD Scheme (Total)	706.00	713.96	647.15	598.36	347.00	241.70	562.10	347.50	255.65

Note: As per the Demand for Grants 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 no separate allocation has been made for improvement of National Accounts Statistics, Improvements in Economic Sector Statistics and Strengthening of Survey Capabilities of NSO and undertaking new surveys. These components are part of the CD (Main) scheme. Accordingly, the expenditure incurred under these components are part of the total expenditure reported under CD (Main) Scheme.

Improvements in Social, Environment and Allied Statistics:

MoSPI is coordinating for development of social, environment and multi-domain statistics. The ambit of social statistics includes population, human development, employment and social justice, while that of multi-domain statistics includes gender, persons with disabilities and indicators related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Ministry releases annual and ad-hoc publications on social, environment and the multi-domain statistics cited above. With the diverse spread of topics to be covered under each of the subjects for these publications, MoSPI also collates, and compiles information sourced from national surveys, censuses, administrative data, economic statistics, remote sensing agencies and environmental monitoring systems. These datasets are then combined in standard frameworks prescribed for these statistics, thus providing data, comparable across time and space.

Improvements in Economic Sector Statistics:

For improvement in Economic Sector Statistics, Ministry adopting the best practices and methodology that are as per international practices. Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is released every month as per the standards prescribed by Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) established by International Monetary Fund.

Strengthening of Survey Capabilities of NSO and undertaking new surveys:

As regards survey activities undertaken by NSSO, all efforts have been made to utilize the available budgetary resources for strengthening of IT resources and office infrastructure; undertaking publicity measures and engaging manpower resources and their training and other qualitative measures for undertaking new surveys, namely, Periodic Labour Force Survey (From 2017), Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (started with initial six-month round from Oct 2019; currently second annual round, i.e. ASUSE 2022-23 is being undertaken from Oct 2022), Time Use Survey (first round undertaken from January 2019-December 2019) and taking up price collection for CPI(R) (from 2018).

CHAPTER III

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (MPLADS):

3.1 The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was launched by the Govt. of India on 23rd December 1993 to provide a mechanism for Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature for creation of durable community assets and for provision of basic facilities including community infrastructure, based on locally felt needs to be taken up in their Constituencies/States. Initially, the MPLADS was under the control of Ministry of Rural Development. The subject relating to the MPLADS was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in October 1994. The scheme is governed by a set of Guidelines, which have been comprehensively revised from time to time. The present Guidelines were issued in June 2016. The basic objective of the MPLAD Scheme is to enable the Hon'ble Members of Parliament to recommend creation of durable community assets of national priorities viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation, and roads, etc. The allocation of funds under the scheme is made on annual basis. The MPLADS has a fixed yearly allocation of amount of ₹ 3950.00 crore as per the entitlement of ₹ 5.00 crore per MP (per annum) for 790 MPs of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Funds released to the district authority by the Government of India are non-lapsable. The District Authorities execute development works on the recommendation of Member of Parliament in accordance with the extant guidelines prescribed by the respective State Governments.

3.2 The salient features of the MPLAD Scheme:

- (i) MPLADS is a Central Scheme fully funded by the Government of India under which funds are released in the form of Grants-in-aid directly to the District Authorities.
- (ii) The funds released under the Scheme are non-lapsable, i.e., the entitlement of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years,

subject to eligibility. At present, the annual entitlement per MP/Constituency is ₹5crore.

- (iii) Under MPLADS, the role of the Members of Parliament is limited to recommend works. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the District Authority to sanction, execute and complete the works recommended by Members of Parliament within the stipulated time period.
- (iv) The elected Lok Sabha Members can recommend works in their respective constituencies. The elected members of the Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the State from which they are elected. Nominated Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can recommend works, anywhere in the country.
- (v) For the works meant for trust/society there is a ceiling of ₹50 lakh for the lifetime of each trust/society with certain exceptions as mentioned in para 2.5.1 and para 3.21.5 of the Guidelines on MPLADS. An MP can recommend funds only upto ₹100 lakh in all in a financial year, from MPLADS funds for works to trusts/societies.
- (vi) MPLADS works can be implemented in areas affected by natural calamities like flood, cyclone, hailstorm, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, landslides, tornado, earthquake, drought, tsunami, fire, and biological, chemical, radiological hazards, etc. MPs from the non-affected areas of the State/UT can also recommend permissible works upto a maximum of ₹25 lakh per annum in the affected area(s) in that State/UT.
- (vii) In the event of "Calamity of severe nature" (which is decided and declared by the Government of India) in any part of the country, an MP can recommend works up to a maximum of ₹1 crore for the affected district. The funds in this regard will be released by the Nodal District Authority of the MP concerned to the State Nodal Department of the affected State to execute permissible works as the procedure to this effect was amended vide this Ministry's O.M. No. C-19/2017-MPLADS dated 26.10.2018.
- (viii) In order to accord special attention to the development of areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), 15% of MPLADS funds are to be utilized for areas inhabited by SC population and 7.5% for areas

inhabited by ST population. In case the constituency of a Lok Sabha Member has insufficient ST population, such funds may be utilized in SC inhabited areas and vice-versa. Further, in case the constituency of a Lok Sabha Member has insufficient SC and ST population (both put together) in the area, they may recommend works for the creation of community assets in SC/ST areas outside their Constituency but within their State of election.

- (ix) If an elected Member of Parliament finds the need to contribute MPLADS funds to a place outside that State/UT or outside the constituency within the State or both, the MP can recommend eligible works, under these Guidelines upto a maximum of ₹25 lakh in a financial year. Such a gesture on the part of an MP will promote national unity, harmony, and fraternity among the people, at the grass roots level.
- (x) The MP may recommend maximum of ₹20 lakh per year for giving assistance to Differently Abled Citizens for purchase of tricycles (manual/ battery operated/ motorized), motorized/ battery operated wheel chair and artificial limbs; and aids/devices for visually and hearing-impaired.
- (xi) MPs may recommend their MPLADS funds to aided educational institutions which are receiving financial assistance from state government and are recognized by a State/UT/Central Board of Secondary Education in case of schools and by State/Central University in case of colleges and are not charging commercial fee from students. Such aided educational institutions are eligible for receiving MPLADS funds for all permissible items under the Guidelines with no ceiling. Both **aided and un-aided** educational institutions which are recognized by a Board of Secondary Education/University and are **run by trusts/societies** are eligible for receiving MPLADS funds for all permissible items under the Guidelines; the particular trust/society which runs the concerned educational institution will be governed by the maximum ceiling i.e. ₹50 lakh imposed on trusts/societies under the Guidelines (para3.21).
- (xii) Energy efficient Community Gobar Gas plants, Crematoria and structures on burial/ cremation grounds and non-conventional energy systems/devices for Community use are inter alia included in sector VI & VII of Annexure-IV(E) of the

Guidelines. Purchase of Stubble Clearing and Super Seeder machines subject to fulfillment of certain conditions is also permissible under MPLADS.

- (xiii) MPs may recommend MPLADS Funds for augmentation of funds for Scheme such as 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' which provides for construction of individual toilets, subject to provisions contained in para 3.17 and 3.18 of the Guidelines on MPLADS.
- (xiv) MPs may recommend MPLADS Funds for the installation of Wi-Fi system in educational institution, village, and selected locations subject to certain conditions. Purchase of laptops subject to certain conditions is also permissible for Government and Government-aided educational institutions.
- (xv) Funds released by the Government of India are deposited by the District Administrations in Nationalized Banks (including IDBI Banks)/Regional Rural Banks (Gramin Banks) which are on Core Banking Platform with the Nationalized Bank as their sponsor, for each MP for the purpose of MPLAD Scheme.
- (xvi) The roles of Central Government, State Government, District Authorities and Implementing Agencies have been clearly defined in the Guidelines on MPLADS for implementation of MPLAD Scheme.

Impact

3.3 Since inception, the Scheme has benefited the local community by meeting various developmental needs such as drinking water facility, education, electricity, health and family welfare, irrigation, non-conventional energy, community centers, public libraries, bus stands/stops, roads, pathways and bridges, sports, etc. These works are sanctioned, executed and monitored as per the provisions of the MPLADS Guidelines.

3.4 The Ministry has also furnished the following written submissions on MPLADS:

"Under the scheme of MPLADS, since inception of the scheme an aggregate amount of ₹ 58651.74 crore has been released by the Ministry till 31.12.2022. During the same period, the District Authorities are reported to have issued the

sanctions for different items of work costing ₹ 59235.52 crore and against this, the expenditure of ₹ 56600.23 crore has been achieved.

- (i) For managing the economic and health impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, a decision was taken by the Union Cabinet not to operate the MPLAD Scheme for two financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22, hence the budgetary outlay of ₹3950.00 crore under MPLAD scheme was placed at the disposal of Ministry of Finance.
- (ii) Department of Expenditure vide their O.M. No. OM No.56(2)/PF-II/2006(Pl.), dated 16-3-2021 allotted funds to the tune of ₹ 2,200.00 crore for release of pending instalments primarily relating to the year 2019-20, under MPLADS, out of which the Ministry could release 443 instalments amounting to ₹ 1107.50 crore in FY 2020-21.
- (iii) Department of Expenditure allotted funds to the tune of ₹1172.50 crore for release of 469 pending instalments for the FY 2019-20 vide their O.M., dated 28-5-2021. The scheme was approved in November, 2021 and an additional amount of Rs.1583.5 crore was allocated to the Ministry on restoration of MPLADS during FY 2021-22. Consequently, ₹ 1732.12 crore has been released in FY 2021-22 .
- (iv) The Government has now restored the MPLAD Scheme for the remaining part of the financial year 2021-22 and continued the MPLAD Scheme up to FY 2025-26.
- (v) During the remaining part of the FY 2021-22, the Ministry will release MPLADS funds at the rate of ₹ 2.00 crore per Member of Parliament in one instalment, on fulfillment of criteria for the release of first instalment of a Financial Year in accordance with extant MPLADS Guidelines.
- (vi) During the period of FYs 2022-23 to 2025-26, the annual entitlement per Member of Parliament (MP) will remain at ₹ 5.00 crore which will be released in two instalments of ₹ 2.50 crore each, subject to the fulfillment of conditions as per the extant MPLADS Guidelines."

System of Monitoring of Performance of Capacity Development Scheme

- (i) The Ministry has prepared a Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) with the objective of reviewing monthly as well as quarterly progress of utilisation of

the budget and initiate timely corrective action. The expenditure is being closely monitored wherever required; so as to avoid large scale unspent budget provisions.

- (ii) For each component of the CD Scheme, the physical targets are linked to the MEP and the progress is closely monitored through regular meetings.
- (iii) Monthly/Quarterly Expenditure Review meetings are being held to ensure proper utilisation of funds under the scheme.

System of monitoring of the implementation of MPLAD Scheme: -

- (i) Annual All India Review Meeting with the Nodal Secretaries of the States/UTs is organized to discuss the implementation of the scheme.
- (ii) The provisions of guidelines are amended from time to time on the recommendations/suggestions of various stakeholders if found feasible as per the objective of the scheme.
- (iii) The Physical and Financial progress of the scheme can be seen and monitored by the various Stakeholders with the help of MPLADS portal.
- (iv) Training is provided to district officials to submit the online requisite eligible documents in order to enable the Ministry for timely release of funds.
- (v) The officers of the Ministry visit various states/districts from time to time to review the implementation of the scheme.
- (vi) The MoSPI, as a measure of steps for improvement of the Scheme, has conducted a Third-Party Physical Evaluation of MPLADS works in the FY 2021 in respect of 216 Nodal Districts across the country for the assets created in Districts under MPLADS during the period from 01.04.2014 to 31.03.2019. The agency has submitted its final report on 31st August, 2021. Accordingly, this Ministry is in process for revision of Guidelines and revamping of MPLADS portal in consultation with major stakeholders."

3.5 Actual expenditure under MPLAD Scheme were Rs. 1732.11 crore in 2021-22 and Rs. 1605.58 crore (as on 31.12.22) in 2022-23. The Committee wanted to know the reasons for the decreasing trend in MPLADS funds utilization/release; the Ministry in their written reply submitted the following as stated below:

Ministry has released funds to the tune of Rs.2052.5 crore under MPLAD Scheme during the Financial Year 2022-23(as on 14-2-2023) as compared to Rs.1732.11 crore during the Financial Year 2021-22. That is, there is no decreasing trend in release of funds under the MPLAD Scheme.

3.6 While deposing before the Committee on 28.02.2023 in connection with examination of Demands for Grants (2022-23), representatives of the Ministry made the following oral submission on MPLADS:

"For the MPLADS the normal Budget of Rs.3950 crore has returned. This year, it is Rs.3958.50 crore, and Rs.8.5 crore is for other activities such as website, and guidelines. In 2020-21, the Scheme was suspended temporarily. That is why the expenditure is less in 2021. In 2021-22 the amount was received only in November. So, we have been able to spend around Rs.732 crore but from this year we are back to the normal, and Rs.3965 crore was the total Budget. Out of that, till 25th of February, we have utilised Rs.2123 crore. BE for the next year is Rs.3958 crore, which is the normal; Rs.5 crore per annum for per hon. Member of Parliament. So far as MPLADS is concerned, as you have mentioned, this is the scheme totally funded by the Government of India. Its objective is to enable hon. MPs to recommend works of development nature in their constituencies. The focus is on creation of durable assets. Annual Budgetary allocation per annum is Rs.3950 crore. Entitlement is Rs.5 crore per MP, per annum in two instalments @ Rs.2.5 crore. In 2021-22 it was reduced to Rs.2 crore because it started late in November. The admin expenditure is two per cent which goes from the MPs' fund, and the governance includes a set of guidelines."

3.7 Regarding funds released under the MPLAD Scheme, the Ministry in their Post Evidence reply furnish following:

"Funds to the tune of Rs.8,612 crore have been released during 2019-23 (till 28-2-2023), which is 67.65% of the total allocation of Rs.12,730 crore during the period. Further, funds to the tune of Rs.2,135 crore have been released

during the FY 2022-23 (till 28-2-2023) which is 54.05 % of the total allocation of Rs.3950 crore for the period.

The release of funds under MPLADS is subject to fulfilment of fund-related criteria as mentioned in the Guidelines and submission of fund-related documents by the District Authorities and those documents being found in order upon scrutiny, along with fulfilment of criteria of unspent and un sanctioned balance. Delayed submission of requisite fund-related documents like Utilization Certificates, Provisional Utilization Certificates and Audit Certificates, by the District Authorities, has a cascading effect on release of pending instalments."

3.8 in response to a question regarding the reviewing of guidelines on MPLADS, the Representatives of the Ministry made the following oral submission:

"We have issued a revised guideline which takes care of a lot of issues which were there in the previous guideline, where the release of money was subject to receipt of certain papers, particularly Utilization Certificate. That had an effect because then, the funds were not utilized, and there were delays in the next instalment. So, there was an inefficiency in the system.

Under the new fund flow, we have taken care of that because the new release will not be subjected to the Utilization Certificate, issued by the district authorities. Now, the new fund flow is also going to be online. It would be real-time. As soon as the payments are made to the vendors, the Utilization Certification would be auto-generated in the system. So that requirement would be taken care of. We are not releasing the money per se to the MPs' accounts, but we are releasing the authorization of the entitlement of each hon. MP at the beginning of the Financial Year which will go to the District Authority, and hon. MPs can start allocating resources for different works as per locally-felt needs.

Now, all these systems have been built as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, where a Central Nodal Account has been created. So, the money would be kept there, and through an IT system, each MP will be given a log-in and password access to the system where they can fill-in the requirement of the fund for different projects. As per the current system, it will go to the district

authorities, which will look into the entire estimates and other things, and then, will sanction the projects, and allocate an agency which will execute the work. The agency will go through its own process as per the State Financial Rules to allocate the work to a particular vendor. When the payment is required at the last mile, a system alert will be generated, and the money will flow through the system.

So, we expect that the bottleneck -- that was there in the current scheme of things, where MPs could not issue new recommendations because the funds were not forthcoming as the work was pending -- will be taken care of."

3.9 On being further asked about the "veto power of the district magistrate", the representative of the Ministry clarified that the "The role of Deputy Commissioners was pointed out that they have a veto power. I think in the current scheme of things, the district administration does not have a veto power. That is my understanding. Whatever projects the MP recommends are generally approved and sanctioned, except for the exceptional cases where they do not comply with the guidelines."

3.10 Release of funds gets delayed as the district authorities do not provide requisite authorities do not provide requisite documents in time. On this issue the Ministry furnished the following submission in their post-evidence reply as stated below:

"I do understand that in the current scheme of things, there is less of visibility and transparency and how the flow of funds and how the recommendations are being tackled. We are trying to put all of this through a portal where there will be visibility to the hon. Members of the status of the fund, and how the recommendations are being addressed so that there can be a greater scrutiny and review at all levels. One issue that was being mentioned is this. The hon. Member has mentioned about linking of the utilization certificates with the release of next fund. That is the current scheme of things. As I was explaining, in the new scheme of things we are autogenerating the utilization certificates through the system as soon as the payments are made. We have de-linked the next instalment from the utilization certificate and the audit. This utilization certificate

and audit, if I may explain, are the requirement of GFR which we cannot do away with. But we have de-linked it. About the authorization that the hon. MP will have, that authorization of whatever is due to the hon'ble MP from unspent of the previous year and for the new financial year will be released right at the beginning of the financial year."

3.11 In reply to specific query as to why Hon'ble Members of Parliament were not consulted during the process of revision of MPLADS Guidelines, the Ministry inter-alia given the following post evidence reply as stated below:

This Ministry considers Hon'ble Members of Parliament as the most important stakeholders in the MPLAD Scheme, and hence, their feedback is considered to be very critical for bringing qualitative improvement in the Scheme. Accordingly; right from the commencement of the exercise of comprehensive and holistic revision of MPLADS Guidelines, Ministry has consulted the Hon'ble MPs from time to time as explained below:

- (a) In the year 2021, the Ministry instituted evaluation by a third party of works done during the period from 1-4-2014 to 31-3-2019 under the MPLADS in selected 216 districts. During evaluation, the Ministry requested Hon'ble MPs of the selected nodal districts to give their suggestions/ feedback for improvement in MPLAD Scheme. As due to COVID 19 pandemic, the meeting of agency with the Hon'ble MPs was not feasible, the agency had prepared a Questionnaire Proforma which was to be filled by Hon'ble MPs. It was also advised that the Hon'ble MPs, if they, so desired, could have a meeting/ telephonic conversation for giving feedback. The copy of O.M., dated 24-6-2021 along with the questionnaire sent to the Hon'ble MPs through email is enclosed (Annexure- I). The suggestions of the Hon'ble MPs were incorporated by the third party in its final report of evaluation. A copy of the final report of third party evaluation is enclosed (Annexure-II).
- (b) In December 2021, the Ministry issued a D.O. No. E-4/2020-MPLADS, dated 9-12-2021 under the signature of DDG (MPLADS), MoSPI seeking suggestions of all Hon'ble Members of Parliament for revision of MPLADS Guidelines.

Thereafter, the Ministry organized interactive Workshops in different parts of the country [New Delhi, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Mumbai, Lucknow, and Kolkata] with representatives of States/UTs handling MPLADS work to collect inputs and suggestions for revision of Guidelines. A copy of D.O., dated 9-12-2021 is enclosed for reference (Annexure-III).

- (c) The matter of revision of MPLADS Guidelines was also discussed at length in the sittings of Rajya Sabha Committee on MPLADS held on 12-11-2021 and 8-6-2022. Copies of minutes of the sittings are enclosed (Annexure-IV & V).
- (d) Based on the suggestions/ inputs received from various stakeholders, and based on the recommendations made in the report of the Third-Party Evaluation, the Ministry had come-up with a draft Guidelines on MPLADS in October 2022. These draft Guidelines were again circulated by email amongst all Hon'ble MPs on 25-10-2022 for their inputs. Copies placed at Annexure-VI. These draft guidelines were also placed on MPLADS portal on mplad.gov.in (which is not password protected and can be viewed by anyone) for suggestions/ inputs of all stakeholders. The inputs were also sought from the Rajya Sabha Committee on MPLADS and Lok Sabha Secretariat.
- (e) Based on the inputs received from various stakeholders, including Hon'ble MPs, found feasible and aligned with the objectives of MPLAD Scheme, the Ministry has now released final Guidelines on 22-2-2023, to be effective from 1-4-2023.

It may be seen from the above that the Ministry has followed due and comprehensive process of consultation with stakeholders, including Members of Parliament, before finalizing MPLADS Guidelines.

3.12 In reply to specific query as the Government has any plan to restore Rs 10 crore of suspended MPLADS funds, the Ministry inter-alia given the following post evidence reply as stated below:

"For managing and addressing the economic and health impacts of COVID -19 pandemic, the MPLAD Scheme was suspended for two financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22 and accordingly, the budgetary outlay of the Scheme was placed at

the disposal of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. However, in view of large number of references received from the stakeholders for restoration of the Scheme, the Government restored the MPLAD Scheme w.e.f. 10-11-2021 during the remaining part of the Financial Year 2021-22 with release of MPLADS fund at the rate of ₹ 2 crore per Member of Parliament in one instalment. The Govt., as of now, has no plan to restore remaining Rs.8 crore corresponding to the period of suspension of the MPLAD Scheme in financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22."

CHAPTER IV SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER

4.1 The Indian Statistical Service (ISS) was constituted on 1st November, 1961 as a cadre of qualified professionals with core discipline of Statistics to control, coordinate, monitor and steer the diversified statistical system to render the crucial statistical needs of planning, policy formulation and decision making by the Government and to consolidate and disseminate these statistics at National and International level.

4.2 The posts of ISS at various Grades are distributed among various Ministries, Departments and Organisation with the aim to have an appropriate statistical set-up in the Ministries/Departments to provide a real time objective data and to analyze it for; (a) policy formulation, implementation and monitoring (including concurrent monitoring and evaluation and outcome/endline assessment) and (b) decision making.

4.3 Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation acts as the Cadre Controlling Authority of Indian Statistical Service. The Ministry is concerned with all matters pertaining to the service including recruitment, promotion, training, career, and manpower planning, etc. However, day-to-day administrative matters of ISS officers are looked after by the Ministries/Departments in which the officers are posted.

Recruitment to the service is made through Indian Statistical Service Examination conducted by UPSC annually, promotion from the feeder grade i.e. Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) and through absorption of Statistical Officers working in other Ministries/Departments. The service has grown over the years in terms of relevancy and number of posts. The allocation of posts in various grades at the time of initial constitution and at present areas follows:

Grade	Sanctioned Strength	On Cadre Strength as on 30.11.2022
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		In-position	Vacancy
Higher Administrative Grade plus (HAG+)	05	05	00
Higher Administrative Grade (HAG)	18	14	04
Senior Administrative Grade(SAG)	136	133	03
Junior Administrative Grade(JAG) & NFSG	176 #	119	57
Senior Time Scale (STS)	179	175	04
Junior Time Scale (JTS)	300*	102	198
Total	814	548	266

Out of these, 30% of senior duty posts are operated in NFSG

* Including 50 posts of leave, deputation and training reserve.

** 54 posts of JAG have been temporarily downgraded to STS of ISS. Vacancy has increased since last year.

4.4 The first examination for direct recruitment to the service was held in the year 1967 and the first batch of the service was appointed in the year 1968. Till date, 42 batches of direct recruits have joined the service. The latest batch of 30 officers has already joined in the month of August 2020.

4.5 The ISS Rules, 2016 provide for 50 per cent of the posts in JTS to be filled up by direct recruitment and 50 per cent by promotion from Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) cadre. There is no direct recruitment at any level except in JTS of the service. All the vacancies in other grades are filled up by promotion.

Subordinate Statistical Service

4.6 The Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) was constituted on 12th February 2002 as a cadre of qualified personnel with core discipline of Statistics to assist in building crucial statistical database covering various aspects of Indian Economy for planning, policy formulation and decision making by the Government.

4.7 The SSS is a Group-B Central Civil Service of statistical function posts which constitutes feeder cadre for Indian Statistical Service (ISS). It comprises of Senior Statistical Officers (SSO) (Group-B Gazetted) and Junior Statistical Officers (JSO) (Group-B Non-Gazetted). As per 7th CPC, the Pay Scale of SSO corresponds to Level-7 and that of JSO to Level-6 in the Pay Matrix. The officers of the SSS cadre are posted in various Ministries/Departments/Organisations of the Government of India across the country.

4.8 Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation is the Cadre Controlling Authority (CCA) of SSS. The Ministry is concerned with all matters pertaining to the service including recruitment, promotion, training, career, and manpower planning, etc. However, day-to-day administrative matters of SSS officers are taken care by the respective Ministries/Departments/Organizations where these officers are posted.

4.9 The SSS Rules, 2013 provides for 90% of the posts of JSO to be filled up by direct recruitment through open competitive examination viz. Combined Graduate Level Examination (CGLE) conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) while 10% of total posts are to be filled by promotion from the feeder posts (Statistical function posts existing at level-4 and level-5 of pay matrix). As per Recruitment Rules of SSS, there is no direct recruitment at the level of SSO of the service.

4.10 The sanctioned strength and number of incumbents in position as on 31.12.2022 are as follows:

S. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength	On Cadre Strength as on 31.12.2022	
			In-position	Vacancy
1.	Senior Statistical Officer	1882	1838*	44**
2.	Junior Statistical Officer	2201	1562*	639**
Total Strength		4083	3400*	683

*The Difference between sanctioned strength in the relevant schedule of RR of 2013 of SSS and present strength is due to ensuing abolition/decadrement/encadrement of posts in SSS. The revised RRs are yet to be issued.

**Including officers who are working against SSS Posts but not absorbed in SSS.

4.11 In response to a question about the issue of shortage of manpower at different levels adversely impacting the quality of data and authenticity of data collected by private agencies, MOSPI in its written reply stated:

"Ministry has robust policy for the recruitment of officers and Staff in accordance with the rules and procedure of the Central Government as per the approved sanctioned strength. There are two main cadres in the Ministry. Indian Statistical Service (ISS) Cadre for Group A officers and Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) cadre consisting of Senior Statistical Officers and Junior Statistical Service (JSO). Ministry has been recruiting officers and staff in tandem with the recommendations of the Committee as far as feasible.

Recruitments in respect of Indian Statistical Service (ISS) and Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) are done through the Examinations conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Staff Selection Commission (SSC) respectively. It is also filled by the promotion from the feeder grade i.e. SSS and through absorption of statistical officers working in other Ministries/Departments. A total of 59 appointments have been made in cadre of ISS during the year 2021 & 2022 and 27 appointment of ISS Exam 2022 at final stage to be issued in February 2023. A proposal for appointment of 98 vacant post in the grade of Junior Time Scale (JTS) through promotion quota has been sent to UPSC for holding Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC). A total of 33 vacancy (Direct Recruitment) and 40 vacancies (Promotion Quota) has been identified and being reported to UPSC.

In the last one and half year, SSC has recommended 265 candidates [through Combined Graduate Level Examination (CGLE) 2019] and 401 candidates (through CGLE-2020).

After the Document Verification and observing other formalities, Ministry has issued Provisional Offer of Appointment to 248 candidates recommended from CGLE-2019 and to 374 candidates recommended from CGLE-2020.

Ministry has also intimated 110 vacancies of JSO for CGLE-2021 and 38 Vacancies of JSO for CGLE-2022 to SSC for recruitment.

During recent years, a number of new surveys, namely, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) and Time Use Survey (TUS) have been undertaken by NSSO. Since regular

manpower is limited, the field work of these surveys is being undertaken through staff engaged through manpower agencies. The staff so engaged is being duly trained before being sent to field. Further, their work is supervised through field inspection and scrutiny, undertaken by experienced staff for ensuring quality of data collected in field. The Ministry has taken up the proposal for creation of additional regular posts for the new survey activities which are to be undertaken on regular basis. Till the time such approvals are obtained, the manpower is being engaged through manpower agencies."

4.12 Regarding the main factors responsible for time and cost overrun in project implementation, the Ministry in their written submission stated one of the factors amongst many for the above :

"Shortage of skilled manpower/ labor".

4.13 On being asked about the allocation of staff at ground level, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation made the following submission in their post evidence reply:

"There is no district wise allocation of staff in Field Operations Division (FOD), NSSO. Generally, 3-4 districts are covered under a Sub Regional Office. Hence allocation of staff is Region-wise/sub-region wise. The Division has a regular sanctioned field staff strength of 3238 officers and contractual staff strength of 5382 for the on-going surveys. The strength of augmented staff varies from time to time depending upon requirement of surveys."

CHAPTER V

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 (ps+ss) and CWS annually for both rural and urban areas.

5.2 Rotational panel sampling design is being used for PLFS in the urban areas. In the rotational scheme of two years duration sampling frame for both urban and rural areas remain unchanged. The panel which had been in use for two years has been replaced with an updated panel from July, 2021. The updated panel will remain unaltered till July 2023. Current Panel (July 2021-June 2023) is in progress in eSIGMA platform.

5.3 The Annual Report on PLFS for 2020-21 was released in June 2022. Quarterly Bulletin of PLFS for the quarter April-June 2021 was released in March 2022, Quarterly Bulletin of PLFS for the quarter July-September 2021 was released in March 2022, Quarterly Bulletin of PLFS for the quarter October-December 2021 was released in May 2022 and Quarterly Bulletin of PLFS for the quarter January-March 2022 was released in June 2022. Bulletin of PLFS for the quarter April-June 2022 was released in August 2022, Bulletin of PLFS for the quarter July-September 2022 was released in November 2022.

5.4 The Ministry in their replies to list of points have furnished the following written submission on PLFS:

"Considering the importance of availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals, National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) launched Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017. The objective of PLFS is primarily twofold:

(i) To estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the Current Weekly Status (CWS).

(ii) To estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both usual status [Principal Status + Subsidiary Status (ps+ss)] and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually

SDRD has prepared the sampling design for PLFS in such a way that quarterly estimates of labour force indicators can be generated for urban areas with workable number of samples."

5.5 In response to a question as to when the most recent PLFS report was released by the Ministry. The Ministry, inter alia stated:

"Latest release of PLFS for October to December Quarter, 2022 has been made on 24th February, 2023. It is done within two months after the end of the quarter. We have also released the data on annual PLFS for 2021-22 on 24th February."

5.6 On being asked about the recommendations of the Committee that have been provisioned through the Demands for Grants 2023-24., Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation made the following oral submission:

"It may also be stated that NSSO has developed Android based web enabled modular survey application for modernization/ digitization of NSS surveys. PLFS was launched in this application platform on 13th September 2021. The CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) is the core Module of the application which enables data capture in field with in-built validation through hand-held

Tablets in both online and offline modes. Data collection through this application started from the Quarter July- September 2021 onwards and presently, data collection in PLFS is being done entirely through this application. This process has stabilized over time. This has enabled release of PLFS quarterly (Urban) results with reduced time lag."

5.7 On being asked whether self-employment more than 30 days is considered as employment under the PLFS, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation made the following submission in their post evidence reply:

"Till date, MoSPI has released five annual reports and 17 quarterly bulletins of PLFS. The latest Annual Report of PLFS 2021-22 has been released on 24th February 2023. The latest Quarterly Bulletin for October-December 2022 has been released within two months from the completion of the field work, on 24th February 2023."

5.8 when enquired about whether the Ministry maintains predetermined calendar for each of the data and surveys released under MoSPI, the Representatives of the Ministry made the following oral submission:

"a lot of questions have been raised on the release calendar. In this respect, if I can specify, usually, we have got a pre-specified release calendar for all our regular products. Since India conforms to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standards, in the case of GDP, we are releasing the quarterly estimate within two months from the end of the quarter, and that is strictly as per the SDDS recommendation where it has been recommended that each quarter's recommendation should be released within the next quarter. So, we are doing it in two months' time.

Similarly, in the case of Consumer Price Index number, we are releasing it in 12 days till the end of the month, which is among the fastest in the world.

If we see the IIP index of industrial production, we are releasing it within 42 days from the end of the month. So, on all of these we are constantly

evaluating ourselves vis-à-vis the global best practices and the desired guidelines in those respects. But for this service, which does not have very fixed periodicity, often we do not have the pre-decided release calendar. Your suggestion in this regard has been noted."

CHAPTER VI

SEVENTH ECONOMIC CENSUS

The 7th Economic Census (EC) is being conducted by MoSPI as a Central Sector Sub Scheme under the umbrella scheme Capacity Development during the period 2019-21. EC gives the total count of non-farm establishments in the formal and informal sector and number of workers working therein along with other cross-sectional parameters at the lowest level of geography.

6.2 CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd (an SPV under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) has been engaged as the implementing agency by the Ministry to undertake engagement & training of enumerators for data collection/supervision, development of IT platform, etc. for 7th EC. Field work of 7th EC was launched across the States/UTs in a phased manner during the year 2019 and was completed (except the State of West Bengal and a few pockets in the UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands) on 31st March, 2021.

6.3 End-to-end IT implementation in Economic Census has facilitated near real time fieldwork, monitoring, supervision, data analytics and report generation/dissemination. The sampling frame for future surveys, directory of establishments, etc., 7th EC results are expected to benefit policy makers, researchers, businesses, etc. in their evidence based decision making.

6.4 On a query regarding the improvements and efficiency brought about with the use of ICT application in the process of the 7th Economic Census, the Ministry gave the following reply:

"In previous six economic censuses, data collection activity was done on paper-based schedule. In the absence of digitization in data collection; real time monitoring of fieldwork & supervision, concurrent data analytics for improving data quality and mid-course corrections, etc. were major challenges.

For the first time in 7th Economic Census, comprehensive IT systems were created for real time monitoring and supervision of fieldwork being done by CSC. The details of fieldwork and second level supervision (SL-2) during the course of fieldwork of 7th EC was reflected on the MIS dashboard, whose credentials were available with NSO (FOD), State/UTs Govt. and MoSPI for concurrent monitoring. MIS dashboards were available at District/SRO/RO/State Capital/Zone/National levels for real-time monitoring of SL-2 activity. Data analytics, IT applications and extensive coordination was facilitated by the Command Centre established at MOSPI and manned by Technical Support Group (TSG) officials for concurrent monitoring and course corrections in 7th EC project. However, delay in finalization of 7th EC results indicates that 7th EC activity could not deliver desired outcome, despite these technological interventions. Till date, SLCCs of 10 State/UTs have approved the provisional results of 7th EC. Follow up with remaining State/UTs are being done for early examination and approval of the provisional results by the State Level Coordination Committees (SLCC) to enable Ministry in releasing All India results at the earliest."

6.5 When asked to give reasons for prolonged delay caused in releasing the 7th Economic Census, the Ministry submitted following in their post evidence reply :

"Till date, State Level Coordination Committees (SLCC) of 10 State/UTs (viz., Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Nagaland, Telangana and Jharkhand) have approved the provisional results of 7th EC. Rigorous review & coordination are being done by the Ministry with CSC for addressing the data related issues highlighted by several State/UTs (viz., Haryana, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Ladakh, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Assam, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh). SLCC meetings were held in Chandigarh and Puducherry and their approvals are awaited. Continuous

coordination with Goa, Rajasthan and Punjab is being done for early approval of provisional results by respective SLCCs."

6.6 In response to a question whether the govt has received any complaints from State Directorates of Economics & Statistics (DES) regarding statistical capacity constraints prevailing in states, the Ministry gave the following reply:

"With reference to 7th EC, Ministry has not received any complaints from the State directorates of Economics & Statistics (DES) regarding statistical capacity constraints prevailing in states."

6.7 In reply to investment done in the states in view of the prevailing statistical capacity constraints in states, the Ministry furnished following submission:

"As broadly enshrined in State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) and District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) terms of reference, the role of State government was in facilitating and supervision of training, sample supervision, resolution of operational and administrative issues during fieldwork, approval of provisional result etc. To facilitate the above, financial support of Rs 10.20 Crore have been released amongst all State/UTs till date".

6.8 In reply to specific query on Periodic Economic Census, the Ministry inter-alia given the following post evidence reply as stated below:

"So far, six economic censuses have been conducted in years 1977, 1980, 1990, 1998, 2005 and 2013. The results of 6th Economic Census were published in 2016. The data collection fieldwork for 7th Economic Census started in July 2019 and was completed in March 2021. 7th EC data collection and supervision were affected due to several operational challenges including COVID-19 pandemic. 7th EC results are yet to be finalized as approval of provisional results are yet to be obtained from various State Level Coordination Committees.

In the EFC for 7th EC, it was proposed to conduct economic census once every three years. "

CHAPTER VII

SUPPORT FOR STATISTICAL STRENGTHENING

The 'Statistical Strengthening' (SSS) is an on-going central sector sub-scheme of MoSPI which aims to improve the statistical capacity and operations of State Statistical Systems for collecting, compiling, and disseminating reliable official statistics for policy planning at the State and Sub-State levels. It is a Central Sector sub-scheme with 100% funding from the Centre under the Umbrella Scheme 'Capacity Development' of the Ministry. It is being implemented through the State Directorates/ Bureau of Economics & Statistics, as per the approved activities detailed in Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) signed between Government of India and the respective States/UTs. It has been implemented/is being implemented in 26 States/UTs. The process of onboarding remaining States/UTs is underway.

7.2 The SSS Sub - Scheme was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in March 2010 as the India Statistical Strengthening Project then a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for improving the statistical capacity and operations of State Statistical System. The project was later renamed as Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS). In 2016-17, SSS Scheme was made a Central Sector Sub-Scheme with 100% funding from the Centre under the Umbrella Scheme 'Capacity Development' of the Ministry.

7.3 The sub - scheme has been implemented/is being implemented in 26 States/UTs as on 31st October 2022.

In the States, implementation of the Scheme has resulted in improvements in compilation of core indicators, creation of data bases for policy planning in States and improved infrastructure and capacity. The thrust of the Scheme is now on achieving tangible statistical outcomes/products, thereby improving the States Statistical Systems, and taking them to the next level of development.

Major activities/significant developments during 2022-23:

- (i) A one-day Workshop on Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) sub-scheme of MoSPI was organized under the Chairmanship of Director General (C&A).

MoSPI on 08th June,2022 at KL Bhawan, New Delhi. The workshop was organized for eight States/UTs which are yet to be onboarded onto the sub-Scheme in order to help them understand the provisions of the sub – scheme and draft the State/UT specific programmes for implementation of the sub-Scheme.

- (ii) A meeting of the Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) of SSS sub scheme for consideration of Proposals of IT Hardware Procurement.of four States namely, Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar and Odisha and approval of propositions proposed for day-to-day matters for implementation of the sub-scheme was organized under the Chairmanship of Director General (C&A), MoSPI on 18th October,2022 at KL Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (iii) Ten Joint Review Meetings were held with Directorates of Economic & Statistics of Governments of Uttarakhand, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, J&K and Tripura on 05/04/2022, 08/04/2022, 20/04/2022, 22/04/2022, 26/04/2022, 13/05/2022,25/05/2022, 27/05/2022, 30/06/2022 and 04/07/2022, respectively, to review the status of implementation of SSS sub-scheme in the State and to discuss & address the issues faced by DESs in implementing the sub-Scheme.

7.4 The Ministry in their replies to list of points have furnished the following written submission on SSS:

The Capacity Development (CD) Scheme has three components namely, CD (Main), Economic Census (EC) and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS). EC and SSS are the Sub-schemes of the CD Scheme. The budget allocated and expenditure incurred under CD Scheme are as under:

(Rs. in Cr)

Name	2021-22			2022-23		
	BE	RE	Exp.	BE	RE	Exp. (as on 19.02.2023)
CD(Main)	284.92	270.23	235.73	452.46	319.95	251.19

EC	280.00	64.77	0.89	57.01	20.00	0.15
SSS	33.44	12.00	5.08	52.63	7.55	4.31
CD Scheme (Total)	598.36	347.00	241.70	562.10	347.50	255.65

Based on requirements for carrying out various activities, the total outlay of Capacity Development Scheme has been proposed to the tune of Rs. 600 crore in FY 2023-24. The component / Sub-Scheme wise distribution of the budget outlay is as under:

Sr. No.	Name of Components of CD Scheme	Budget Outlay 2022-23 (Rs in Cr)	Budget Outlay 2023-24 (Rs in Cr)	% Increase (+)/ Decrease (-)
1	Capacity Development (Main)	452.46	527.38	16.56%
2.	Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) – Sub scheme	52.63	10.31	-80.41%
3	Economic Census (EC) – Sub scheme	57.01	62.31	9.30%
CD Scheme (Total)		562.10	600.00	6.74%

The component / Sub-Scheme wise reasons for savings

SSS Sub- Scheme:

Under the SSS Sub-Scheme, funds are released to the Directorates of Economics & Statistics of the States/UTs with which MoU, delineating the activities to be carried out and the targets/outcomes to be achieved under the Sub-Scheme, is signed. The period of MoU is generally three years. After signing of MoU, funds in the form of grants-in-aid are released to the concerned State/UT in the form of instalments. While the first instalment is released as advance, the subsequent instalments are

released subject to 80% utilization of previous instalments and achievement of commensurate physical progress.

The total requirement of funds in terms of Budget/Revised Estimates in a particular financial year is worked out after assessing the progress of States/UTs based on the physical and financial progress as reported in their Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs). The BE of Rs.33.44 crore for the FY 2021-22 and the BE of Rs.52.63 crore for the FY 2022-23 was accordingly formulated. The expenditure under SSS sub- scheme is contingent upon raising of demands by the States / UTs which are implementing the sub-scheme. The currently implementing States/UTs which were expected to seek their second or third instalments during 2022-23 have not raised request for further fund release as per expectations. Thus, the allocation in the FY 2022-23 has been reduced from Rs.52.63 crore to Rs.7.55 crore at RE stage.

7.5 While deposing before the Committee on 28.02.2023, the DDG, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation made the following oral submission on SSS as stated below:

"As the support for statistical strengthening, as I told you, we basically provide funds to the State Governments for improving their capacity for statistical functioning. Under the sub-scheme, funds are transferred in three instalments to the States as per the MoUs signed with them. As of now, 26 States/UTs are implementing/implemented the sub-scheme. Out of 26, 11 States have implemented the sub-scheme. It started in 2010 and Rs. 331.6 crore was released to the States. BE for 2023-24 is Rs. 10 crores. Now that the demands are not coming from the States, it has been reduced to Rs. 10.31 crores. Funds in 2023-24 are provided for making payments towards committed expenditure of currently implementing States and funding in eight new States are envisaged to participate depending upon their willingness."

7.6 The budget outlay for SSS sub scheme in 2022-23 was Rs 52.63 crore. It has come down to Rs. 10.31 crore in 2023-24. There has been a downward revision of 80

percent in budget outlay of SSS sub scheme. On being asked to explain the reasons for the huge downward revision, the Ministry inter alia submitted the following written reply as stated below:

"The "Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS)" is an ongoing central sector sub – scheme of MoSPI under which financial support is provided to the States/UTs for undertaking statistical activities as specified in the one – time MoU signed with them.

34 States/UTs have expressed their willingness to participate in this sub – scheme. Since inception in 2010, MoUs have been signed with 26 States/UTs till date, out of which 11 States/UTs have completed the implementation of the SSS sub scheme, and 3 States are nearing completion. 12 States/UTs are at various stages of implementation. Efforts to take remaining 8 States/UTs on board are being made.

After signing of MoU, funds in the form of grants-in-aid are released to the concerned State/UT in the form of instalments. While the first instalment is released as advance, the subsequent instalments are released subject to 80% utilization of previous instalments and achievement of commensurate physical progress.

The total requirement of funds in terms of Budget/Revised Estimates in a particular financial year is worked out after assessing the progress of States/UTs based on the physical and financial progress as reported in their Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs). The BE of Rs.52.63 crore for the FY 2022-23 was accordingly formulated. However, the currently implementing States/UTs which were expected to seek their second or third instalments during 2022-23 have not raised request for further fund release as per expectations.

The primary reason due to which the States / UTs could not raise demand for further funds is that due to COVID pandemic in 2020-21 and 2021-22, the States/UTs could not undertake delineated activities at requisite pace thereby leading to decreased fund utilisation till 2022-23.

The Budget Estimates (BE) of Rs.10.31 crore for the FY 2023-24 has been proposed after careful and thorough consideration of the existing pace of

expenditure of the presently implementing States/UTs only which may raise demand for their subsequent instalments in 2023-24. The B.E. has been proposed at Rs.10.31 crore also in view of the past trend of utilization of funds. Additional funds, if required, would be sought at RE stage after thorough scrutiny of the absorption capacity of the implementing States/UTs.

The Ministry has been rigorously following up with the States/UTs for smooth operations and successful implementation of the Sub-Scheme by way of holding Joint Review Meetings and regular communication.

Further, in order to ensure that the currently implementing States/UTs are provided sufficient time to achieve the State / UT specific milestones under MoUs of sub-scheme, the Ministry has also provided them extension in time period of implementation of MoU."

CHAPTER VIII

MONITORING OF PROJECTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

8.1 The Infrastructure Projects Monitoring Division (IPMD) of the Programme Implementation (PI) wing of the Ministry monitors on-going Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing ₹150 crores and above on time & cost overruns on the basis of information supplied by the project implementing agencies. The concerned Ministries / agencies implementing the Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing ₹150 crores and above upload the data on the Online Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS), an online platform developed and maintained by the MoSPI. MoSPI collates the data entered by the ministries / agencies and releases monthly Flash Report (FR) and Quarterly Project Implementation Status Report (QPISR). The timeline for the release of monthly Flash Report has been reduced from 50 days to 15 days for the reporting month starting from November 2021. Through constant persuasion of ministry with the line ministries regarding reporting of projects by the implementing agencies, there has been an increase in the reporting of number of Central Sector Infrastructure Projects into the OCMS. Since the month of August 2021, the reporting of Infrastructure Projects costing Rs. 150 crores and above by the Ministries / Implementing Agencies on the OCMS of the Ministry has been more than 92%. As on 01st December, 2022, a total of 1,476 projects costing around ₹20,84,124.75 crores were on the monitor of this Ministry, out of which 756 projects are delayed. A total cost overrun of ₹4,52,054.28 crores were reported by the project implementing agencies for 364 projects. During 2022-23 (April 2022–November 2022), a total of 180 projects with completion cost of ₹1,80,047.86 crore reported completion.

8.2 The IPMD also monitors the performance of 11 key infrastructure sectors on monthly basis against monthly production as well as cumulative production targets. As per the latest Review Report on the Performance of the Infrastructure Sectors up to the month of October 2022, Power Generation, Refinery production, Revenue earning goods Traffic in Railways, and Passenger traffic handled at international terminal of the Airports exceeded its targets. Sectors fell short of their target are Coal Production,

Fertilizers Production, Crude Oil Production, Natural Gas Production, Upgradation of Highways by NHAI, construction/widening/strengthening of existing weak pavement/improvement in riding quality by State PWD & Border Road Organisation (BRO), Export & Import Cargo handled at Airports and Passenger traffic handled at Domestic terminal of the Airports.

8.3 In response to a question as to how many projects under IPMD have incurred time/cost overrun and the average period of such delay as well as the extent of cost enhancement along with the number of projects being monitored, the Ministry furnished the following reply:

"As on 01.02.2023, 1454 Central sector infrastructure projects were on the Ministry's OCMS portal. Out of these 1454 projects, 871 projects were having time overrun with average delay of approximately 40 months and 335 projects were having cost overrun of Rs. 4.46 lakh crore".

8.4 Further on a query as to the factors responsible for time and cost overrun in project implementation and the initiatives taken by the IPMD to bring about improvements in implementation of projects, the Ministry furnished the following reply:

"The causes for time and cost overruns are project- specific, depend on a variety of technical, financial, and administrative factors, and differ from project to project. However, as reported by the project implementing agencies on this Ministry's OCMS, the main reasons for increase in cost of the projects are: Under-estimation of original cost; Changes in rates of foreign exchange and statutory duties; High cost of environmental safeguards & rehabilitation measures; Spiraling land acquisition costs; Shortage of skilled manpower/ labor; Changes in Project scope; Monopolistic pricing by vendors of equipment services; General Price rise / inflation and Time Overruns and the main reasons for delay in timely completion of the Projects are: law and order problems, delay in land acquisition, delay in environment and forest clearances, funding constraints, rehabilitation and resettlement issues, local body / municipal permissions, utility shifting, contractual issues, etc.

IPMD of the Ministry send letters to all concerned ministries highlighting the reasons for delay/ cost overrun so that action can be taken accordingly. The other steps taken are: Information on periodic review of projects under PRAGATI as and when desired by PMO; Information on ongoing central sector infrastructure project status in state during the state visit of Hon'ble PM: rigorous project appraisal; On-line Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) for better monitoring; and setting up of Central Sector Projects Coordination Committees (CSPCCs) in the States under the concerned Chief Secretaries for removal of bottlenecks and for facilitating the speedy implementation of major projects."

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Capacity Development (CD) Scheme

1. The Committee note that under the Capacity Development (CD) Scheme there have been a shortfall in fund utilization by Rs.357.66 crore in 2021-22 against the BE of Rs.598.36 crore and Rs.344.27 crore in 2022-23 against the Budget allocation of 562.10 crore (62.24% shortfall). The reason furnished by the Ministry for the shortfalls include such factors as expenditure ceilings / restrictions/ guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance, issues arising out of Covid 19 pandemic which curtailed tours, training of officers, workshops/seminars etc. The Committee observe that many projects under the CD Head have been left dormant.

2. With regard to major Head 2552 - release of funds to the North-East region in respect of various activities by NSO and SSS sub scheme, the Committee note that there is a downward revision in the fund outlay to the extent of 57.8% in 2023-24. It has been submitted by the Ministry that the substantial reduction in fund was worked out based on the physical and financial progress of states and past trend of utilization of funds. The Committee, therefore, suggest that the Ministry should identify the reason for the non-utilization of funds and take appropriate measures to ensure that the allocated funds are utilized, schemes / activities be adequately provided for and nurtured systematically and implemented vigorously.

MPLAD

3. The committee deliberated on a wide range of issues related to MPLAD Scheme such as:

- (i) Reviewing of MPLAD guidelines without full consultations with the Members of Parliament.
- (ii) The difficulty faced by MPs in submission of Utilization Certificates.
- (iii) Delayed execution of recommended projects under the scheme.
- (iv) Need to increase the MPLAD funds from 5 crore to 10 crore under the scheme.
- (v) GST exemption for works executed under MPLAD Scheme.

These issues are complex and would require careful consideration to identify viable solutions that can effectively address them. The Committee has thus decided to examine the subject separately in detail.

Shortage of Manpower

4. The Committee have noted with concern the shortage of manpower in the Ministry, especially in the senior and junior statistical office cadre; on 30th November 2022, 266 vacancies exist which is roughly 33% of the total sanctioned strength. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to pursue the matter of recruitment with Staff Selection Commission (SSC) vigorously so that the vacancies can be filled within this financial year. With regard to shortage of manpower in Field Operation Division in NSSO, the Committee would recommend

for recruiting more field based staff on a mission mode basis for accurate and reliable data collection.

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

5. The response of the Ministry highlights the significance of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) launched by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in 2017. The Survey serves as a valuable tool in generating annual estimates of various employment and unemployment indicators for both rural and urban areas, providing essential socio-economic insights. The Committee observe that the Ministry has taken initiatives towards leveraging advanced information technology to address the time-lag in releasing the PLFS reports. The Quarterly Bulletin of PLFS for the Quarter April-June, 2021 was released in March 2022, for July-September 2021 in March 2022, for October-December 2021 was released in May, 2022, for January-March 2022 in June 2022, for the quarter April-June 2022 was released in August 2022 and for July-September 2022 was released in November, 2022. The Committee recommend that the Ministry continues to prioritize the use of technology in the PLFS survey, such as data analytics tools and automation techniques to improve the efficiency of data processing and reduce manual errors.

Predetermined Annual Calender

6. The Committee note that the publication of key statistical data and surveys by the Ministry has not been regular. The need for timely and reliable statistics for

policy formulation and planning cannot be over emphasized. To address this issue, the Committee recommends that the Ministry establish a predetermined calendar of specific dates for the publication of key statistical data. This calendar should be widely disseminated to all stakeholders and should include clear timelines for the publication of various data that are released under the MOSPI. The Committee further recommend that the Ministry ensure that the publication of statistical data adheres strictly to the predetermined calendar. Establishing a predetermined calendar for the publication of statistical data will provide greater predictability and transparency and enable stakeholders to plan better and make informed decisions. The Committee believe that this is essential for promoting data-driven policy-making and effective implementation of development programs. The Committee therefore urge the Ministry to take immediate action to establish a predetermined calendar of specific dates for the publication of key statistical data and to ensure that this calendar is followed strictly.

Economic Census

7. The Committee understand that Economic Census (EC) provides valuable insights into spread / clusters of economic activities, ownership patterns, source of finance etc. of all establishments in the country. Regarding the 7th EC, which was launched in 2019, the Ministry informed that using advanced ICT tools, 7th EC was completed in March 2021. The Ministry further informed that 7th Economic Census data collection and supervision were affected due to several operational challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic. 7th EC results are yet to be finalized as approval of provisional results is yet to be obtained from various state level

coordination committees. The Committee note that the release of the 7th Economic Census has been delayed. The Committee thus recommend that the Ministry take a proactive approach to expedite the process of data collection at state level and work closely with the states to overcome any obstacles they may be facing in providing the required data. The Ministry should also provide additional resources to the states that are facing statistical capacity constraints in terms of providing data.

Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS)

8. The Committee note a significant decrease in budget allocation for the support for statistical strengthening (SSS) sub-Scheme from Rs.52.63 crore in 2022-23 to just Rs.10.31 crore in 2023-24, indicating a downward trend of 80%. The reason furnished by the Ministry for the shortfall includes the existing pace of expenditure and the past of underutilization of funds. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry conduct a comprehensive review of the previous year's fund utilization and identify the specific reasons for underutilization of funds. The Committee also feel that Ministry should consider implementing measures to improve the monitoring and evaluation of the SSS sub scheme to track progress and identify areas for improvement. The Committee would like to further emphasize that schemes / activities should be adequately provided for and nurtured systematically and implemented vigorously so that desired objectives are fully achieved in the manner envisaged.

Monitoring of Projects and Infrastructure.

9. The Committee note that the Infrastructure and Project Monitoring Division (IPMD) of the Ministry is mandated with monitoring of Central Sector Projects costing more than Rs.150 crore in 11 key sectors. The IPMD acts as an independent watchdog and monitor flagged slow /wayward projects. The Committee also note that as on 01.02.2023 there were 1454 ongoing central sector projects on the OCMS portal of the Ministry; approximately 60% of projects are having time overrun with average delay of approximately 40 months and 335 projects were having cost overrun of Rs.4.46 lakh crore. The reasons furnished by the Ministry for the time and cost overrun in projects include factors such as underestimation of original cost, changes in rates of foreign exchange and customs duty, high cost of environmental safeguards, spiraling land acquisition costs amongst others. The Committee do acknowledge that mechanisms are in place and some of the stated factors cannot be avoided.

New Delhi;
15 March, 2023
24 Phalgun, 1944 (Saka)

SHRI JAYANT SINHA,
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Finance

Minutes of the Tenth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2022-23). The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 28th February, 2023 from 1100hrs. to 1300 hrs in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Jayant Sinha – Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
3. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
4. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
5. Smt. Sunita duggal
6. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
7. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
8. Shri Hemant Shriram Patil
9. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
10. Shri Nama Nageswara Rao
11. Prof. Sougata Ray
12. Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy
13. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
14. Shri Manish Tewari
15. Shri Balashowry Vallabbhaneni

RAJYA SABHA

16. Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agarwal
17. Shri Raghav Chadha
18. Shri Damodar Rao Divakonda
19. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi
20. Dr. Amar Patnaik
21. Dr. C.M. Ramesh
22. Shri G.V.L Narasimha Rao

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Siddharth Mahajan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora | - | Additional Director |

WITNESSES

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

1. Shri Arun Kumar Biswas, DG (C&A)
2. Shri Jayant Sinha, AS & FA
3. Shri Alok Shekhar, Additional Secretary (PI)
4. Smt. Nivedita Gupta, DG (Statistics)
5. Shri Ghan Shyam, ADG (IIICU)
6. Shri P.R.Meshram, ADG (Computer Centre)
7. Shri Tanweer Qamar Mohammad, Joint Secretary (Administration)
8. Shri Arindam Modak, DDG (PI)
9. Shri Pankaj Srivastava, DDG (EC)
10. Ms. Sanghmitra Bandopadhyay, Director, ISI Kolkata
11. Shri Praveen Shukla, DDG (FOD)
12. Smt. Chetna Shukla, DDG (FOD)

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 mandate of the Ministry and budget allocations. The subsequent issues discussed include Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADs), modernization of data collection and data management processes for the census, steps taken to improve the quality of Government statistics, inordinate delay caused in releasing of 7th economic census, labour statistics, National Programme for improving quality of statistics in India, revised guidelines on MPLAD scheme, administration of fund flows, amendment of MPLAD guidelines without consulting the Members of Parliament, review of the latest draft guidelines issued on MPLAD scheme, capacity development scheme, periodic Labour Force Survey, low budgetary outlay for support for statistical strengthening such scheme, abolition of veto power of Deputy Commissioner under MPLAD scheme, abolition of process of submission of utilization certificate under MPLAD scheme, exclusion of MPLAD development works or capital expenditure on buying equipment from GST, methodological change in periodic labour force survey and other schemes, publication of integration of CSR funds with MPLADs,

predetermined calendar of specific dates of each of the surveys done by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, steps taken by the Ministry during the last few years to reduce or eliminate political interference in terms of quality of survey, the data collection activities, methodology and subsequent analysis, delinking of ISI from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Statistical data book, Consumer Price Index and Index of Industrial Production.

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 a week to the Secretariat.

The witnesses then withdrew.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

Minutes of the Fifteenth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2022-23)
The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 15th March, 2023 from 1500hrs. to 1720
hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Jayant Sinha – Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
3. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
4. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
5. Smt. Sunita duggal
6. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
7. Shri Sudheer Gupta
8. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
9. Shri Pinaki Misra
10. Shri Hemant Shriram Patil
11. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
12. Prof. Sougata Ray
13. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
14. Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki
15. Shri Manish Tewari
16. Shri Balashowry Vallabbhaneni
17. Shri Rajesh Verma

RAJYA SABHA

18. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi
19. Dr. Amar Patnaik
20. Shri G.V.L Narasimha Rao
21. Shri Pramod Tiwari

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Siddharth Mahajan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora | - | Additional Director |

PART I

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(The witnesses then withdrew)

3. 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) Fifty-Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services, Investment & Public Asset Management and Public Enterprises).
- (ii) Fifty-Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (iii) Fifty-Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (iv) Fifty-Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Planning.
- (v) Fifty-Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

After some deliberations, the Committee adopted draft Reports on DFG (2023-24) and authorised the Chairperson to finalise them and present the Reports to the Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.