

05

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2024-25)**

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME
IMPLEMENTATION**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
2024-25**

FIFTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2024/ Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

FIFTH REPORT

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2024-25)**

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2024-25)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 6 December 2024

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 6 December 2024



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2024/ Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

CONTENT		
REPORT		
Composition of the Committee		(iv)
Introduction		(v)
PART-I NARRATION ANALYSIS		
		Page No.
Chapter - I	Introductory	1
Chapter - II	Budgetary Allocations and Utilisations	8
Chapter- III	Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	31
Chapter- IV	Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)	39
Chapter- V	Shortage of Manpower	45
Chapter- VI	Eighth Economic Census	50
PART-II		
	OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE	52-55
APPENDICES		
Appendix – I	Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 29.10.2024	56
Appendix – II	Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 04.12.2024	59

COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (2024-25)

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

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

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri P. Chidambaram
23. Shri Milind Murlidhar Deora
24. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
25. Shri Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy
26. Shri S. Selvaganabathy
27. Shri Sanjay Seth
28. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
29. Smt. Darshana Singh
30. Dr. M. Thambidurai
31. Shri Pramod Tiwari

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Gaurav Goyal Joint Secretary
2. Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa Director
3. Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana Deputy Secretary
4. Smt. Mradula Dubey Assistant Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorised by the Committee, present this Fifth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

2. The Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation have been examined by the Committee under Rule Section 331E(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 29 October, 2024. 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 (2024-25).

4. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their Sitting held on 4 December, 2024.

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

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

**New Delhi;
4 December, 2024
13 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)**

**Bhartruhari Mahtab
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, Union Territories 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 Statistics of Price and Cost of Living (TAC on SPCL). 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”. The Ministry also functions as the cadre controlling authority for two services namely, Indian Statistical Service (ISS) (Group-A) and Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) (Group-B).

B. NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO)

1.4 The NSO brings out important economic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) and other official statistics to support government decision making and framing of appropriate socio-economic policies/programmes. These statistical products/outcomes are consistent with the relevant international standards. The GDP estimates are released quarterly and annually as per an advance release calendar. The methodology used in the process is consistent with the United Nations guidelines contained in System of National Accounts-2008. The monthly Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is released with a lag of 42 days, as per the methodology adopted from international standards. It is used as a short term indicator by planners and policy makers for assessing industrial growth. The monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) is released with a lag of 12 days on the 12th of every month (next working day if 12th is holiday) as per the methodology adopted from international standards/best practices. It is used as a short-term indicator by planners and policy makers for assessing levels of living. It is also used as a measure of retail inflation by the Reserve Bank of India in regulating its monetary policy.

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

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

- i. To act as the nodal agency for planning integrated development of the statistical system in the country.
- ii. To formulate and maintain norms and standards related to statistics.
- iii. To coordinate the statistical work in respect of the Central Ministries/Departments and State Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DESSs).
- iv. To prepare and publish National Accounts Statistics, namely, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE), Capital Formation, Savings, etc.
- v. To compile and release Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers and Annual Inflation rates based on these CPI numbers.
- vi. To compile and release the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) every month.
- vii. To conduct large scale all-India socio-economic sample surveys.
- viii. To conduct the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI).
- ix. To conduct Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).
- x. To conduct other surveys like price collection surveys, agriculture area enumeration and crop cutting experiments, urban frame surveys, etc.
- xi. To conduct periodic all-India Economic Censuses and related activities.
- xii. To maintain liaison with international Statistical Organizations, such as the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Labour Organisation (ILO), etc.

- xiii. To bring out reports as per the international/regional commitments such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Country Report and SAARC Development Goals India Country Report.

National Accounts Division

1.7 The National Accounts Division (NAD) of Central Statistics Office (CSO) 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 Savings along with details of transactions of institutional sectors. NAD annually brings out a publication titled “National Accounts Statistics”, containing these estimates. 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.

1.8 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.

1.9 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.

1.10 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 2023-24 is given below:

Calendar for Quarterly Estimates of GDP

- (i) Q3 of 2023-24 : 29th February 2024
- (ii) Q4 of 2023-24 : 31st May 2024
- (iii) Q1 of 2024-25 : 30th August 2024
- (iv) Q2 of 2024-25 : 29th November 2024

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

Calendar for Annual Estimates of GDP

- (i) First Advance Estimates for 2023-24 : 05th January 2024
- (ii) First Revised Estimates for 2022-23 : 29th February 2024
- (iii) Second Advance Estimates for 2023-24 : 29th February 2024
- (iv) Provisional Estimates for 2023-24 : 31st May 2024

Cadre Control

1.11 The Administration Division of the Ministry deals with administrative/ establishment and service related matters of the officers of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS), Central Secretariat Stenographers Service (CSSS), Central Secretariat Official Language (CSOL), Central Secretariat Clerical Service (CSCS) and Minister's Staff posted in the Ministry. In addition to the above, Administration Division of the Ministry also deals with service matters of the officers of Central Staffing Scheme posted in the Ministry. It also functions as the Cadre Controlling Authority of officers of Indian Statistical Service (ISS) and Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) cadres and Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) including matters relating to their training, career progression and manpower planning.

C. THE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (PI) WING

1.12 The Programme Implementation Wing has the following responsibilities:

- (i) Monitoring the performance of the country's eleven key infrastructure sectors, viz., Power, Coal, Steel, Railways, Telecommunications, Ports, Fertilizers, Cement, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Roads and Civil Aviation.
- (ii) Monitoring of all Central Sector Projects costing ₹150 crores and above. The monitoring of the implementation of the Central Sector Projects above ₹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 data collected through OCMS portal is utilized to generate inputs for several high-level meetings, including the PRAGATI monthly review, the Prime Minister's State visits, for addressing Parliamentary Questions and requests under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.
- (iii) Implementation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

D. NATIONAL STATISTICAL COMMISSION (NSC)

1.13 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.

1.14 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.

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

1.16 When enquired about any new programmes being envisaged by the Ministry, MoSPI in a written reply stated as follows:

- *“Multi-centre bachelor’s programme in data science, taught in hybrid mode, is designed keeping in mind national need of data science professionals in the Government and non-Government sectors.*
- *Online post-graduate diploma programme in applied statistics was launched to strengthen statistics education both for national and international audience.*
- *Formation of Research Centre for Economics and Data Analysis is in progress.*

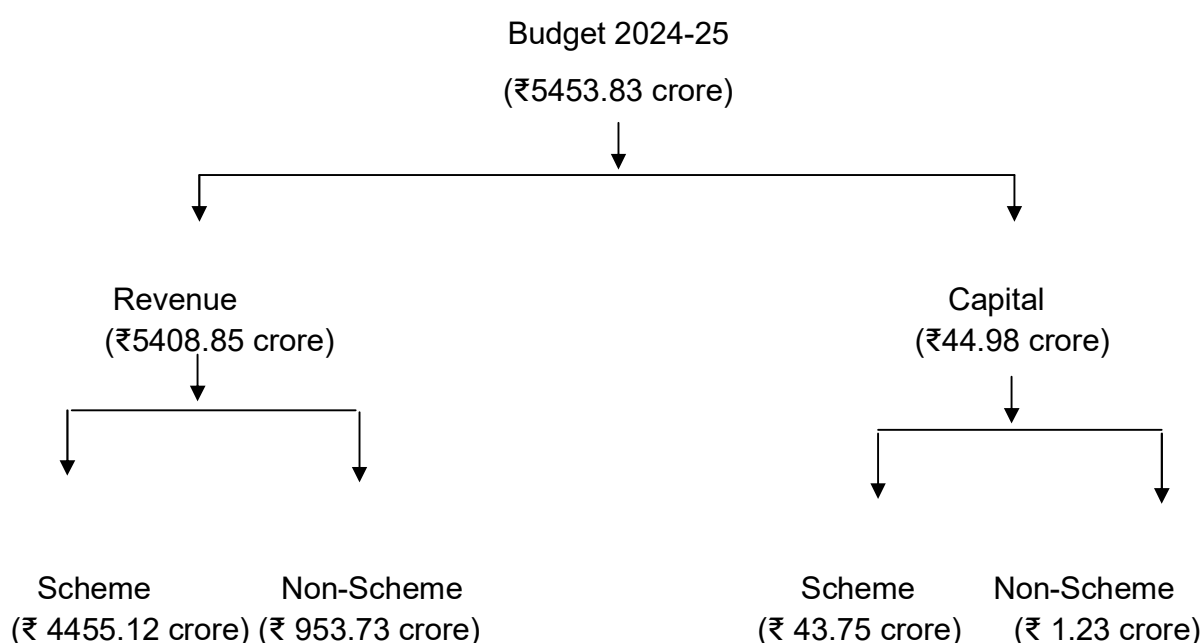
Along with the ongoing surveys of NSSO viz., PLFS, HCES, ASUSE, TUS and ASI, the following surveys are to be undertaken by NSSO, MoSPI as per the details given below:

- (i) CAPEX Survey for 2023-24 will be initiated from Q3 of 2024-25.*
- (ii) ASI 2023-24 will be initiated from Q3 of 2024-25.*
- (iii) ASUSE 2024-25 will be initiated from Q4 of 2024-25.”*

CHAPTER II
BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

BUDGET 2024-25

2.1 The Demands for Grants under Demand No. 96 for the Ministry includes a budget proposal of ₹ 5453.83 crore for the year 2024-25. The demand under Revenue is ₹5408.85 crore and under Capital is ₹ 44.98 crore. The Ministry proposes to undertake two Schemes namely, (i) Capacity Development (CD) Scheme and (ii) Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).



2.2 A statement showing Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Accruals for 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and Budget Estimates for 2024-25 both under Scheme and Non-Scheme is given below:

(Summary and analysis pg 2-3)

Statement showing BE, RE & Actuals for 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and BE for 2024-25										
(Total Scheme and Total Non-Scheme)										
										(Rs.in lakhs)
	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25
	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE	RE	Actual	BE
Non-Scheme (Total MOSPI)	76,215.00	75,650.00	71,803.38	87,097.00	86,459.00	82,167.54	88,490.00	91,101.00	83,896.64	95,496.00
(%ge change)				(14.3%)	(14.3%)	(94.3%)	(1.6%)	(5.4%)	(94.8%)	(7.9%)
Scheme (Without MPLADS)	62,688.00	34,700.00	24,170.45	56,211.00	34,750.00	32,767.04	60,000.00	45,000.00	42,994.35	54,387.00
(%ge change)				-(10.3%)	(0.1%)	(58.3%)	(6.7%)	(29.5%)	(71.7%)	-(9.4%)
TOTAL (Scheme + Non scheme) without MPLADS	138,903.00	110,350.00	95,973.83	143,308.00	121,209.00	114,934.58	148,490.00	136,101.00	126,890.99	149,883.00
(%ge change)				(3.2%)	(9.8%)	(80.2%)	(3.6%)	(12.3%)	(85.5%)	(0.9%)
MPLADS	2,010.00	263,350.00	173,211.60	396,500.00	396,500.00	256,696.34	395,850.00	260,000.00	120,057.33	395,500.00

(%ge change)				(19626.4%)	(50.6%)	(64.7%)	-(0.2%)	-(34.4%)	(30.3%)	-(0.1%)
TOTAL Scheme (including MPLADS)	64,698.00	298,050.00	197,382.05	452,711.00	431,250.00	289,463.38	455,850.00	305,000.00	163,051.68	449,887.00
(%ge change)				(599.7%)	(44.7%)	(63.9%)	(0.7%)	-(29.3%)	(35.8%)	-(1.3%)
G. TOTAL MOSPI (Scheme + Non Scheme)	140,913.00	373,700.00	269,185.43	539,808.00	517,709.00	371,630.92	544,340.00	396,101.00	246,948.32	545,383.00
(%ge change)				(283.1%)	(38.5%)	(68.8%)	(0.8%)	-(23.5%)	(45.4%)	(0.2%)
Note : %ge increase (+) / decrease (-) in BE & RE has been calculated using figures of the current year over the corresponding figure of previous year.										
%age of Actuals has been calculated using figures of the respective year BE										

Statement showing BE, RE and Actuals for 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and BE for 2024-25 (Major Head wise and Division wise)

(Scheme and Non-Scheme)

(Rs. in crore)

	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25
	B.E.	R.E.	Actuals	B.E.	R.E.	Actuals	B.E.	R.E.	(*)Expenditure (based on e-lekha as on 31.03.2024)	B.E.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Major Head "2052" / 00.090. Sectt. General Services										
Non-Scheme	7.49	6.90	6.19	7.54	7.83	6.89	8.51	8.45	6.14	8.80
%ge increase				(0.7%)	(13.5%)	(91.4%)	(12.9%)	(7.9%)	(72.2%)	(3.4%)
Major Head"2553"/00.101.MPLADS										
Scheme	20.10	2,633.50	1,732.12	3,965.00	3,965.00	2,566.96	3,958.50	2,600.00	1,200.57	3,954.75
%ge increase				(19626.4%)	(50.6%)	(64.7%)	-(0.2%)	-(34.4%)	(30.3%)	-(0.1%)
Major Head"3451" / 00.090 Sectt. Economic Services										
Non-Scheme	23.90	24.17	22.46	64.05	62.28	60.35	27.51	28.97	28.11	30.10
%ge increase				(168.0%)	(157.7%)	(94.2%)	-(57.0%)	-(53.5%)	(102.2%)	(9.4%)
Major Head"3451" / 00.090.51-National Statistical Commission										
Non-Scheme	1.37	1.37	0.70	1.44	1.44	0.74	1.42	1.24	0.71	1.26
%ge increase				(5.1%)	(5.1%)	(51.4%)	-(1.4%)	-(13.9%)	(50.0%)	-(11.3%)
Major Head"3454" / 02.201 NSSO										
Non-Scheme	353.00	375.69	349.34	411.40	411.40	390.72	452.46	441.86	425.10	463.17

%ge increase				(16.5%)	(9.5%)	(95.0%)	(10.0%)	(7.4%)	(94.0%)	(2.4%)
Major Head“3454” / 02.202 ISI, Kolkata										
Non-Scheme	320.01	289.12	283.04	321.70	315.32	299.37	322.29	357.55	312.80	375.59
%ge increase				(0.5%)	(9.1%)	(93.1%)	(0.2%)	(13.4%)	(97.1%)	(16.5%)
Major Head“3454” / 02.203 Computer Services										
Non-Scheme	7.82	8.33	6.79	9.13	7.81	6.45	8.34	8.34	6.54	8.77
%ge increase				(16.8%)	-(6.2%)	(70.6%)	-(8.7%)	(6.8%)	(78.4%)	(5.2%)
Major Head“3454” / 02.204 Central Statistical Office										
Scheme	573.74	309.01	233.19	499.04	313.18	319.83	549.56	400.26	411.14	481.37
%ge increase				-(13.0%)	(1.3%)	(64.1%)	(10.1%)	(27.8%)	(74.8%)	-(12.4%)
Non-Scheme	46.92	49.32	48.17	53.98	56.78	55.85	61.28	61.51	57.86	64.13
%ge increase				(15.0%)	(15.1%)	(103.5%)	(13.5%)	(8.3%)	(94.4%)	(4.7%)
Major Head“3454” / 02.798 International Cooperation										
Non-Scheme	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.22	0.22	0.20	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.22
%ge increase				(4.8%)	(4.8%)	(90.9%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(95.5%)	(0.0%)
Major Head“3454” / 02. 800 Other Expenditure (includes Departmental Canteen)										
Non-Scheme	1.43	1.39	1.14	1.51	1.51	1.11	1.64	1.64	0.95	1.69
%ge increase				(5.6%)	(8.6%)	(73.5%)	(8.6%)	(8.6%)	(57.9%)	(3.0%)
Major Head“2552” – North Eastern Area										
Scheme	40.10	22.16	-	43.07	22.59	-	18.19	18.19	-	19.00
%ge increase				(7.4%)	(1.9%)	-	-(57.8%)	-(19.5%)	-	(4.5%)

Major Head "5475" Capital Outlay										
Scheme	13.04	15.83	8.51	20.00	11.73	7.84	32.25	31.55	18.81	43.75
%ge increase				(53.4%)	-(25.9%)	(39.2%)	(61.3%)	(169.0%)	(58.3%)	(35.7%)
Non-Scheme	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.23	1.23	0.54	1.23
%ge increase	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(43.9%)	(0.0%)
TOTAL (All Major Heads)										
Total Non-Scheme (% increase)	762.15	756.50	718.03	870.97 (14.3%)	864.59 (14.3%)	821.68 (94.3%)	884.90 (1.6%)	911.01 (5.4%)	838.96 (94.8%)	954.96 (7.9%)
Total Scheme (% increase)	646.98	2,980.50	1,973.82	4,527.11 (599.7%)	4,312.50 (44.7%)	2,894.63 (63.9%)	4,558.50 (0.7%)	3,050.00 (-29.3%)	1,630.52 (35.8%)	4,498.87 (-1.3%)
Grand Total (% increase)	1,409.13	3,737.00	2,691.85	5,398.08 (283.1%)	5,177.09 (38.5%)	3,716.31 (68.8%)	5,443.40 (0.8%)	3,961.01 (-23.5%)	2,469.48 (45.4%)	5,453.83 (0.2%)

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

NON-SCHEME 2024-25

2.3 The Ministry's Non-Scheme budget of ₹ 954.96 crore in 2024-25 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 2024-25 are given below:

Object Head	Budget (₹ in lakh)	% of total Non- Scheme Budget
Salaries	33539.00	35.12
Rewards	293.20	0.31
Medical Treatment	829.31	0.87
Allowances	20664.00	21.64
LTC	420.64	0.44
Training Expenses	31.98	0.03
Domestic Travels	578.17	0.61
Foreign Travel	15.62	0.02
Office Expenses	765.61	0.80
Rent Rates and Taxes for Land and Buildings	331.89	0.35
Printing and Publication	16.47	0.02
Rent for Others	81.76	0.09
Digital Equipment	38.00	0.04
Materials & Supplies	7.00	0.01
Fuels & Lubricants	26.00	0.03
Advertising and Publicity	2.00	0.00
Minor Civil and electric Works	30.00	0.03
Professional Services	32.50	0.03
Repair and Maintenance	58.79	0.06
Other Revenue Expenditure	24.00	0.03
International Contribution	22.00	0.02
Grant in Aid General (IARNIW)	6.06	0.01

Grants-in-aid to ISI, Kolkata	37559.00	39.33
Capital	123.00	0.13
Total	95496.00	

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 ₹375.59 crore has been kept as grants-in-aid to the Institute, as Non-Scheme allocation during 2024-25.

2.5 National Statistical Commission Non-Scheme budget for the year 2024-25 has been pegged at ₹ 1.36 crore.

2.6 Trend of Non-Scheme allocation indicates an increase from ₹ 911.01 crore in 2023-24 (RE) to ₹ 954.96 crore (BE) during 2024-25.

2.7 When asked about utilization of increased amount in budgetary grant under this Major Head '3454', the Ministry stated in its written reply is as under :

"The total allocation for ISI in BE 2023-24 and BE 2024-25 are as follows:

	2023-24 (Rs. In Crore)	2024-25 (Rs. In Crore)
Salary	235.81	287.08
General	62.77	69.04
Capital	23.71	19.47

The increase in salary is due to increments, increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and House rent allowance (HRA), enhancements in terminal benefits, etc. It also takes into consideration prospective benefits that are currently under process for sanction by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India post enhancement of DA beyond 50%.

The increase in the budget under General head is less than 10 %, which is less than the requirements.

From 2024-25 onwards, the salaries for some temporary research and project staff as well as the fellowship amount paid to the research scholars and arrears due to the enhancement of their fellowships are now to be paid from General Head.

Therefore, in the RE 2024-25 it is proposed to reduce the requirements under the Salary head as per the actual requirements and increase the same in the General Head to meet the requirements.”

SCHEME 2024-25

2.8 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 2024-25 for the Ministry is ₹ 4498.87 crore.

2.9 Out of the total Scheme budget of ₹ 4498.87 crore, ₹ 543.87 crore is earmarked for Capacity Development (CD) Scheme. The major components of expenditure of CD Scheme are as follows:

Object Head	Budget (₹ in lakh)	% of total CD Scheme Budget
Salaries	832.00	1.530
Rewards	12.97	0.024

Medical Treatment	36.50	0.067
Allowances	525.00	0.965
LTC	14.61	0.027
Training Expenses	811.00	1.491
Domestic Travels	3424.11	6.296
Foreign Travel	171.10	0.315
Office Expenses	4636.40	8.525
Rent Rates and Taxes for Land and Buildings	8061.50	14.822
Printing and Publication	127.85	0.235
Rent for Others	698.00	1.283
Digital Equipment	371.00	0.682
Materials & Supplies	36.00	0.066
Fuels & Lubricants	91.00	0.167
Advertising and Publicity	1207.10	2.219
Minor Civil and electric Works	1035.00	1.903
Professional Services	24608.36	45.247
Repair and Maintenance	338.00	0.621
Awards & Prizes	6.00	0.011
Other Revenue Expenditure	173.40	0.319
Grant-in-Aid-General	920.10	1.692
Grant-in-Aid-General for NER	1900.00	3.493
Motor Vehicle	20.00	0.037
Machinery and Equipment	274.00	0.504
ICT Equipment	1904.00	3.501
Buildings and Structures	1600.00	2.942
Infrastructure Assets	225.00	0.414
Furniture & Fixtures	195.00	0.359
Other Fixed Assets	32.00	0.059
Land	100.00	0.184
Total	54387.00	

2.10 System of Monitoring of Performance of Capacity Development Scheme

- (i) The activities, which are part / components of the CD Scheme are monitored regularly, through review meetings on physical and financial progress of the scheme.
- (ii) Regular meetings with stake holders are organized to oversee, guide and timely implementing the concerned activities.
- (iii) The expenditure is being closely monitored wherever required; so as to avoid large scale unspent budget provisions.

2.11 An amount of ₹ 3955.00 crore has been provided in BE 2024-25 under MPLADS.

2.12 Grants-in-aid (under Scheme): The proposed outlay under grants-in-aid during 2024-25 is ₹ 9.2010 crore for Capacity Development scheme (Non-North East) and ₹ 3950.00 crore under MPLAD Scheme.

2.13 The Scheme wise allocation (BE, RE and Actuals) during 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (BE) are as follows:

Scheme-wise allocation of BE, RE & Actual Expenditure 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25

(Scheme Budget)

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	2021-22	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25
		Actual expenditure	BE	RE	Actual expenditure	BE	RE	Expenditure (based on e-lekha on 31.03.2024)	BE
Central Sector Schemes (1 to 2):									
1	Capacity Development	24,170.45	56,210.00	34,750.00	32,767.04	60,000.00	45,000.00	42,994.35	54,387.00
2	NPIQSI	-	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Total MOSPI (without MPLADS)		24,170.45	56,211.00	34,750.00	32,767.04	60,000.00	45,000.00	42,994.35	54,387.00
P.I. Wing									
3	MPLADS	173,211.60	396,500.00	396,500.00	256,696.34	395,850.00	260,000.00	120,057.33	395,500.00
Grand Scheme Total (MOSPI)		197,382.05	452,711.00	431,250.00	289,463.38	455,850.00	305,000.00	163,051.68	449,887.00

2.14 There has been a shortfall in fund utilization by Rs. 234.43 crore in 2022-23 against the BE of Rs. 562.10 crore and Rs. 170.06 crore in 2023-24 against the Budget allocation of Rs. 600.00 (28.34% downfall) under Capacity Development Scheme. On being asked to explain the reasons for the mismatch between budgetary allocation and its utilization, the Ministry *inter-alia* submitted the following reply as stated below:

“The Capacity Development (CD) Scheme of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has three components namely, CD (Main), Economic Census (EC) and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS). EC and SSS are the Sub-Schemes of the CD Scheme. The Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and actual expenditure of CD Scheme of MoSPI during FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Scheme	2022-23			2023-24		
	BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals
CD(Main)	452.46	319.95	320.87	527.38	439.19	422.21
SSS sub-scheme	52.63	7.55	6.64	10.31	10.31	7.71
EC sub-scheme	57.01	20.00	0.16	62.31	0.50	0.02
Total	562.10	347.50	327.67	600.00	450.00	429.94

The major reasons of savings are as follows:

I. CD(Main) Scheme:

i. The budget requirement at BE stage was projected keeping in view the survey and related activities planned for the FYs 2022-23 and 2023-24. The major reasons of savings over BE during the FYs 2022-23 and 2023-24 are mentioned below:

a. Savings over BE under 'Professional Services' (FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24), 'DTE' (FY 2022-23) and 'IT(OE)' (FY 2022-23) object heads was due to shifting of timelines of two surveys, namely, Time Use Survey and Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises. The field work of these surveys has been started from January 2024 (TUS) and May 2024 (ASSSE pilot) respectively. Requirement under the heads was reduced at RE stage accordingly.

b. Savings under 'Advt and Publicity' (F.Y. 2022-23) object head was due to non-finalisation of publicity content. The activity is now being undertaken centrally by Ministry, in addition to the local level publicity measures being undertaken by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) through its field offices.

c. Savings under 'Major Works' (F.Y. 2022-23) and 'Land' (F.Y. 2023-24) object heads was due to the provisions kept for land procurement and construction of office buildings for field offices of NSSO at BE stage which was later reviewed at RE stage in view of proposals at hand.

d. Savings under 'ICT equipment' (F.Y. 2023-24) was due to non-finalization of procurement process of some IT equipment on GeM. Issues of field offices have been taken up with GeM for resolution of the same.

e. Further, there were some technical issues involved viz. monthly rate deduction in revised ARC by Tata Communication, delay in development in Online Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS) portal and rate for hiring of Data Base Administrators reduced through GeM due to which some of the funds were surrendered.

f. Hiring process of the Young Professionals was cancelled.

g. Surrender of funds by CPWD.

II. EC sub-scheme:

MoSPI had engaged CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, as the implementing agency for the conduct of 7th Economic Census. The work assigned to CSC was essentially a service level contract and payment to CSC was to be released on the basis of achievement of milestones for the 7th EC project. The savings in EC, Sub-Scheme in last 3 FYs, was mainly due to non-release of payment to CSC SPV as they could not achieve the milestone linked to payments. Due to non-resolution of 7th EC data issues, several follow-up activities as envisaged could not be initiated during the period.

III. SSS sub-scheme:

SSS sub-scheme is a demand driven central sector sub-scheme. 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). Additionally, while formulating the subsequent year's budgetary allocations, past trend of utilization of funds have also been taken into consideration. Even after regular monitoring/liaisoning with concerned States, expected demands could not be received which resulted into discordance between budgetary allocation and its utilisation."

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

“

(in lakh)								
2021-22			2022-23			2023-24		
BE	RE	Surrender Amount	BE	RE	Surrender Amount	BE	RE	Surrender Amount
1,40,913.00	3,73,700.00	1,04,130.11	5,39,808.00	5,17,709.00	1,68,137.99	5,44,340.00	3,96,101.00	2,97,388.14

The year wise surrendered amount under the Capacity Development Scheme of MoSPI during FY 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 is as under:

(Rs. in cr)

Financial Year	Surrendered amount
2021-22	359.43
2022-23	234.43
2023-24	167.48

The shortfall in expenditure of CD Scheme was mainly due to the following major reasons:

I. **EC sub-scheme:** The savings in EC Sub-Scheme was mainly due to non-release of payment to the implementing agency (Common Service Centres-CSC) as they could not achieve the final payment milestone. Due to non-resolution of 7th EC data issues, several follow-up activities as envisaged could not be initiated during the period.

II. **SSS sub-scheme:** Under SSS sub-scheme, financial support is provided to the States/UTs for undertaking statistical activities as specified in the one-time MoU signed with them. The expenditure under the Sub-Scheme was Rs. 5.08 crore against BE 2021-22 of Rs. 33.44 crore. It may be noted that SSS is a demand driven scheme and funds are released to the States/UTs on receipt of proposals from States/UTs for release of subsequent installments. These proposals are examined by the Ministry and releases are made on fulfillment of conditions specified in the Revised Operational Guidelines of the sub-Scheme for

release of funds. It may also be noted that due to Covid-19, many States/UTs could not take up the activities envisaged during the FY as a result the pace of implementation slowed down. Since the States/UTs did not seek further funds, the budget could not be fully utilized.

III. CD(Main) Scheme:

i. Savings over BE under 'Professional Services' (FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24), 'DTE' (FY 2022-23) and 'IT(OE)' (FY 2022-23) object heads was due to shifting of timelines of two surveys, namely, Time Use Survey and Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises. The field work of these surveys has been started from January 2024 (TUS) and May 2024 (ASSSE pilot) respectively. Requirement under the heads was reduced at RE stage accordingly.

ii. Savings under 'Advt and Publicity' (F.Y. 2022-23) object head was due to non-finalisation of publicity content. The activity is now being undertaken centrally by Ministry, in addition to the local level publicity measures being undertaken by NSSO through its field offices.

iii. Savings under 'Major Works' (F.Y. 2022-23) and 'Land' (F.Y. 2023-24) object heads was due to the provisions kept for land procurement and construction of office buildings for field offices of NSSO at BE stage which was later reviewed at RE stage in view of proposals at hand.

iv. Savings under 'ICT equipment' (F.Y. 2023-24) was due to non-finalisation of procurement process of some IT equipment on GeM. Issues of field offices have been taken up with GeM for resolution of the same.

v. The provisioned funds for National Integrated Information Platform (NIIP) were linked with achievement of milestones by the system integrator. As none of the milestones were fully achieved for all of the modules, therefore funds allocated could not be utilized. Further, outside training programmes for Indian Statistical

Service (ISS) probationers as well as in-service officers could not be conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic conditions.

vi. Further, some funds were also surrendered due to the following reasons:

a. FY 2021-22: Due to monthly rate reduced in revised ARC by Tata Communication; no training proposed for the F.Y 2021-22 due to delay in development of OCMS by LTI and rate for hiring DBAs reduced through GeM.

b. F.Y 2022-23 and 2023-24: Due to monthly rate deduction in revised ARC by Tata Communication, delay in development in OCMS Portal and rate for hiring DBAs reduced through GeM.

Steps taken to remedy the trend and avoid savings of funds:

The expenditure is closely monitored for taking timely remedial action, wherever required, so as to avoid large scale unspent budget provisions. The following major actions have been taken by the Ministry to minimize the savings:

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

ii. Further, in respect of SSS sub-scheme, the BE/RE in a particular financial year are being worked out after assessing the progress of States/UTs based on the physical and financial progress as reported in their Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs). Additionally, while formulating the subsequent year's budgetary allocations, past trend of utilization of funds under the sub-scheme is taken into consideration. On the basis of above, and as per Central Nodal Agency (CNA) guidelines of the Ministry of Finance, State-UT wise allocation of total budgetary outlay has been made in starting of 2024-25 to give them maximum time for

utilizing their yearly allocation. For speedy utilization of funds, follow ups and review of expenditure through Joint Review Meetings (JRMs) are also done with the States/UTs.

MoSPI is utilizing the learning from past experiences to devise ways and means for periodic and more targeted interventions to avoid undue savings and to ensure better projections in future.”

2.16 When asked to elaborate upon the reasons leading to the decrease in the budgetary grant under Demand No. 96 Major Head 2552 under the scheme of ‘Provision for scheme for the benefit of North-Eastern Area’ and the impact of decreasing trend in funds allocation on implementation of schemes /programmes, the Ministry in its written reply has stated as below:

“The funds provisioned under North East component under CD Scheme are allocated to CD(Main) Scheme and SSS sub-scheme respectively.

I. CD(Main) Scheme:

NSSO release Grant-in-Aid to 5 North-Eastern (NE) States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim for conducting sample surveys for various rounds of NSSO. The Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES) of these NE States take up the work of Socio-Economic Surveys for Central Sample on behalf of NSSO in addition to the coverage of their State Sample except Sikkim. NSSO compensates them for their services through release of Grants-in-Aids (GIA) every year.

Further, part of the budget allocated under GIA-NER was used to be transferred to Field Operations Division (FOD) of NSSO which was utilised for carrying out survey activities in the NE region. The expenditure involved, mainly, the remuneration and TA/DA of manpower hired for conducting survey operations and expenditure towards their training and qualitative supervision. In accordance with the revised procedure of flow of funds under Central Sector Scheme, expenditure under GIA-NER through Regional Offices of FOD was not found to be feasible. So,

the funds allocated under the object head GIA-NER was completely released to 5 NE states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim for utilization and the part of funds under the object head GIA-NER which was earlier transferred to FOD has been stopped from FY 2023-24. The same amount was demanded in BE 2023-24 by increasing the funds in other object heads of CD scheme to ensure the continuity of survey activities. Therefore, the demand under the object head GIA-NER was reduced from Rs. 22 crore in FY 2022-23 to Rs. 15 crore in FY 2023-24.

The amount under the object head GIA-NER which is utilized for release of funds to the five NE States has been increased by Rs. 3 crore (from Rs. 12 crore in FY 2022-23 to Rs. 15 crore in FY 2023-24) to ensure the continuity of the survey work by the five NE States. Also, Rs. 15.00 Crore under object head GIA has been allocated to NSSO for FY 2024-25 under CD Scheme.

II. SSS sub-scheme:

SSS sub scheme is a demand driven central sector sub scheme. 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 decrease in budgetary grant in 2023-24 was worked out after assessing the expected demands from the States. In this regard, a combined review meeting of North Eastern States for Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) sub-scheme of MoSPI was held under the Chairpersonship of DG (C&A), MoSPI on 15.03.2024 in Guwahati, Assam to review the status of implementation of the sub-scheme in the States of the North Eastern Region (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Tripura). Regular communication is made with implementing States/UTs for speedy utilization of funds.”

2.17 On a query regarding steps that have been taken by the Ministry to strengthen and improve the quality of surveys and census in the North-Eastern states of the country, the Ministry submitted as under:

“NSSO conducts survey operations in NE States mainly through its Regional and Sub Regional Offices of Field Operations Division (FOD), located in the NE States. The Zonal Office of NSSO (FOD) located at Guwahati is entrusted with quantitative and qualitative monitoring of survey operations in NE states and training of staff of FOD offices in these States. To ensure data quality in the field, adequate training is imparted to the field staff prior to starting survey operations as well as during survey. Qualitative supervision and guidance of primary field workers through handholding, field inspections and scrutiny by experienced field officials is ensured during the survey. In recent years, NSSO surveys have been shifted to digital platform. All FOD offices in NE States have been equipped with necessary IT equipment to carry out survey operations in digital mode. The budgetary requirements for functioning of FOD offices are met through the functional heads of CD Scheme and Non-Scheme. In the States of Sikkim, Tripura, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, central sample of socio-economic surveys is carried out through State governments with budgetary support from Ministry.

Further, as far as SSS sub-scheme is concerned, the State/UTs have received/can receive funds for various statistical activities including conduct of survey/studies/census.”

2.18 On a query with regard to the nature of expenses incurred under the Demand No. 96 Major Head 3451 of Secretariat Economic Services (Non-Scheme) and the reasons for substantial difference of Rs.36.54 crore in BE of 2023-24 over BE of 2022-23, Ministry in its written reply has stated:

“During FY 2022-23, actual expenditure under MH 3451 amounted to Rs. 60.35 crore. In the matter, it is stated that Cabinet Secretariat, vide letter no. 1/43/2015-O&M dated 09.10.2018 conveyed that Sardar Patel Bhawan may be allotted for

exclusive use of National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS). Consequently, after consultation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation has decided to relocate the Ministry to Khurshid Lal Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi, an MTNL Building. The Ministry has occupied Khurshid Lal Bhawan building on rental basis from MTNL w.e.f. December 2021. To meet the rental liabilities in the FY 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 31.18 crore was allocated under MH 3451, object head Rent, Rates and Taxes (RRT) for Land and Buildings. Further, from the FY 2023-24, the amount for payment of rent for Khurshid Lal Bhawan is being allocated under MH 3454-CSO - Capacity Development (Institutional Development and Capacity Building), object head Rent, Rates and Taxes for Land and Buildings. The increase in the RRT head had led to a significant deviation in expenditure during FY 2022-23.”

Demands for Grants 2024-25 and recommendations of the Committee as contained in the 58th report of the Standing Committee on Finance on ‘Demands for Grants (2023-24)’.

2.19 Based on the recommendations of the Committee, budget requirements for meeting additional demands for activities of the Ministry have been provisioned through the Demands for Grants 2024-25.

2.20 SSS Scheme is Central sector sub-scheme with 100% funding from the Centre under the Umbrella Scheme ‘Capacity Development’ of the Ministry. The total allocation of the Scheme as per existing EFC approval is Rs.510.47 crore (since inception). For the current EFC period, i.e. 2021-2026, Rs.187.48 crore has been allocated.

Details of funds allocated to the Scheme in last three years are as under:

(Rs. in cr)

Year	BE	RE
2021-22	33.44	12.00
2022-23	52.63	7.55

2023-24	10.31	10.31
---------	-------	-------

2.21 On a pointed query regarding initiatives taken by the Ministry on issues relating to Gender Statistics, the Ministry submitted:

“Social Statistics Division, MoSPI has been releasing the publication titled “Women and Men in India” since 1995. The 25th issue of its publication titled “Women and Men in India 2023” has been released on 12th August, 2024. The publication is a comprehensive and insightful document that attempts to bring a holistic view of the situation of women and men in India and provides data on a wide range of topics such as Population, Education, Health, Participation in Economy, Participation in Decision making etc. among others. It presents data disaggregated by gender, urban-rural divide, and geographical region, which helps to understand the disparities that exist between different groups of women and men. The publication includes important indicators as derived from published official data of different Ministries/Departments/Organizations.”

CHAPTER III

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (MPLADS)

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

3.2 The MPLAD Scheme is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Government of India and implemented by the Programme Implementation Wing of the MoSPI. The Scheme was announced on 23 December 1993 by the then Prime Minister of India in the Parliament. 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, education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. Initially the administration of MPLADS was with the Ministry of Rural Development. However, since October 1994, the administration of the Scheme has been vested with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The scheme is governed by a set of Guidelines, which have been comprehensively revised from time to time. The present Guidelines were released on 22 February 2023, which came into effect on 1 April 2023.

3.3 The prominent features of MPLADS Scheme are as follows:

(i) MPLADS funds can be used for creation of immovable public assets on Government owned land, and movable public assets for Government owned and Government controlled institutions only, i.e. the Central, State/UT and local Governments, including Government aided institutions.

(ii) Any unspent balance out of the annual allocation of a particular Member of Parliament shall be carried forward and added to the annual allocation for that Member of Parliament for the subsequent Financial Year.

(iii) Under MPLADS, the role of the Members of Parliament is limited to recommending the 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) A Member of Parliament can recommend funds only up to ₹50 lakhs per year to all Societies/Trusts put together, provided that such Member of Parliament cannot recommend work of more than ₹1 crore for any particular Society/Trust during his/her entire term. The limit of ₹1 crore will start again on start of a fresh term of the individual concerned as Member of Parliament after their re-election/nomination.

(vi) Any Member of Parliament from anywhere in the country can consent their MPLADS funds up to ₹1 Crore per annum for rehabilitation and reconstruction works in areas affected by natural "Calamity of Severe Nature" declared by the Government of India in any part of the country, subject to other provisions of MPLADS Guidelines.

(vii) When a "Calamity of Severe Nature" has been declared by a State Government through a notification in the official gazette and not by the Government of India, Lok Sabha Members of Parliament from any constituency in that State and any Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament of that State can consent up to a maximum of Rs.25 lakh per annum in the affected area(s) of the State.

(viii) The Project Management Unit under MPLADS Division (PMU-MPLADS) of

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has been designated as Central Nodal Agency for implementation of the Scheme. The actual fund shall only be with Central Nodal Account and fund will be directly credited to vendor's account as and when the demands are raised electronically.

3.4 Under the scheme of MPLADS, an aggregate amount of ₹ 59505.74 crore has been released by the Ministry till 31.03.2023. Further, after successful migration of MPLADS scheme on e-sakshi portal on 1st April 2023, authorization of ₹ 6817.47 crores was released to the Members of Parliament during 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024. The District Authorities are reported to have issued the sanctions for different items of work costing ₹60083.67 crore till 31st March, 2023 and ₹11111.63 crores (approximately) during FY 2023-24 through e-sakshi portal. The expenditure of ₹ 57356.68 crores was done till 31st March, 2023 and ₹ 1097.12 crores during the FY 2023-24 on e-sakshi portal.

3.5 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) Third Party Monitoring is conducted from time to time to review the effective implementation of MPLADS Scheme.

Funds Allocation

3.6 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 788 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.

3.7 Actual expenditure under MPLAD Scheme was Rs. 2566.96 crore in 2022-23 and Rs. 1200.57 crore (46.77% downfall) (as on 31.03.2024) in 2023-24. The Committee wanted to know the reasons for the decreasing trend in MPLADS funds utilization, the Ministry in its written reply submitted the following:

“Decreasing trend in the utilization of MPLADS funds for the FY 2022-23 was due to non-submission of eligible documents by the District Authorities as per MPLADS Guidelines. During, FY 2023-24, a revised fund flow system as per the direction 09.03.2022 of Department of Expenditure, MoF was implemented and Guidelines on MPLADS were revised with effect from 1 April 2023. An end-to-end e-solution was implemented for the scheme through eSAKSHI portal from 1 April 2023. All the activities under the scheme starting from recommendations by the Hon’ble MPs to making payments to the vendors have now been computerized and are carried out through the portal. This was a transition period and the Ministry took extensive steps to make the Hon’ble MPs and other stakeholders aware of the new functionalities and conducted regular training programmes in every State/UT physically as well as virtually. The decreasing trend was mainly due to introduction of the revised fund flow procedure and various stakeholders getting familiarized with the new portal. However, the scheme implementation during the transition period was not stopped even for a single day and gradually all the stakeholders now have been on-boarded on the eSAKSHI Portal.”

3.8 Since the inception of the scheme and as on 31 March 2024, 25,97,604 works have been recommended by MPs out of which 22,93,251 works have been sanctioned out of these recommended and taken up for implementation whereas 20,81,325 works have been completed and assets made available for utilization by the local communities.

3.9 The financial performance of the Scheme shows that funds amounting to Rs.59,505.74 crore have been released by the Ministry till 31 March 2023 and an expenditure of Rs.59,250.75 crore has been incurred. 99.57 per cent of the amount released has since been spent under the scheme since inception.

3.10 A revised set of Guidelines have been released on 22 February, 2023, which came into effect from 1 April, 2023. eSAKSHI portal has been developed in collaboration with SBI to implement revised fund flow procedure under MPLADS w.e.f 1 April 2023 in line with directions of MoF.

3.11 After the implementation of eSAKSHI Portal under the new fund flow system from 1 April 2023, authorization amounting to Rs. 6817.47 crore has been released during 2023-24 out of which an expenditure of Rs. 1089.94 crore has been incurred which is 15.98 % of the amount authorized.

3.12 On being asked about any implications on the way to achievement of Physical Targets due to decreasing trend in funds utilization and its impact on implementation of schemes /programmes, the Ministry has given the following reply as stated below:

“The expenditure under the Scheme slowed down during the transition period, however the implementation of the scheme was not impacted. The MPLAD Scheme is non-lapsable in nature and the new eSAKSHI Portal now gives access to the earlier pending amounts to the Hon’ble MPs, which they can see on their

dashboards and recommend works via portal as well as through the mobile app developed for the purpose. The authorizations for the year are also released in one go at the beginning of the financial year (for 2023-24 as well as 2024-25), which gives flexibility to the Hon'ble MPs to recommend works and also see their status on a real time basis. The portal has now stabilized and all works are being recommended and sanctioned and payments released to the vendors through the portal. Since 1 April 2023 till 09.10.2024, 1,27,219 works amounting to Rs. 6955.83 crore have been recommended, 93899 works amounting Rs 4827.46 crore sanctioned through the portal and Rs. 2606.75 crore payments made to the vendors executing the works through the eSAKSHI portal.”

3.13 When asked to specify as to how much sum has been surrendered by the Ministry during the last three Financial Years due to under-utilization in MPLAD Scheme and the reasons for the same, the Ministry stated the information regarding amount surrendered in the last three Financial Years as below:

“The details of amount surrendered during the past three years are as follows:

Financial Year	Surrendered Amount (Rs. In Crore)	Reason for surrender
2021-22	901.38	<i>RE was Rs. 2633.50 crore when Scheme was restored in the month of Nov 2021 and order was issued on 25.11.2021 and in a very short span of time requisite documents were not provided by the District Authorities for the eligible MPs.</i>
2022-23	1398.04	<i>Due to non-submission of eligible documents as per the MPLADS Guidelines by the District Authorities.</i>
2023-24	2757.93	<i>Due to revision of revised fund flow system and on-boarding all the stakeholders in to the system.</i>

Authorization to Hon'ble MPs for the year Ministry has been released for an amount of Rs. 3879.00 crore during the year 2024-25. Ministry is regularly monitoring the progress of works and payments made, by bringing out State/UT-

wise reports and sharing the same with State Nodal Authorities, so that they can monitor District-wise implementation of works in their States/UTs as per the MPLADS Guidelines.

The financial year 2024-25 started, when Model Code of Conduct (MCC) was in effect and lifted on 06.06.2024. In four months, an amount of Rs. 1200.00 crore has been released into the Bank Account of CNA and the pace of expenditure is gradually picking up and it is expected that rest the Budget Allocation of Rs. 3950.00 crore for MPLAD Scheme will also be utilized in the remaining six months of the financial year FY 2024-25.”

3.14 On a suggestion of Hon. Member to resolve issues regarding selection of implementing agency while making recommendation on e-Sakshi Portal, the representative of the Ministry has given the following reply as stated below:

“We do not maintain the list of implementing agency in the portal. We maintain the list of about 785 districts, which are termed as implementing district. So whenever an Hon. MP is making a recommendation within his jurisdiction, for Lok Sabha MP jurisdiction, for Rajya Sabha MP, the entire State.... It will go to the District Collector, the implementing district. It is his duty to select an implementing agency and further give the thing for the feasibility study.”

3.15 On a pointed query on feedback received on the impact and efficacy of the revised system, the Ministry has in their written reply submitted as under:

“The MPLADS, Guidelines have been revised with effect from 1 April 2023. The revised guidelines have also introduced the new fund flow mechanism as per the orders of Ministry of Finance dated 9 March 2022. eSAKSHI portal, which is an end-to-end web solution for implementation of the MPLAD Scheme has been implemented. The new system has streamlined the processes and enhanced transparency of the system. All the activities starting from recommendations of works by the Hon’ble MPs, sanction of work by District Authorities and payment to vendors on completion of milestones/work are now being done through the

system. All stakeholders can see the progress and status through their dashboards. In the new MPLADS Guidelines, 2023, new provisions have been introduced which have broaden the scope of recommendations by Hon'ble MPs, enhancing the effectiveness of the scheme.

The eSAKSHI Portal is an end-to-end web solution for implementation of the MPLAD Scheme, which has stabilized to a large extent now. Based on the feedback received from Hon'ble MPs and various stakeholders the systems improvements are being done to simplify and streamline the processes.”

3.16 When asked about the remedial measures taken by Ministry to resolve the constraints in implementation of scheme under e-SAKSHI portal and to further improve the implementation of this flagship Central Sector Scheme, the Ministry in its written reply stated as below:

“This Ministry has organized workshop in all the State/UTs to give hands-on training on eSAKSHI portal to the NDA, IDA, IA and SNA. Since the launch of eSAKSHI portal, this Ministry has been setting up Kiosk/Helpdesk during the Parliament Session for clarifying doubts and resolving issues occurring while using the portal. A helpline number has also been provided for all the stakeholders to clarify their doubts and addressing their issues.

Improvements in the system are also done as per the suggestions received from the stakeholders”.

Impact

3.17 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.

CHAPTER IV

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (ISI)

Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)

4.1 Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) is an autonomous institution under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation 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 located at Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad and Branch at 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 including research and infrastructure creation and maintenance.

Degrees/courses offered

4.2 The ISI conducts various courses (bachelor, post-graduate diploma, masters and research fellowships programs) in various subjects with prime focus on Statistics; Mathematics; Quantitative Economics; Computer Science; Quality, Reliability and Operational Research and such other subject related to statistics as may be determined by the Institute from time to time. Over the years, the Institute has developed a set of unique research and academic programme, which are cross-disciplinary in nature. These programmes cater for the unique need of statistical analysis of large scale data collected at different government and non-government sectors including international arenas. 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.

International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC)

4.3 The International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC), founded in 1950 on the initiative of Professor P.C. Mahalanobis at Kolkata through an agreement between the International Statistical Institute and the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI). It functions under a Board of Directors, which has members from ISI, MoSPI and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The current Chairman of ISEC is Professor S.P. Mukherjee. The centre aims to provide training in theoretical and applied statistics at various levels to selected participants from countries of the Middle East, the Far East, South and South-East Asia, as well as the Commonwealth countries of Africa. ISEC organizes an annual 10-month diploma course in Statistical Theory and Applications, which is partially funded by the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, and is conducted with the support provided by ISI. In addition, special courses on different topics of varying duration are also organized for international participants

RC Bose Centre for Cryptology and Security

4.4 There are two national facilities centres i.e. Center for Soft Computing Research and R.C. Bose Centre for Cryptology and Security. The Center for Soft Computing Research is aimed at conducting research both theoretical and applied, of international standard, in the fields of soft computing. R.C. 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

4.5 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 Centers 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.

4.6 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; Physics and Applied Mathematics, Biological Science, Sociology and 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.

4.7 Under the Major Head 3454 of Census, Surveys and Statistics, the grant in aid for 'Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata' has seen a total allocation of 375.59 crores, which is a substantial hike from the BE & Actuals (exp.as on 31.03.2024) of 2023-24 of Rs.322.29 crore and Rs.312.80 crore, respectively. On being asked to explain the reasons for the difference in budgetary allocation and its utilization, the Ministry *inter-alia* submitted the following:

"The total allocation for ISI in BE 2023-24 and BE 2024-25 are as follows:

	2023-24 (Rs. In Crore)	2024-25 (Rs. In Crore)
<i>Salary</i>	235.81	287.08
<i>General</i>	62.77	69.04
<i>Capital</i>	23.71	19.47

The increase in salary is due to increments, increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and House rent allowance (HRA), enhancements in terminal benefits, etc. It also takes into consideration prospective benefits that are currently under process for sanction by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India post enhancement of DA beyond 50%.

The increase in the budget under General head is less than 10 %, which is less than the requirements.

From 2024-25 onwards, the salaries for some temporary research and project staff as well as the fellowship amount paid to the research scholars and arrears due to the enhancement of their fellowships are now to be paid from General Head.

Therefore, in the RE 2024-25 it is proposed to reduce the requirements under the Salary head as per the actual requirements and increase the same in the General Head to meet the requirements."

4.8 With regard to a query on achievements of the Ministry under this programme during the past three fiscals, the MoSPI stated as follows:

“Achievements of the Ministry

- *Development of national facilities like Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Centre for Research on the Economics of Climate, Food, Energy and Environment, Center for Soft Computing Research, the R. C. Bose Centre for Cryptology and IDEAS – Technology Innovation Hub.*
- *Exemplary research in the field of Computational and experimental biology; cancer, auto-immune and neuro-degenerative diseases.*
- *Pioneering work in Bioinformatics, Computational Genetics, Cryptology, Indian Language Technologies, Population Genomics.*
- *Teaching and training in Official Statistics & Policy Research.*
- *Seminal contributions in Game theory, Algebraic Geometry, Poverty and Inequality measures, Disease Genetics, Granular Computing.*
- *Coal Index developed at the institute is adopted by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India.*
- *Development of an Integrated Solution for Automatic Assessment of Autism using visual attention, facial expression and vocal emotion cues.*
- *Development of National Mineral Index is in progress.*
- *About 45 PhD, 300 postgraduate degree and diploma students, 80 undergraduate students receive degrees and diplomas annually.*
- *International Statistical Education Centre, co-funded by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, provides training in theoretical and applied statistics at various levels to about 25 selected participants per year from countries in the Middle-East, the South and the South-East Asia, the Far East and from the Commonwealth Countries in Africa.”*

4.9 When enquired as to what steps are being undertaken for expansion, strengthening and qualitative resurgence of premier National Institutes like Indian

Statistical Institute, the Ministry in a written reply stated that a Review Committee constituted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation submitted a set of recommendations for ISI to re-imagine, reinvent and reposition itself to regain its leadership position and remain relevant in changing times. The implementation plan of the recommendations under the guidance of the Governing Council of the Institute is in progress. Creation of endowment funds, Chair Professor positions, new academic programmes and a strong industry-academia connect by a dedicated cell of the Institute are paving the way for strengthening the qualitative resurgence of ISI.

CHAPTER V

SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER

Indian Statistical Services

5.1 The Indian Statistical Service (ISS) was constituted on 1 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.

5.2 The posts of ISS at various Grades are distributed among various Ministries, Departments and Organization 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.

5.3 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation act 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.

5.4 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 present is given below:

Grade	Sanctioned Strength	On Cadre Strength as on 01 October 2024	
		In-position	Vacancy
Higher Administrative Grade plus (HAG+)	05	05	0
Higher Administrative Grade (HAG)	18	18	0
Senior Administrative Grade (SAG)	136	136	0
Junior Administrative Grade (JAG) & NFSG	176 #	145	31
Senior Time Scale (STS)	179	169	10
Junior Time Scale (JTS)	300*	232	68
Total	814	705	109

Out of these, 30% of senior duty posts are operated in NFSG;
 * Sanctioned posts include 50 reserve posts.

5.5 The first examination for direct recruitment to the service was held in 1967 and the first batch was appointed in 1968. Till date, 46 batches of direct recruits have joined the service. The latest batch of 29 officers joined in April 2024.

Subordinate Statistical Service

5.6 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.

5.7 The SSS is an organized Group B Central Civil Service of Statistical function posts which constitutes feeder cadre for Indian Statistical Service (ISS) [Group A]. It comprises of Senior Statistical Officer (SSO) (Group-B Gazetted) at Level-7 and Junior Statistical Officers (JSO) (Group-B Non-Gazetted) at Level-6 of Pay Matrix.

5.8 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is the Cadre Controlling Authority (CCA) of SSS. The Ministry is concerned with all the 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/ Organisations where these officers are posted.

5.9 The extant SSS Rules, provides for 90 per cent of the posts of JSO to be filled by direct recruitment through open competitive examination, viz. Combined Graduate Level Examination (CGLE) conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) while 10 per cent of total posts are to be filled by promotion from the feeder posts (Statistical function posts existed at Level 4 and Level 5 of pay matrix).

5.10 The promotion to Senior Statistical Officer (SSO) of the Service shall be on the basis of selection on the recommendation of the Departmental Promotion Committee. There is no direct recruitment at the level of SSO in the SSS Cadre. After completion of minimum qualified service of 5 years, Junior Statistical Officers (JSO) of SSS in Pay Level-6 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix (erstwhile PB-2 of Rs.9300-34800 along with GP of Rs.4200), they become eligible for promotion to Senior Statistical Officer (SSO) in Pay Level 7 [Pay Band (PB)-2 of Rs.9300-34800 with Grade Pay(GP) of Rs.4600]. Further, after completion of minimum qualified service of 3 years, Senior Statistical Officers (SSO) of SSS become eligible for promotion to Assistant Director (JTS) of ISS in Pay Level 10 [erstwhile PB-3:Rs.15600-39100 with Grade Pay of Rs.5400]. The present sanctioned strength of SSS officers as on 01.10.2024 is as follows:

S.No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength	In position Strength	Vacancies
1.	Senior Statistical Officer	1983	1951	32
2.	Junior Statistical Officer	2402	1425	977
	Total	4385	3376	1009

Capacity Building Programmes for SSS Officers :

5.11 Training programme for newly recruited JSOs is conducted in 2 modules:

- i. **Module A:** 3 weeks Induction training at [National Statistical Systems Training Academy \(NSSTA\)](#).
- ii. **Module B:** 3-4 weeks training for SSS officials at respective Zonal Offices

5.12 On a query with regard to the issue of shortage of manpower at different levels adversely impacting the quality of data and authenticity of data collected by private agencies, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in written reply stated that this Ministry has already initiated the process to fill up these vacancies at various grades of ISS through promotion and direct recruitment of ISS through ISS Exam, 2024. Every year ISS Exam is conducted in a timely manner. All the promotion proposals are in the process and hence, the corresponding vacancies are likely to be filled up shortly. The ISS Rules, 2016 provide for 50 *per cent* of the posts in JTS to be filled up by direct recruitment and 50 percent by promotion from Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS) cadre. The Ministry further stated that there is no direct recruitment at any level except in JTS of the service and all the vacancies in other grades are filled up by promotion. The Ministry submitted that a proposal for Cadre Review of ISS is also under consideration with the objective to proactively address the impediments which may arise in future for filling up vacancies at middle level and chain vacancies at lower levels.

5.13 On being asked to furnish the details regarding the manpower requirement in the Field Operation Division of the NSSO as the perennial shortage of manpower at various levels is adversely impacting the quality of data the Ministry in its reply stated as below:

“Since 2017, National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has undertaken several new surveys including the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE), Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises (ASSSE) and the Time Use Survey (TUS). Due to limited strength of regular manpower, fieldwork for these surveys is being conducted by the contractual manpower engaged through manpower agencies. The manpower agencies are engaged through GeM, following General Financial Rules and with due approvals. The manpower so engaged undergo comprehensive training prior to field deployment and work under the overall supervision of experienced regular field staff. Data quality is ensured through regular scrutiny, inspections and handholding of the contractual

manpower by experienced staff. However, keeping in view high attrition rate in contractual manpower and the consequent need for organising trainings due to the same, commensurate increase in the regular strength of field staff is proposed for new survey activities which are being undertaken on regular basis.”

CHAPTER VI

EIGHTH ECONOMIC CENSUS

6.1 Economic Census gives a total count of non-farm establishments in the formal and informal sectors and number of workers working therein along with other cross-sectional parameters at the lowest level of geography. The Seventh Economic Census was being conducted by MoSPI as a Central Sector sub-scheme under the umbrella scheme Capacity Development during the period 2019-21.

6.2 When inquired about the status of Seventh Economic Census and the reasons for its being remained unpublished, the Ministry replied as below:

“...An action plan for the early release of 7th EC results was formulated with set timelines. Activities and efforts were taken in line to the directions set in the action plan. Rigorous coordination was done by the Ministry with each concerned State/UTs from where approval of State level provisional results of 7th EC was not received. Further, the data related observations highlighted by the SLCCs or State/UTs government on the 7th EC provisional results were taken up expeditiously with CSC for early resolution. Progress status were reviewed rigorously with CSC and State/UT governments for early release of 7th EC results as per the Action Plan.

Despite all such efforts, only 13 State/UTs SLCCs had communicated their approval on 7th EC provisional results. The said status of 7th Economic Census matter was placed before Committee of Secretaries (CoS) in the meeting dated 13.07.2023 under the chairpersonship of Cabinet Secretary wherein representatives from MoSPI, MeitY and CSC SPV were invited.

The status of approval of provisional results in various States/UTs was deliberated in the CoS meeting. It was observed that the 7th EC fieldwork stretched long and majorly conducted during COVID-19 and consequently, the data collected may not provide a true account of the entrepreneurial activity in the State/ country. The CoS meeting, inter alia, recommended that it may not be feasible to publish the

results of 7th EC. Accordingly, Ministry decided not to publish the results of 7th Economic Census.”

6.3 When further questioned about the commencement of Eighth Economic Census and its details, the Ministry in its written reply has stated as below:

“In the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) meeting dated 13.07.2023 it was recommended that: “MoSPI may plan for conducting the next Economic Census through the State Government machinery, as per previous practice, instead of engaging third-party agencies such as Common Service Centre e-Governance Services India Limited (CSC)”. Accordingly, Ministry has formulated a proposal for conduct of 8th Economic Census in collaboration with State/ UTs Governments. Preparatory activities in this regard have commenced.”

6.4 Adding further the DG (NSS), MOSPI submitted the following during evidence before the Committee:

“We have started our preparatory work for upcoming Eight Economic Census scheduled to be conducted in 2025-26. This census will be conducted through an IT platform in collaboration with States and UTs ensuring comprehensive coverage of all non farm establishments. Various committees have been formed to guide the census process. Consultations have been held with stakeholder Ministries and draft EFC Memo has been circulated for their comments.”

PART II
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Budgetary Allocations

1. The Committee note that the shortfall in fund utilization by Rs. 234.43 crore in 2022-23 against the BE of Rs. 562.10 crore and Rs. 170.06 crore in 2023-24 against the Budget allocation of Rs. 600.00 (28.34% downfall) under Capacity Development (CD) Scheme was mainly due to shifting of timelines of two surveys, namely, Time Use Survey and Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises. The field work of these surveys has been started from January 2024 (TUS) and May 2024 (ASSSE pilot) respectively and thus the requirement under the heads was reduced at RE stage accordingly. However, the performance of the Ministry witnessed a marked improvement in utilization of funds in FY 2023-24 as against FY 2022-23 as MoSPI has incurred an expenditure of 94.29% over RE 2022-23 and 58.29% over BE 2022-23 of CD Scheme. Further, in FY 2023-24, an expenditure of 95.54% over RE 2023-24 and 71.66% over BE 2023-24 of CD Scheme has been incurred. The Committee expect a similar and motivated performance in utilizing the budgeted funds and to reduce the savings for timely conducting the surveys under CD Scheme.

MPLADS

2. The MPLADS Scheme has been revised *w.e.f.* 01.04.2023 and a new fund flow mechanism introduced and the scheme is now being fully managed through e-SAKSHI Portal which is an end-to-end web solution for implementation of the MPLADS Scheme. According to the Ministry the new system has streamlined the processes and enhanced transparency of the system. New provisions have been introduced broadening the scope of recommendations by Members. The systems are constantly being improved based on the feedback from various stakeholders. Despite all these measures the Members of Parliament are still facing issues. The Committee recommend that regular awareness workshops to give hands-on-

training on the use of e-SAKSHI portal may be held for all the stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of the scheme.

Indian Statistical Institute

3. Indian Statistical Institute is mainly engaged in conducting comprehensive programme of research, training and practical application of different statistics spanning across various disciplines through a large number of projects/schemes. The Committee are satisfied to note about progress of development of national facilities like Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Centre for Research on the Economics of Climate, Food, Energy and Environment, Center for Soft Computing Research, the R. C. Bose Centre for Cryptology and IDEAS – Technology Innovation Hub, development of Coal Index and National Mineral Index. The Committee have note that ISI has seen a total allocation of 375.59 crores, which is a substantial hike from the BE & Actuals (exp.as on 31.03.2024) of 2023-24 of Rs.322.29 crore and Rs.312.80 crore, respectively is mainly due to enhancement in salary and allowances. The Committee thus urge the Ministry to increase the provisions in the General Head also to meet the requirements. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to provide necessary resources to enable the Institute to fulfill its mandate, particularly completion of its ongoing projects including academic programmes.

Development of National Child Index

4. The Committee note that there is a dire need for timely and reliable statistics for policy formulation and planning to ensure better protection of the rights of the children, monitor programmes relating to the survival, protection, participation and development of children and it cannot be overemphasized. To address the issue of child rights, the Committee recommend that a system should be made to capture statistics for children working in informal sector, street children, out of school children etc. The Committee recommend to conduct regular Child survey and to develop a National Child Index in synergy

with the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Committee also suggests the Ministry to tie-up with State Governments to engage Panchayats/Municipal bodies to help facilitate data collection for conducting National Child Survey, development of Child Index in convergence with the Ministry of Women and Child Development to map the needs of children through a periodic child survey, so as to envisage a suitable response in terms of an effective policy to eliminate Child Labour and to protect child rights. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation should expedite the process in coordination with the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Shortage of Manpower

5. The Committee have noted with concern the shortage of manpower in the Ministry, especially in the Junior Statistical Office cadre; on 01 October, 2024, 977 vacancies exist which is 40.67% 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 regular field based staff on a mission mode basis for accurate and reliable data collection and activities which are being undertaken on a regular basis.

Eighth Economic Census

6. The Committee understand that Economic Census gives a total count of non-farm establishments in the formal and informal sectors and number of workers working therein along with other cross-sectional parameters at the lowest level of geography. It provides valuable insights into clusters of economic activities, ownership patterns, source of finance etc. of all establishments in the country. The Committee note that the Seventh Economic Census faced severe delays due to fieldwork stretching over the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to

concerns about data accuracy. The status of Seventh Economic Census was placed before the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) in the meeting dated 13.07.2023 and the CoS *inter-alia* recommended that it may not be possible to publish the results of the Seventh Economic Census and the Ministry did not publish the same. In this regard, the Committee would like to be apprised whether in the past too there have been such instances and its impact thereon. Also, the alternate mechanisms in place to deal with such an extraordinary situation. The Committee thus recommend that Ministry should take steps to ensure that the Eighth Economic Census is completed in a timely manner and that the data collected is accurate and reliable. To prevent similar issues in the future, Ministry should establish clear timelines for data collection and processing. The Ministry should also collaborate with State and Union Territory Governments to successfully conduct the Eighth Economic Census. The Ministry should provide adequate training and resources to enumerators and focus to implement robust quality control measures to overcome the obstacles.

New Delhi;
4 December, 2024
13 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

Bhartruhari Mahtab
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Finance

Minutes of the Sixth Sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2024-25) The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 29th October, 2024 from 1500 hrs. to 1645 hrs in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Arun Bharti
3. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
4. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
5. Shri Kishori Lal
6. Thiru Arun Nehru
7. Shri N. K. Premachandran
8. Smt. Sandhya Ray
9. Prof. Sougata Ray
10. Shri P. V. Midhun Reddy
11. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
12. Dr. K. Sudhakar
13. Shri Manish Tewari
14. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni
15. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy

RAJYA SABHA

16. Shri Sanjay Seth
17. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
18. Smt. Darshana Singh
19. Dr. M. Thambidurai
20. Shri Pramod Tiwari

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Gaurav Goyal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 3. | Shri T. Mathivanan | - | Deputy Secretary |

WITNESSES

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

1. Smt. Geeta Singh Rathore, DG (NSS)
2. Shri P.R Meshram, DG (DG)
3. Shri. Deepak Narain, AS&FA
4. Smt. Puja Singh Mandol, AS (PI)
5. Dr. Dalip Singh, ADG (ESD)
6. Shri Kishore Kumar, ADG (SCD)
7. Smt. Sunita Bhaskar, ADG (FOD)
8. Shri Rajesh Bhatia, ADG (CICD)
9. Shri Tanweer Qamar Mohammad, JS (Admin)
10. Shri. Chandradeep Kumar Jha, DDG (CICD)
11. Shri Arindam Modak, DDG (MPLAD)
12. Smt. Neha Srivastava, DDG (ESD)
13. Ms. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, Director, ISI Kolkata

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 full utilization of funds allocated to Capacity Development Scheme, Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADs) Fund, timeline and funds earmarked for 8th Economic Census, contribution of Private Sector in CAPEX (Capital Expenditure), validation of the integrity of data collection/provided, status of revised MPLADS System, glitches in e-Sakshi Portal, interplay between National Statistical Commission (NSC) Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and the National Statistics Office (NSO), monitoring of DISHA Committees including suggestion for inclusion of DISHA Committees/urban equivalent of DISHA under Programme Implementation Wing of MoSPI, methodology of 45 days limit for sanction /rejection of projects in MPLADS Portal, organization of orientation programmes/awareness workshops for Members to make them familiar with online portal systems, expenses

from MPLAD fund for facilitation centre/administrative reasons, selection of implementing agency while making recommendation on e-Sakshi Portal, issue of clarifications to mitigate ambiguity over reckoning of tenure for grant of expenses on facilitation centre, implications of GST on MPLADS funding, allocation of funds for NSSO & CSO including their capacity building, formulation of assessment of contribution of informal sector in the era of macro-economic dynamics. The Committee also discussed its desire to visit the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

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 seven to ten days to the Secretariat.

The witnesses then withdrew.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

* * *

**Minutes of the Seventh sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2024-25)
The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 04 December, 2024 from 1500 hrs. to 1530
hrs. in Committee Room 'G-074', Parliament Library Building, New Delhi.**

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab – Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
3. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
4. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
5. Shri Kishori Lal
6. Shri Harendra Singh Malik
7. Shri Chudasama Rajeshbhai Naranbhai
8. Thiru Arun Nehru
9. Shri N. K. Premachandran
10. Dr. C. M. Ramesh
11. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
12. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy

RAJYA SABHA

13. Shri Milind Murli Deora
14. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
15. Shri Sanjay Seth
16. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
17. Smt. Darshana Singh
18. Shri Pramod Tiwari

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Gaurav Goyal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri T. Mathivanan | - | Deputy Secretary |

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

- i. First Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services, Investment & Public Asset Management and Public Enterprises).
- ii. Second Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- iii. Third Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- iv. Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Planning.
- v. Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- vi. Sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in 59th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Cyber Security and Rising Incidence of Cyber/White Collar Crimes'.
- vii. Seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in 66th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Performance Review and Regulation of Insurance Sector'.

After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the above draft Reports with minor modifications and authorised the Chairperson to finalise them and present the Reports to the Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

* * *