

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:312

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015

CONFERENCE OF CENTRAL AND STATE STATISTICAL ORGANISATIONS

K. Shri Parasuraman;Mahajan Smt. Poonam

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the 22nd Conference of Central and Statistical Organizations (COCSSO), it was decided to enhance human resources for statistics work, their capacity building etc;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to implement this decision;
- (c) whether shortage of manpower across various departments, wings or divisions of his Ministry has become an endemic problem;
- (d) if so, the reason for manpower shortage and details of vacancies existing across various departments, department-wise;
- (e) whether the shortage has affected the quality of statistical reporting in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to quickly address the shortage of manpower in the Ministry and for statistical works?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION,
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS
INDIAN AFFAIRS [GENERAL (Dr.) V. K. SINGH (Retd.)]

(a) & (b): Enhancement of human resources for statistics work was not discussed in the 22nd Conference of Central and State Statistical Organisations (COCSSO). However, there was a discussion on Strategy for meeting training needs of the state statistical personnel. The Training Academy of the Ministry has started the process to implement recommendations that emerged in the Conference.

(c) & (d): Details of vacancies across Wings/Divisions as on 01.03.2014 are given below.

Sl.No	Department/Wing/Division	Vacancies
1.	Programme Implementation Wing	20
2.	Department Proper and Central Statistics Office	96
3.	Industrial Statistics Wing	69
4.	Principal Accounts Office	33
5.	Field Operations Division	1087
6.	Data Processing Division	289
7.	Survey Design & Research Division	24
8.	Computer Centre	57
	TOTAL	1675

Total number of vacancies is 1675. Reasons for large number of vacancies, especially in the field staff are mainly attributed to high attrition rate, inadequate opportunities for career progression and difficult nature of data collection work.

(e) & (f): Contractual field investigators and other staff are engaged against the vacancies. Also, part of data entry work is outsourced on contract basis. Despite the required training imparted to the contractual staff, the quality of the work cannot be expected as high as that in case of trained regular manpower having vast experience accumulated over the years. To address the shortage of manpower, the ministry has revised the recruitment rules of Indian Statistical Service and Subordinate Statistical Service. The ministry has also been conducting various awareness programmes as well as internship programmes for educational institutions to attract more candidates to the statistical services.