

COUNTRY STATEMENT – INDIA

I National and international development agendas

- (1) Statistics plays a very vital role in monitoring the achievement of different development programmes of the country. In every programmes/schemes of development, provision is kept for component on monitoring and evaluation of the scheme. Since Indian Statistical System is a decentralized one, the respective Ministries draw up the proforma for collection of material from the field level, i.e., States/Districts of the country and use the information so collected for monitoring the progress of the programme based on the feedback reports.
- (2) National Statistical Office (NSO) provides an advisory role to the Line Ministries for the development of statistics used for monitoring and evaluation of the development programmes. However, the respective Ministries are free to develop their own formats for collection of data and NSO provides the requisite advice if the concerned Line Ministries approach NSO for the same.

II International standards

- (1) International standards are very useful for development of statistics within the country. In fact, the statistical framework within the country is based on the UN guidelines given from time to time. Other guidelines provided by the IMF for development of national accounts and World Bank standards are also applied to development of statistics in different sectors.
- (2) It is the responsibility of the National Statistical Office to develop standards/manuals for different sectors of the economy. A scheme has already been developed in the 11th Five Year Plan proposal to develop manuals for about 30 sectors. Till today, manuals have been issued in respect of 14 sectors.
- (3) Standard needs to be developed more in areas like National Accounts Statistics, Industrial Statistics, Trade Statistics etc.
- (4) In developing statistical standards, the views of NSO, India are also taken into account. However, we are of the opinion that views of more developing countries should be taken into account.

III Microdata dissemination

- (1) We provide microdata sets in respect of household surveys, establishment/enterprise surveys conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO). However, in case of population census, which is conducted by Office

of the Registrar General, Ministry of Home Affairs, microdata sets are kept confidential as per the Census Act.

- (2) In case of surveys for which the microdata sets are provided to the general public/researchers, the identities of the individuals are kept suppressed.
- (3) NSO has a microdata dissemination policy, which is as follows:-
 - (i) Dissemination of official statistics in the form of reports, ad hoc and regular publications, etc. by the Central Ministries/Departments/Agencies as at present shall continue.
 - (ii) A data warehouse in the Department of Statistics will be created to enable the data users and general public to have easy access to the published as well as unpublished validated data from one source.
 - (iii) The data warehouse will collect data from various source agencies, integrate the data into logical subject areas, store the data in a manner that is accessible and understandable to non-technical decision makers and deliver data/information to decision makers through report writing and query tools.
 - (iv) As data source agencies are generating data at various levels, the responsibilities of data supply and receipt will be shared between the respective Central Ministries/Departments/Agencies and the Department of Statistics by establishing and maintaining close collection.
 - (v) For each data type and source, detailed studies will be undertaken by the Department of Statistics in co-operation with the concerned data source agency on (a) the concepts definitions, classifications and methods used in data collection and processing including validation, (b) formats of data generation, (c) media on which data will be supplied, (d) frequency of supply of data and (e) procedures and modalities for preservation updation and dissemination of data.
 - (vi) The volume of data flowing from each source agency into the data warehouse will be assessed by the Department of Statistics in order to formulate the various parameters required by designing establishing and maintaining a data warehouse.
 - (vii) Each data source agency will be required to adopt for itself a calendar for preparation and release of data which it will share with the Department of Statistics. As a part of its nodal responsibility of dissemination of data from the source, the Department of Statistics will keep track of the data release calendar of each source agency.
 - (viii) The data source agency will be required to supply on computer compatible media, validated data, published or unpublished free of cost to the data warehouse.

- (ix) The Department of Statistics will prepare Directories of all available data in the data warehouse and update the same at frequent intervals. A web-site will be created for the data warehouse and the Directories will be available on the web-site.
- (x) From the data warehouse, data/information will be made available free of cost to the data source agencies for official use and also the approved research institutes and universities for research purposes.