

Tenth Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific

Country Statement Sri Lanka

Monitoring the production of Statistical Indicators for the Development Agenda

I. 1. What.....

Generally Statistical Information is used by most of the Government Institutions mainly ministries, Departments, Boards and Semi-Government Institutions for such as activities as for planning, resource allocation, decide on priorities, feasible studies, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. There are instance where data is very crucial; decision to make prevention more crucial than curative or fatality more important than prevalence.

Thus information in the following fields are used frequently- Health, Education, Labor Statistics, Prices and Inflation, Industry, Construction, Import Export Figures, Availability of Potable Water, Toilet Facilities, Housing, Disaster Information etc.

Population information, specially the numbers are much extensively used by all since almost all the programes are geared for the well being of the people. This information is needed by basic demographic and social characteristics and also for smaller geographic / administrative areas which sometimes cannot be supplied.

The data is specially used in monitoring the MDG's.

I. 2. Does the

The following special surveys conducted by the NSO are taken regularly to monitor the special aspects of the economy.

- Labor Force Survey – Employment and Unemployment
- Income and Expenditure Surveys – to monitor poverty

- Prices – Inflation
- National Accounts Statistics – Performance of the income
- Demographic and Health Surveys – evaluate impact of Health programmes

II. 1.

NSO provide the required information if available and these information are only accepted as official statistics. In instances when no. of different sources are available then it is the responsibility of the NSO to mediate and clarify the situation. For instance imports depend on production statistics. To keep prices low the available information will be an issue. So it is the role and responsibility of the NSO to provide the correct information.

Additionally the functioning of the statistical system is such that in each key Ministry, Department and District administrative office there is a representation of the Dept. so that the requests are always forwarded to the representative who co-ordinate with the department for the provision of the statistical data. When there are higher level meetings with experts or foreign mission where data is also a concern, then requests are made to the NSO to nominate a representative. But still there may be few instances that are not strictly followed.

II. 2.

Yes useful. They are taken as guides and in case of controversial issues. Although may not be applicable always, they are modified if possible.

II. 4.

No clear cut mechanism for the National Statistical System to co-ordinate and impose standards for statistics.

III. 1.

- i. Population Census – No
- ii. Household Surveys – Yes
- iii. Establishments/Enterprises – No.

III. 2.

All direct identifications are removed so that no individual information will be divulged.

III. 3.

Yes. (annexed)

Micro-data Dissemination policy of the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS)

Under the Statistical ordinance, micro data cannot be released with identifications for public use. Procedures are in place to ensure that information relating to any particular individual person, household or undertaking will be kept strictly confidential and will not be divulged to external parties. Information on individual or individual household/establishment will not be divulged or published in such a form that will facilitate the identification of any particular person or establishment as the data have been collected under the Census/Statistical ordinance, according to which the information at individual level cannot be divulged and such information is strictly confidential. Therefore, all direct identifiers will be removed (name, address, ID number, business name, reference number, telephone number etc.) before the release of the data file. The following rules apply to micro data released by the Department of Census and Statistics.

- The micro-data pertaining to Censuses will not be released.
- Micro-data of other sample surveys is released free of charge. Only the requests of Government Institutions/Semi Government Institutions, Recognized Universities, Students engaged in higher studies and selected international agencies are entertained. However, the Data users are required to strictly adhere to the terms stipulated in the agreement form.
- All the data requests should be made to Director General (DG) of the DCS as the sole authority of releasing data is vested with the DG, DCS. DCS of Sri Lanka reserves sole right to approve or reject any data request made depending on the confidential nature of the data set and intended purpose of the study or analysis.
- Requests for micro data should be made through the agreement form designed by DCS for this purpose (Form **D.R.1**). The agreement form should be filled in triplicate and the study/project proposal should accompany the filled agreement form. If requests are made for the micro data of more than one survey, a separate agreement should be signed.
- If the data request is from a student, a letter from the respective Department Head/Dean/Supervisor, recommending the issue of data, should also be accompanied.
- If the request is approved, only 25% of the data file is released at the first stage. The release of the full data file is considered only after reviewing the draft report prepared on the basis of the 25% sample data file.
- The released data file should be used only for the specific study/analysis mentioned in the agreement form and shall not be used for any other purpose without the prior approval of the Director General of the DCS. Moreover, Copies of the micro-data file, obtained from the DCS, shall not be given to anyone else without the prior written approval of the Director General of the DCS.
- The draft report of the Study/Analysis based on full data file should be submitted to the DCS and the concurrence of the DG, DCS, should be obtained before publishing it. Once published, a copy of the final report should be submitted to the DCS.