

**Expert Committee to review the functioning of the NSSO**

605. DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any initiatives on the NSSO after the recommendation of Expert Committee to review the functioning of the NSSO;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Expert Committee to review the functioning of the NSSO were considered by the Dr. Rangarajan Commission. The major recommendations of the Commission relating to the functioning of NSSO as agreed by the Government have been implemented.

(c) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

**Status of infrastructure projects in the country**

606. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently released a report on infrastructure projects in the country according to which more than 403 infrastructure projects, each of worth rupees 150 crores, have been hit badly and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has constituted a Task Force with the objective of effective delivery of projects including those based on Public Private Partnership mode within time and budget for Central / State Governments and Public Sector Enterprises; and

(c) if so, whether the Task Force has submitted its recommendation and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation compiles data on time and cost overruns of on-going Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing ₹ 150 crore and above, on the basis of information provided by the project implementing agencies on the On-line Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS). As on 01.05.2020, 403 projects out of 1682 on-going Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing ₹ 150 crore and above were facing cost overruns with respect to original project implementation cost. The details of these projects are available in the flash report at [www.cspm.gov.in/publications](http://www.cspm.gov.in/publications). The reasons for cost overruns are project-specific, depend on a variety of technical, financial and administrative factors, and differ from project to project. However, as reported by the project implementing agencies on the OCMS of this ministry, the main reasons for increase in cost of the projects are: Under-estimation of original cost; Changes in rates of foreign exchange and statutory duties; High cost of environmental safeguards & rehabilitation measures; Spiraling land acquisition costs; Shortage of skilled manpower/labour; Changes in Project scope; Monopolistic pricing by vendors of equipment services; General Price rise / inflation and Time Overruns. Delay in land acquisition and forest clearance has been one of the reasons for time overrun leading to cost overrun as reported by implementing agencies.

(b) and (c) Yes. Government had set up a Task Force to draw up the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) for the period between Financial Year (FY) 2020-25. The Final Report of task force has been released on 29.4.2020 and the National Infrastructure Pipeline is under implementation with a projected investment of about ₹ 111 lakh crore in around 6835 projects. However, this number is not fixed, and it can change as per requirements of the Centre and States Ministries/ Departments and Implementing agencies. The NIP Task force has given recommendations on changes required to several key sectoral policies and other reform initiatives to scale up and propel infrastructure investments in various sectors across the country. Action on identified reforms are being taken up by concerned Ministries/Departments. The reports of the Task Force are available on the website of the Department of Economic Affairs. A dashboard of projects under NIP has been launched as part of the India Investment Grid maintained by Invest India. A multilevel monitoring system has also been put in place to review progress of projects under NIP.