

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 159
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024

OVERLAPPING ROLES OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS

159. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

- (a) details of reasons behind Government's decision to dissolve the Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS);
- (b) the manner in which Government plans to address overlapping in roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee for National Sample Surveys and the SCoS;
- (c) the additional roles and responsibilities NSC has assumed following the dissolution of the SCoS specifically concerning survey methodology, sampling design, and data validation; and
- (d) whether Ministry is planning to establish any new committees under the NSC to replace the advisory functions formerly held by the SCoS, and if so, the timeline for establishing such committees or working groups?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE [RAO INDERJIT SINGH]

(a) to (c): For the purpose of reviewing the framework and to address the issues raised from time to time on the subject, results, methodology, questionnaire, etc of all National Sample Surveys conducted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), it has constituted the Steering Committee for National Sample Surveys (NSS) vide order dated 14.06.2024 as per the recommendation of National Statistical Commission (NSC). The details regarding roles and responsibilities of Steering Committee for NSS including composition and Terms of Reference are given in the Statement at Annexure. Further, the SCoS constituted vide order dated 13.07.2023 has been dissolved as the roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee overlapped with those of the SCoS as outlined in the respective Terms of Reference (ToRs).

(d): In pursuance of the recommendations made by the Steering Committee, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for Enterprise Surveys has been constituted wef 30.08.2024 to provide technical guidance for Enterprise Surveys of NSS and a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for Household Surveys has been constituted wef 30.08.2024 to provide technical guidance for Household Surveys of NSS. These TAGs will be directly reporting to the Steering Committee as and when required. The tenure of the TAG will be for a period of two years from the date of their constitution unless its tenure is extended by a suitable order.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 159 for answer by MoSPI on 25.11.2024

The details including composition and terms of reference are as under:

A. Composition of the Steering Committee:

| | | |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| 1. | Prof. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar, Chairman (NSC) | Chairman |
| 2. | Prof. Bimal Kumar Roy, former Professor, ISI Kolkata | Member |
| 3. | Dr. Tathagata Bandyopadhyay, former Professor, IIM Ahmedabad | Member |
| 4. | Dr. T. V. Ramanathan, D/o Statistics, S. P. Pune University | Member |
| 5. | Prof. Sonal De Desai, Professor, NCAER, New Delhi | Member |
| 6. | Dr. Biswanath Goldar, former Professor, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi | Member |
| 7. | Dr. Mausumi Bose, former Professor, ISI Kolkata | Member |
| 8. | Prof. S. Chandrasekhar, Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai | Member |
| 9. | Chief Economic Adviser, DEA or its representative [Ms. Anuradha Guru, Economic Adviser] | Member |
| 10. | Representative from Reserve Bank of India [Shri Ravi Shankar, Adviser, RBI] | Member |
| 11. | CEO, NITI Aayog or its representative [Ms. Anna Roy, Principal Economic Adviser, NITI Aayog] | Member |
| 12. | Director General (NSS), MoSPI, New Delhi | Member |
| 13. | Director General (Central Statistics), MoSPI, New Delhi | Member |
| 14. | ADG, C&QCD (erstwhile SCD), NSS, MoSPI, New Delhi | Member |
| 15. | ADG, HSD (erstwhile SDRD), NSS, MoSPI, Kolkata | Member |
| 16. | Director, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Govt.. of Uttar Pradesh | Member |
| 17. | Director, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Govt. of Karnataka | Member |
| | DDG, C&QCD, NSS, MoSPI | Non-Member Secretary |

(Note 1. The Member(s) at Sr. No. 2 to 7 above may be treated as Non-Official Member (s) as on date

Note 2. It is further clarified that, where the membership is not designation-based in para A

above, such Members of the Steering Committee will be deemed nominated by their names. Members at serial numbers 12 to 17 would be deemed nominated as per their designation. Moreover, Members at serial numbers 9, 10 & 11 would be deemed nominated as per their designation or represented from their respective offices.)

B. The tenure of the Steering Committee will be for a period of two years. The Steering Committee shall make recommendations to NSC on the matters specified in following Terms of Reference (ToR).

- a. To review the extant framework and to address the issues raised from time to time on the subject results/ methodology questionnaire, sampling frame, sampling design, concepts and definitions, survey instruments etc. related to all National Sample Surveys as brought before the Steering Committee.
- b. To examine the issues or any other matters raised from time to time on the subject methodology, etc. related to all National Sample Surveys by MoSPI or external entities as brought before the Steering Committee.
- c. To review and advise on survey methodology including sampling frame, sampling design, survey instruments, etc. and to finalize tabulation plan of surveys.
- d. Finalization and approval of survey results/ reports for release.
- e. To provide guidance to conduct pilot surveys/pre-testing, if necessary, before finalizing schedules/ questionnaire for data collection from time to time.
- f. To provide guidance for study and exploring the availability of administrative statistics relating to surveys/statistics.
- g. To provide guidance for study/identify data gaps/additional data requirements, if any, in respect of surveys/statistics and suggest appropriate strategy for improvement.
- h. To provide technical guidance to the Central and State (wherever State participation is there) level agencies for the conduct of the surveys.
- i. Deliberate on any other matter relating to or incidental to the surveys/survey results referred to Steering Committee from time to time.

C. The Steering Committee will have the provision to constitute Working Group(s) for aforesaid purposes, if required. The Working Group(s) so formed will directly report to the Steering Committee.

D. The Coordination and Quality Control Division (erstwhile Survey Coordination Division) of NSS, MoSPI shall issue separate order(s) for constitution of such Working Group(s) after taking due approval of the Competent Authority and provide all requisite secretarial assistance to such Working Group(s) for the administrative and financial purposes.
