

D.O.No. M-12014/2/2011-CAP

डॉ० एम. एस. गिल
DR. M.S. GILL

स्पीड पोस्ट
SPEED POST



सत्यमेव जयते

मंत्री
सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली- 110001
MINISTER

STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110001

March 22, 2011

Handwritten signature: Jagan Prasad Jadhav

As you are aware, the Indian Statistical System has played an important role in facilitating informed decision-making for the planned social and economic development of the country. The statistical agencies, in the Central and State Governments, collect a large variety of data, which provides the basis for formulating sound development policies and for effective evaluation of their implementation, thus improving transparency and accountability in governance, as well as better management of delivery of basic services.

Handwritten initials: P.S.M.

2. With rapid progress being made on the social and economic development, the need of the hour is reliable and timely data. This requires, inter alia, strengthening of the Indian Statistical system, both at Centre and State level to meet emerging challenges.

Handwritten signature: M.S. Gill

3. The National Statistical Commission, under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan (Presently Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council) recommended, inter-alia, that the State Governments should :-

Handwritten signature: C. Rangarajan

- (i) Strengthen the role of the States' Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES) as coordinators of their statistical activities by empowering them to take technical review of statistical activities of all departments in the State;
- (ii) Create a separate Department of Statistics by elevating the existing DESs to the level of a Department, and the Director of the existing DESs to the level of Secretary to the State Government;
- (iii) Closely involve the Directors of DESs in their decision making processes by making them Members of Committees or Groups dealing with plans and programmes in substantive fields; and
- (iv) Take steps to create a common statistical cadre and State Statistical Service for manning statistical posts in all departments.

संयोजक, प्रमुख सचिव (सांख्यिकी)
(आयुक्त प्रमुख)
विभागाध्यक्ष, सांख्यिकी
नई दिल्ली- 110001
दिनांक: 22/04/2011

Handwritten initials: M.S. Gill

संयोजक, प्रमुख सचिव (सांख्यिकी)
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दिनांक: 22/04/2011

Handwritten notes and signatures: put up early, E/A, 16/5, 15-5-11, 22/4/11, Contd...2, 22/12/11

4. Further, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI) is undertaking the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP)", in collaboration with the World Bank, with the approved lay out of US \$ 107 million , to strengthen the statistical system of the State/UT Governments for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable statistics for planning and policy making. The States have been advised to give adequate priority for preparation of Specific State Strategic Plans (SSP) for its early implementation.

5. The 13th Finance Commission has also approved of grant of Rs. 6.6 crores for the period 2010-2015, to strengthen the statistical systems in the States. To implement this exercise, the Ministry of Finance has already issued guidelines to all the State Government to submit their action plans. All these fundings is proposed to be routed through the States' Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES).

6. The importance of a robust statistical system has been brought out in the preceding paragraphs. Almost all the States have declared their DES respective as the "Nodal Statistical Agency", for all statistical activities of the State. Some States have upgraded the post of DES to the level of Secretary to the State. However, many other States are yet to take a decision in the matter. In view of the importance of the matter, I request you to issue necessary directions for implementing the recommendations of the National Statistical Commission, as brought out in para 3 above. This will empower your DES in discharging the role of a nodal agency effectively, thus laying the ground for developing a sound statistical system, that will improve the growing requirements of planners and poliry makers, for informed decision making.

Yours sincerely,

(M. S. Gill)

S. Parkash Singh Badal,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab,
Punjab Civil Secretariat
Chandigarh.