

India

Background of the National Statistical Commission

A Commission set up by the Government in January 2000 under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan reviewed the statistical system and the entire gamut of Official Statistics in the country. One of the key recommendations of this Commission was to establish a permanent National Commission on Statistics to serve as a nodal and empowered body for all core statistical activities of the country, evolve, monitor and enforce statistical priorities and standards and to ensure statistical co-ordination among the different agencies involved. The Rangarajan Commission also recommended that the Commission be set up initially through a Government order. In line with the above recommendations, the Government of India ordered the setting up of a permanent National Statistical Commission (NSC) vide [Government Resolution No. A-11011/1/2005-Ad.I](#) on 1st June 2005. The present NSC is expected to become a statutory commission within a year of its assuming charge.

Constitution of NSC

1. A part-time Chairperson who will be an eminent statistician or social scientist
2. Four part-time Members, one each from the following fields of specialization and experience in:
 - (i) economic statistics in such areas as agriculture, industry, infrastructure, trade or finance,
 - (ii) social and environment statistics in such areas as population, health, education, labour and employment or environment,
 - (iii) statistical operations in such areas as censuses, surveys, statistical information system or information technology, and
 - (iv) national accounts, statistical modeling or State Statistical Systems.
3. The Secretary, Planning Commission as *ex-officio* Member.

4. The Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to function as *ex-officio* Member Secretary of the Commission till the Chief Statistician of India assumes office. The Chief Statistician of India, the post created specifically as the Head of the National Statistical Office will be the Secretary of the Statutory Commission.

Functions

The NSC will perform the following functions

- (a) to identify the core statistics, which are of national importance and are critical to the development of the economy;
- (b) to constitute professional committees or working groups to assist the Commission on various technical issues;
- (c) to evolve national policies and priorities relating to the statistical system;
- (d) to evolve standard statistical concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies in different areas in statistics and lay down national quality standards on core statistics;
- (e) to evolve national strategies for the collection, tabulation and dissemination of core statistics, including the release calendar for various data sets;
- (f) to evolve national strategies for human resource development on official statistics including information technology and communication needs of the statistical system;
- (g) to evolve measures for improving public trust in official statistics;
- (h) to evolve measures for effective co-ordination with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations on statistical activities including strengthening of existing institutional mechanisms;
- (i) to exercise statistical co-ordination between Ministries, Departments and other agencies of the Central Government;
- (j) to exercise statistical audit over the statistical activities to ensure quality and integrity of the statistical products;
- (k) to recommend to the Central Government, or any State Government, as the case may be, measures to effectively

implement the standards, strategies and other measures evolved under clauses (c) to (h);

- (l) to advise the Government on the requirement of legislative measures on statistical matters including the statute for the National Statistical Commission;
- (m) to monitor and review the functioning of the statistical system in the light of the laid down policies, standards and methodologies and recommend measures for enhanced performance.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is currently located at Sardar Patel Bhawan, Parliament Street, New Delhi