

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What do you mean by NSSO?

Answer:

The National Sample Survey Organization or NSSO, now National Sample Survey Office is an organization in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation of the Government of India. It is the largest organisation in India conducting regular socio-economic surveys. It is established with the objective of obtaining comprehensive and continuing information relating to social, economic, demographic, industrial and agricultural Statistics through sample surveys.

2. Write a note on origin of NSSO.

Answer:

NSSO was initiated in the year 1950, is a nation-wide, large-scale, continuous survey operation conducted in the form of successive rounds with the objective of obtaining comprehensive and continuing information relating to social, economic, demographic, industrial and agricultural Statistics through sample surveys. It was established based on a proposal from P.C. Mahalanobis to fill up data gaps for socio-economic planning and policy making through sample surveys. A strong statistical base was built in fifties at the instance of the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

3. Name the units under the Department of Statistics of the Government of India.

Answer:

Today, the Department of Statistics of the Government of India is the apex body in the official statistical system of the country. It comprises of:

- i) Central Statistical Organization (CSO)
- ii) The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO)
- iii) The Computer Centre (CC)

4. How the Governing council helps in functioning of NSSO?

Answer:

The Government from time to time reviewed the organization of the work of the NSS. In July 1969, a three-man committee was set up to advice the Government on the lines of reorganization. The committee recommended, in the main, the entrustment of all aspects of NSS work to a Single Government Organization located in the Cabinet Secretariat and governed by a governing council, the council being given sufficient independence and autonomy of decision so as to ensure that the collection, processing and publication of NSS data was free from undue influence.

The Government accepted the recommendations of the three-man committee and announced their decision to set up a National Sample Survey Organisation in the department of Statistics, Cabinet Secretariat and a Governing council to govern its activities in March 1970.

5. Explain the structure of Governing council.

Answer:

The Governing Council consisted of experts from within and outside the Government and was headed by an eminent economist/statistician and the member-Secretary of the Council was Director General and Chief Executive Officer of NSSO. The Governing Council was empowered to take all technical decisions in respect of the survey work, from planning of survey to release of survey results.

6. What are the divisions of NSSO?

Answer:

NSSO had four divisions:

- i) **Survey Design and Research Division (SDRD)**
The Survey Design and Research Division (SDRD) is located at Kolkata. It is responsible for technical planning of the survey, formulation of sample design, designing of enquiry schedules & other survey instruments and preparation of survey reports.
- ii) **Field Operations Division (FOD)**
The Field Operations Division (FOD) has its headquarters at Delhi / Faridabad with a network of six Zonal Offices, 49 Regional Offices and 116 Sub-Regional Offices spread throughout the country. This Division is responsible for the collection of primary data for the various surveys undertaken by NSSO. It is responsible for sample selection, software development, processing and tabulation of the data collected through surveys.
- iii) **Data Processing Division (DPD)**
The Data Processing Division (DPD) has its headquarter at Kolkata. It has six Data Processing Centers located at Delhi, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Giridih and Kolkata.
- iv) **Co-ordination and Publication Division (CPD)**
The Coordination and Publication Division (CPD) functions as the secretariat of the Steering Committee of the NSSO and coordinates all the activities of different Divisions. It also brings out the bi-annual journal of NSSO "Sarvekshana".

Each of them under a director. The divisions are to function under the overall executive control of the Chief Executive Officer.

7. State the objectives of NSSO.

Answer:

- i) To provide statistical and other information for the purpose of state or national planning and policy requirements
- ii) To evolve statistical techniques for the analysis of statistical data, the solutions of administrative problems and estimation of future trends
- iii) To collect and publish information which will be of use to those engaged in economic activities in the country
- iv) To provide and analyse information which are useful to research workers in socioeconomic fields.

8. Briefly explain the functions of NSSO.

Answer:

- i) To conduct large scale sample surveys on subjects like household consumer expenditure, employment and unemployment, health and medical services etc.
- ii) It decides the topics to be covered in a particular survey round.
- iii) Agricultural wing of FOD, NSSO has the overall responsibility of assisting the states by developing suitable survey techniques for obtaining reliable and timely estimates of crop yield
- iv) It conducts annual survey of industries (ASI) every year
- v) NSSO every year brings out reports on status of estimation of agricultural production in India
- vi) NSSO has the central responsibility of coordinating the results of the crop estimation surveys conducted by the states

9. State the activities of NSSO.

Answer:

- i) Agricultural Statistics
- ii) Socio-economic surveys
- iii) Tabulation of NSS data
- iv) Sample size for newly carved out states
- v) Extension of NSS

- vi) Request from other Ministries / organizations
- vii) Annual Survey of Industries

10. Write a note on CSO.

Answer:

For coordination of statistical activities of the different Central Ministries and the State governments and for promotion of statistical standards, the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) was created in May 1951. CSO prepares national accounts, compiles and publishes industrial statistics and conducts economic census and surveys. The Computer Centre (CC) was set up in 1967 as an attached office of the Department of Statistics to cater to the data processing needs of the Department and other Departments of the Union Government.

11. Write about the first survey of NSSO.

Answer:

The NSS conducted the first sample survey on multi-subject household enquiries, designed to fill gaps in the data required for planning, in randomly selected villages and urban blocks spread over the entire geographical area of the country. The first 'round' (Oct 1950-March 1951) and the second round (Apr-June 1951) of NSS were conducted in a sample of 1833 and 1,160 villages, respectively. Urban areas were first covered in the third round (August-November 1951).

12. Briefly explain Agricultural Statistics.

Answer:

Since its inception, the council has been of the view that the collection of the primary data and building up of estimates in the field of agriculture should be the responsibility of the State Government and that the NSS organization should devote its attention to assisting the states in the improvement of these statistics. Accordingly the NSS – LUS (National Sample Survey- Land Utilization Survey) was to be taken up mainly as a statistical check on the primary enumeration of crop areas by the state revenue agencies.

A scheme on improvement of crop statistics has been drawn for implementation, which lays emphasis on collection of ancillary data such as those of irrigation, fertilizers, high yielding varieties, multiple cropping patterns etc. In addition to this the AS wing will also undertake new studies relating to the field of agriculture like estimation of output of fish, live stock numbers, live stock products etc

13. Briefly explain Economic Census.

Answer:

Economic Census (EC) and follow-up surveys were introduced in 1977. EC provides basic details about all economic enterprises in the country. The follow-up surveys are the only dependable source of information on the unorganized sector of non-agricultural production for the preparation of the national accounts. The second EC was conducted in 1980 with the house-listing operations of the 1981 population census. The third EC was carried out in 1990 along with the house-listing operations of the 1991 population census.

14. Write a note on Price Statistics.

Answer:

Data on urban retail prices are collected every month in 59 selected urban centres throughout India for about 250 items, including 15 items of selected service charges. Information is also collected on house rent and off take of commodities. Based on this data, CSO prepares, on a monthly basis, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers for urban non-manual employees (UNME) with base 1984-85. These indices are used for planning and policy formulations by the Government as well as private and public agencies. A six-monthly brochure giving subgroup and group-wise CPI for UNME pertaining to the period Jan-June 1995 has also been prepared.

15. Briefly describe National Family Health Survey (NFHS).

Answer:

NFHS Some unique features of the NFHS are Uniform method of sampling, uniform method of data collection, uniform method of analysis of data and uniform way of presentation of data. It provides information on population, health and nutrition in India and each of its 29 states. NFHS provides trend data on key indicators and includes information on several new topics, such as HIV/AIDS-related behaviour and the health of slum populations. In addition, HIV prevalence is measured at the national level and for selected states. This fact sheet presents provisional information on key indicators and trends at the national level.