

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the need for a data base in a Nation?

Answer: A strong database enumerating the levels and trends of a nation's material and social resources has always been a requisite for the formulation of government policies.

2. What is the effect of statistical information?

Answer: A Sound statistical information lead to informed decision-making and effective formulation and monitoring of public policies.

3. How is the Indian Statistical System treated as?

Answer: The Indian Statistical System functions within the federal structure of the Government of India. Responsibility for administration is divided between the central government and the provincial or state governments.

4. Who acts as the coordinating agency for presenting the statistical information?

Answer: The central government acts as the coordinating agency for presentation of statistics on an all-India basis even in fields where the states have the primary authority and responsibility for collection of statistics.

5. How is the Indian statistical system treated?

Answer: The Indian statistical system is treated as both a centralised and decentralised system.

6. Which is the statistical system at the centre?

Answer: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) is the nodal agency for planning and facilitating the integrated development of the statistical system in the country including laying down norms and standards in the field of official statistics, evolving concepts and definitions, suggesting methodologies of data collection, processing and dissemination of results.

7. What are the four divisions of the programme implementation wing?

Answer: The Programme Implementation Wing has four Divisions viz. Twenty Point Programme Division, Infrastructure Monitoring Division, Project Monitoring Division, and Member of Parliament Local Area Development Division.

8. What is the responsibility of the Central Statistical Organisation?

Answer: The Central Statistical Office is responsible for coordination of statistical activities in the country, and evolving and maintaining statistical standards.

9. Who handles the data processing job of the MOSPI?

Answer: **The Computer Centre** under CSO, handles the data processing jobs of the MOSPI, provides training to statistical personnel on software, maintain the MOSPI's website (www.mospi.gov.in) and the National Data Warehouse of Official Statistics.

10. What are the statistical systems of the state?

Answer: The Directorates of Economic and Statistics (DESSs) in the States / UTs act as the nodal agencies for coordination of all statistical activities in the States/UTs. Most of the States/UTs have District Statistical Offices (DSOs) which act as the field offices.

11. How does the administrative statistics aid the departments?

Answer: Administrative Statistics provide information that is relevant to the working of the Departments. They serve the major purpose of aiding the Departments in the execution of their administrative functions of implementation and execution of different Acts, Rules and Regulations with which the Departments are charged.

12. What are the legal supports for collection data?

Answer: 'Collection of Statistics Act, 1953' to collect industrial data. This Act has since been amended as the new 'Collection of Statistics Act 2008' which is much more comprehensive to enable collection of various socio-economic data.

13. What are the areas focused by the department of statistics?

Answer: Divergence in similar data released by two agencies, New areas of study, Advance calendar for release of data, Simplification of schedules, Creation of a data dissemination centre and a central database in the CSO, Subject panels and Interaction with data users.

14. What are the challenges arising out of globalization & liberalization of the economy?

Answer: The challenges arising are significant structural and operational changes, revamp the statistical system in the country with a view to

improving the credibility, timeliness and adequacy of data, strengthen statistical capacity and infrastructure at the State and sub-State level.

15. What does the Indian Statistical System lack in the present scenario?

Answer: The Indian statistical system does not lack in expertise or in understanding. All that is needed is to integrate and consolidate the available expertise and resources to initiate concerted action.