

## **FEATURES/COMPONENTS OF THE SCHEME**

### **2.1 The Scheme**

**2.1.1** India Statistical Strengthening Project, started in 2010, was initially a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Government of India with an outlay of Rs. 650.43 crores.

**2.1.2** In 2013-14 another Scheme of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation namely Basic Statistics for Local Level Development (BSLLD) has been merged with this Scheme and the Scheme has been renamed Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS).

**2.1.3** The Scheme has been approved, as of now, till March, 2017.

**2.1.4** The Scheme has recently been declared as a Central Sector SubScheme with 100% funding from the Centre.

### **2.2 Objective**

**2.2.1** The objective of the ISSP is to strengthen the capacity of operations of the Indian Statistical System by strengthening the capacity of the State Statistical Systems. The project aims to uplift the level of collection, compilation and dissemination of timely and reliable official statistics; to service the twin objectives of bettering planning and policy at the State and local levels and to provide the data that would be required at the National level in respect of the identified 20- key statistical activities.

#### **Box 2.1**

##### **Period of the Scheme**

Initially, the Scheme was upto the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> plan i.e. March, 2012. Later with the approval of the Competent Authority, this has been extended till the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> plan i.e. till March, 2017.

### **2.3 Coverage**

**2.3.1** Under the scheme, 33 States/UTs had offered their willingness to participate through their Letters of Participation (LoPs). These 33 States/UTs are termed as „participating“ States/UTs. The State of Goa and the UT of Chandigarh informed their unwillingness to participate. The Administration of UT of Lakshadweep which had earlier joined the Scheme later indicated the willingness to withdraw and therefore is not being considering in the Scheme. However, initially, 14 States joined the Scheme, during the period of 2010 to 2013 and were allocated funds. After the revisiting exercise in 2014-15, allocations were made to 19 other willing States/UTs. Out of these, MoUs could be signed and funds released to two of these 19 States also.

## **Seed Money**

**2.3.2** For participating in the Scheme, the State DESs were to draw-up a programme based on their priorities within the overall national vision. For this purpose the States were to study the ground realities and the Statistical development in the State without prejudice. Based on these the States were to draw-up the priority/doable activities with logical timelines and budget lines. For the study and preparation of the State Programme, the States were encouraged to engage expert assistance. Seed money was allocated to each State/UT for completing this job. Most States have prepared their State's document, the State Statistical Strategic Plan (SSSP), which forms the basis of the Scheme.

**2.3.3** Hence, those States for which MoUs have been approved, signed and funds released, and who have started implementing the Scheme, are called, the '**Implementing States**'. As of now, there are **16** implementing States. The names of States, may be seen at Box 2.2.

### **Box 2.2**

#### **Implementing States**

West Bengal, Mizoram, Gujarat, Sikkim, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Jharkhand, Manipur, Telangana, Rajasthan, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh

## **2.4 Implementing Authority**

**2.4.1** At the State level, the State Directorates/Bureau of Economics & Statistics have been identified as the implementing authority for the Scheme.

## **2.5 Approving Authorities for the Scheme**

**2.5.1** The State High Level Steering Committee (SHLSC) headed by the Chief Secretary of the State is the approving authority at the State level and at the Central level, the High Level Steering Committee of ISSP [HLSC] headed by the Secretary, MoSPI is the approving authority at Central Level.

## **2.6 Activities under the Scheme**

**2.6.1** For strengthening and improving the capacity and operations of the State Statistical Systems the interventions basically fall under five major categories:

- ❖ Improving the Co-ordination and Management of Statistical Activities in the States; UTs;
- ❖ Human Resource Development;
- ❖ Developing the Statistical Infrastructure;
- ❖ Investing in Physical Infrastructure including IT, and

- ❖ Improving Statistical operations especially those supporting the cause of improvement in the quality and dissemination of Statistical data

**2.6.2** Uniform set of activities to be taken up have not been prescribed. Rather, the participating States/UTs are needed to identify their own set of activities and Statistical Outcomes/Outputs, based on their priorities, current level of statistical development, constraints, the deficiencies under the 20 key indicators/activities, requirement of administrative statistics for planning, etc.

**2.6.3** The activities are grouped into 11 items, and then these are formalized in the State Programmes, as Annexures of the MoU Text. The 12 items format has been approved as part of the Cabinet approval of the Scheme.

**Box 2.3**

Sl. No.	Items
1	Statistical Application
2	Preparation of State Strategic Statistical Plan(SSSP) and signing of MOU by States with Govt. of India
3	Implementation of recommendations of Technical Groups/Bodies for filling up existing and expected/emerging data gaps, including State/UT specific additionalities
4	HRD issues, with a focus on Training for Capacity Development and Skills Enhancement/ upgradation, including support to Regional Training Centres.
5	Introduction of Innovative Techniques and Methodologies for improving the efficacy of statistical processes and operations
6	Holding of regular/periodic (say once every year) User-Producer dialogues ,stakeholders' consultations and Conduct of periodic (say annual) surveys on user-satisfaction.
7	Dissemination of Annual Reports on the performance of State Statistical Systems and improving the cost effectiveness and ease of data access.
8	Data quality and efficiency improvement measures. **
9	Advocacy Issues viz. Publicity and IEC (Information, Education and Communication) to improve usage of Statistical Products & services