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Government of India
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
National Statistical Office
(Statistical Strengthening Project Unit)

Khurshid Lal Bhawan,
Janpath, New Delhi-110001.
Dated: 20th July,2023.

Minutes of the meeting of Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) for Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) sub-scheme held under the Chairmanship of Director General (C&A), MoSPI on 12.07.2023

A meeting of the Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) of SSS sub-scheme, for consideration of the Proposal of Mid-term corrections in the State Programme of the state of UP and extension of sub-scheme up to 31st March 2025 in the state, was held under the Chairmanship of Director General (C&A), MoSPI on 12.07.2023 at 3:00 PM in Conference Room No. 609, 6th Floor, KL Bhawan, New Delhi. List of participants is **Annexed**.

2. In the meeting, a presentation was made by Director (SSPU), MoSPI about the brief status of SSS sub-scheme, provisions of mid-term corrections, mandate of PMC and admissibility of UP's proposal as per the operational Guidelines of the sub-scheme. These are summarized as under:

- i. The SSS was launched in 2010 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, however, later, it was made a Central Sector sub-scheme with 100% funding from the Centre under the Umbrella Scheme 'Capacity Development' of the Ministry. The sub-scheme aims to improve the statistical capacity and operations of State Statistical Systems for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics and is implemented through the State Directorates / Bureaus of Economics & Statistics.
- ii. Under the sub-scheme, a one-time grant is released in the form of instalments to the States/UTs for undertaking the approved activities as per MoU signed between GoI and respective States/UTs.
- iii. The provision of mid-term corrections is provided in the Revised Operational Guidelines of 2019 (**para 3.2.10**). One of the ToRs of the PMC of the SSS sub-scheme, which is headed by DG(C&A) is to approve the mid-term corrections, if any, in terms of various activities to be undertaken by the State/UT under various components, having total financial implications of re-allocation among components to the tune of upto 25% of the total allocation of the State/UT as per the signed MoU under SSS sub-scheme.

3. This was followed by detailed deliberations on the proposal of UP.

3.1 DES, Uttar Pradesh has submitted the proposal of:

(i) Mid-Term Corrections in the State Programme

(ii) Extension of SSS sub-scheme for one year. i.e., up to 31st March 2025

3.1.1 Uttar Pradesh signed the revised MoU on 30.06.2018 with the allocation of Rs.42.1674 crore. The total amount of funds released to the state is Rs 10.94 crore and out of this the State has reported an expenditure of Rs 6.98 crore.

3.1.2 The State had earlier revised the programme incorporating some mid-term corrections in June 2021 wherein it had given more weightage to SDG-related activities. In the revised State Programme, the total allocation of Rs 42.1674 crore was kept unaltered. Midterm corrections in the State Program, as proposed by the state, were approved by the Central PMC headed by DG (C&A) in June, 2021.

3.1.3 The State has once again submitted the revised State Programme duly approved by the State HLSC in its meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of UP on 21.04.2023 incorporating new surveys/ studies/ training etc. The revised programme has been prepared for an allocation of Rs 41.7233 crore (after adjusting the unutilized funds lying with the state treasury to the tune of Rs 0.44 crore).

3.1.4 The State has also sought an extension upto 31st March 2025 for carrying out the implementation of the SSS sub-scheme activities as per the revised State Programme.

3.2 **Justification of State to the proposal:** (i) It was informed by the State that considering the change in priorities of the State Government, the State HLSC has considered and approved the mid-term corrections involving more activities under Items 3 and 8 of the state Program (ii) As many of the activities proposed in the revised programme are stipulated to be completed by December 2024 and February 2025, an extension of the sub-scheme upto 31st March 2025 would be required for carrying out the implementation of the sub-scheme activities.

3.3 It was observed that in the present proposal, an amount of **Rs 7.7493 crore** available under components 1 (IT Hardware etc.), 4 (HRD issues), 5 (Innovative techniques), 7 (Dissemination of Annual Reports), and 9 (Advocacy issues) has been proposed to be reallocated to components 3 (Recommendations of Technical Groups), 6 (User Producer dialogue) and 8 (Data quality and efficiency improvement measures). This amount is around **18.33%** of the total allocation of **Rs 42.1674 crore** of UP (as per the signed MoU). In the instant case, since the proposed reallocation is less than 25% of the total allocation, the proposal falls under the ambit of the PMC of the SSS sub-scheme.

3.4 Thereafter, the State was asked to explain the objectives of each of the new activities proposed by them to the PMC.

4. **Decisions taken:** The Committee agreed to the proposal of DES, UP and the following deliberations were held/ decisions were taken:

- (i) The PMC noted that the State has proposed major additions in Item 3 (Recommendations of Technical Groups) and Item 8 (Data quality and efficiency improvement measures) which related to the Developing of Methodological Frameworks and Undertaking of Surveys/ Studies. The DES was asked to elaborate on the manner in which they intended to undertake these activities. The Director DES informed that the DES intended to outsource these activities to suitable firms/ vendors.
- (ii) While approving the proposed revisions in the State Program, the PMC recommended the following for the timely completion of the proposed activities in a qualitative and financially prudent manner:
 - a. Outsourcing of activities may be done in a transparent manner in accordance with the General Financial Rules.
 - b. The new activities proposed by the State under Item 3 (Recommendations of Technical Groups) were highly technical in nature, hence, while outsourcing these activities it may be ensured that the selected agencies have relevant expertise and are technically competent to complete the activities within the stipulated time frame.
 - c. While developing methodologies, National/ International Standards and protocols may be adhered to.
 - d. The State may form Technical Committees with members from reputed organisations/ individual experts in the domain to deliberate upon the suitability of the methodologies before starting the fieldwork.
 - e. Estimation Procedures for working out the different estimates may be finalised before the start of fieldwork. DES may scrutinise the field data on at least a quarterly basis, to timely point out errors, if any.
 - f. At least 5% of the sample of each survey/ study involving fieldwork should be crosschecked by the DES through its staff.
- (iii) The progress of implementation of SSS activities in the State during the last 8 years is not upto the desired level. However, in view of the keenness expressed by the State of UP in the completion of the SSS sub-scheme, the PMC approved the proposed extension till 31st March, 2025, to the State of UP. It was also decided that no further extension beyond 31st March, 2025, on any ground, will be considered.

- (iv) The State may hold regular meetings of the State HLSC and the State Implementation Committee for the effective completion of the sub-scheme within the approved time frame.
5. The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of participants

(A) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India

Members of the PMC of SSS sub-scheme

1. Shri A. Nandakumar, DG (C&A)/ Statistics - In Chair
2. Shri Ghan Shyam, ADG (IIICU) - Member
3. Shri D.K. Sinha, DDG (NAD) - Member
4. Shri D.P. Srivastava, DDG (SSPU) - Member
5. Ms Neha Srivastava, Director (SSPU) - Member Secretary
6. Shri Anoop Kumar, DS (IFD) - Member

Other officials/ staff

7. Shri D.S. Misra, Director (SSPU)
8. Shri Krishnadeep Chattopadhyay, JSO (SSPU)

(B) State Government

9. Shri Amrit Tripathi, Special Secretary cum Director, DES, Uttar Pradesh
10. Dr. Divya Sarin Mehrotra, Additional Director, DES, Uttar Pradesh
11. Ms Malovika Ghoshal, Additional Director, DES, Uttar Pradesh
12. Shri Navin Chaturvedi, Deputy Director, DES, Uttar Pradesh