

STATISTICAL SCENARIO IN THE U.T.

With the commencement of the era of planning in India, the need for strong database covering a variety of socio-economic topics has become essential. This led to creation of Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DES) in all States and Union Territories. For the purpose of co-ordination of statistical activities of the U.T and for the promotion of statistical standards, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics was created in August 1957 in the U.T of Puducherry. Since then, DES is acting as the Nodal Agency and Statistical Authority for collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical information on the socio-economic characteristics of the U.T of Puducherry.

The main thrust of the Directorate in the initial years was to serve as a focal point of information on various subject matter fields of statistics. The Directorate has witnessed continuous growth and the responsibilities of the Directorate both in terms of scope and nature of work has increased considerably. DES plays a key role in building up of a sound data base covering various sectors of the U.T economy and provides valuable input for planning and policy formulation. The Hon'ble Minister **Shri.V.Vaithilingam** was the Minister in charge and **Tmt. Naini Jayaseelan** IAS., Development Commissioner was the Administrative Secretary for DES.

The Director **Shri.S.Vaithianadane** is the Head of Department. The functional and organizational structure of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the past 50 years has experienced phenomenal growth ensuring effective co-ordination of statistical activities in the U.T

Many new units have also been set up in the DES as well as in other Departments/Agencies with a view to revitalize the activities of the Directorate and for meeting the growing demands for socio-economic statistics in respect of the Union Territory. Both the delivery system and the style of functioning of the DES have been dynamically designed to offer timely and efficient information service to the user agencies. The statistical technique has been simplified over the past decades with enormous visual aids so that any common man can understand and appreciate the basis of

statistics.

The DES provides technical assistance in statistical matters to the U.T. Government and other Government Departments, viz.,

- Guidance in conduct of survey/ study.
- Population projections.
- Preparation of Publications and
- Providing trained statistical manpower to other Departments/Agencies in the conduct of survey/study as and when required.

The DES acts under the guidance of (i) Central Statistical Organisation (ii) National Sample Survey Organisation (iii) National Buildings Organisation, New Delhi and (iv) Labour Bureau, Shimla. Also, DES keeps close liaison with various Ministries at the Centre and implements Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

An officer in the rank of Joint Director in the Directorate has been designated as Public Relation Officer to look into the grievances of the staff and the public. Office procedure, rules and regulations as prescribed in the office manual are implemented strictly. A display board has been set up in the premises of the Directorate indicating the names of the officers and designation along with subjects dealt by them.

A vigilance Unit has been functioning in the Directorate to process vigilance cases pertaining to the Directorate and subordinate offices. The DES endeavors to achieve and maintain the standard of data collected and committed to further improvement of quality.

The DES has already published the fourth revised edition of the Citizen Charter. The DES also has a separate interactive website and all statistical information / publications / Citizen Charter / RTI Manual are also made available in the official Website of DES <http://statistics.puducherry.gov.in>

The population of the U.T of Puducherry as per 2001 Census was 9.74 lakhs and the average annual growth rate is 2.06% The density of population has increased from

769 persons per Sq. Km in 1961 to 2034 persons in 2001. According to 2001 census, the percentage of rural/urban population are 33.43% and 66.57% respectively. The literacy rate has increased from 37.43% in 1961 to 81.24% in 2001.

The advance estimates of GSDP of Puducherry in 2007-08 (AE) (New base year 1999-00) has been worked out to Rs.6990.67 crores at current prices. The per capita income for the year 2007-08 (AE) has been estimated at Rs.57497/- and Rs. 40931/- at current and constant prices respectively. The sectoral composition of the GSDP at current prices in 2007-08(A.E) indicates that the percentage share of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary sectors is 4.64%, 48.01% and 47.34% respectively.