

STATISTICAL SCENARIO IN THE U.T.

With the increasing involvement of the state in welfare activities, there is a growing need for statistics in all productive activities and their presentation in a meaningful framework to facilitate decision making. This led to the creation of Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DESS) 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 set up in August 1957 in 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. DES has been declared as Nodal Agency for the statistical activities of the Union Territory of Puducherry during 1982. Since then DES is acting as the Nodal Agency and Statistical Authority for developing and managing the statistical system in the Union Territory. The primary objective of DES is the production and dissemination of timely and useful information of assured quality .

The Directorate has witnessed continuous growth over the years and the responsibilities of the Directorate both in terms of scope and nature of work has increased considerably. The statistical science has assumed paramount importance for socio-economic planning and policy formulation in recent years. DES plays a key role in building up of a sound data base covering various sectors of the U.T economy and provides valuable inputs for planning and policy formulation. The Hon'ble Minister **Shri.A.Namassivayam** is the Minister in charge and **Tmt. Nutan Guha Biswas** IAS., is the Principal Secretary (Statistics) –cum - Development Commissioner for DES. The Director , **Shri. S.Vaittianadane** 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 to meet the growing demands of the statistical system. 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 Evaluation Cell so far functioning in the Planning and Research Department has been transferred and attached with Directorate of Economics and Statistics vide G.O. Ms. No. 118/F2/2009 dated 18.09.2009. As such, DES is now vested with the responsibility of conduct of evaluation studies on various subjects in respect of the U.T of Puducherry.

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 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 annual average 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 Quick estimates of GSDP of Puducherry in 2008-09 (QE) (Base year 1999-00) has been worked out to Rs.11773.56 Crores at current prices. The per capita income for the year 2008-09 (QE) has been estimated at Rs.84625/- and Rs.58755/- at current and constant prices respectively. The sectoral composition of the GSDP at current prices in 2008-09(QE) indicates that the percentage share of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary sectors is 2.83%, 60.03% and 37.14% respectively.