

Chapter-17

LABOUR STATISTICS

FUNCTIONS & ORGANIZATIONAL SET-UP OF LABOUR BUREAU

17.1 Ever since its inception in 1946, Labour Bureau has been engaged in collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of labour statistics on different facets of labour. The statistics help in formulation of suitable policies for carrying out various labour welfare activities and suggest appropriate ameliorative measures to improve the conditions of different segments of labour force. Sound database on different facets of labour facilitates decision making on different policy matters. The main activities of the Bureau include:

- (i) Compilation and maintenance of Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers and Agricultural / Rural labourers besides Wage Rate Indices.
- (ii) Conducting research studies and surveys on labour related matters in organized and unorganized sectors, covering, inter-alia, SC/ST Workers, Women Labour, Contract Workers, etc.
- (iii) Collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical information on various aspects of labour such as employment, wages & earnings, absenteeism, labour turnover, social security, welfare amenities, industrial relations, etc., on the basis of statutory and voluntary returns received under different Labour Acts and through the surveys conducted;
- (iv) Imparting training to labour statistical personnel of States/Union Territories as well as to the trainees sponsored by various State and Central agencies;

17.2 The two main wings of the Labour Bureau are at Chandigarh and Shimla with four Regional offices at Ahmedabad,

Kolkata, Chennai and Kanpur and one Sub-Regional office at Mumbai.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LABOUR BUREAU

(I) CONSUMER PRICE INDICES

17.3 The Consumer Price indices compiled and maintained by Labour Bureau on a regular monthly basis are explained as below:

(a) Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)

(i) Existing Series (Base 1982=100)

17.4 Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) measure the relative changes over time in the retail prices of a fixed basket of goods and services consumed by the working class population. These Indices not only serve as indicators of trends in retail prices, but are also used by Government for determining dearness allowance and for wage regulation of the employees of organized and unorganized sectors of the economy.

17.5 The Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (Base 1982 = 100) are compiled and released on monthly basis for all the 70 centres and All India with a time lag of one month. CPI (IW) for six additional centres are also compiled at the request of the States. The monthly indices are published in the Bureau's monthly Journal "The Indian Labour Journal" besides putting them on the Bureau's website. Monthly indices and rate of Inflation in CPI - IW are presented in **Table-17.1**.

(ii) New Series (Base 2001=100)

17.6 The main objective of the scheme is to update the base year of the existing series of Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (1982=100) to a recent period i.e. the calendar year 2001.

The two essential pre-requisite for this revision are:

- (i) Updating weighting diagrams on the basis of the results thrown up by the Fresh Working Class Family Income & Expenditure Survey conducted in 1999-2000 of the targetted population i.e. industrial workers in the seven sectors of employment, which include Factories, Mines, Plantations, Ports & Docks, Public Sector Motor Undertakings, Electricity Generation & Distribution and Railways.
- (ii) Updating base year prices by setting up new price collection machinery which, inter-alia, includes selection of markets, selection of shops, fixation of specifications/varieties of items, appointment of Price Collectors, Price Supervisors and Price Coordinators and fixation of price collection day.

17.7 The work pertaining to derivation of Weighting Diagrams on the basis of main survey on income and expenditure conducted for all the 78 centres has been completed. The provisional month wise Indices in respect of all the 78 centres and All India level have been compiled upto November, 2005 using the software developed by Regional Computer Centre, Chandigarh. The Retail price data for subsequent months i.e. December, 2005 onwards are being collected, posted and scrutinized for making these fit for use in compilation of indices. The fieldwork of 8th Round of Repeat House Rent Survey is in progress. The compilation of indices for the subsequent months is in progress. The work pertaining to preparation of text tables as well as drafting of centre specific report for all the 78 centres and all-India General Report is currently in progress.

17.8 The technical details of the exercise on updation of base of the CPI (IW) series have been approved by the Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices and Cost of Living (TAC on SPCL). The New Series is an improvement over the existing series in view of the more representative character and reflection of latest consumption patterns of the industrial workers. The sample size has been increased to 41040 families from 32616 for the conduct of the family income and expenditure survey. Further, a total of 78 centres have been covered in 2001 series as against 70 centres in the existing series and the number of markets expanded to 289 from 226 in the earlier series. The basket of consumption stands extended to 370 items as against 260 in 1982 series.

17.9 A two day National Level Index Users' meeting at tripartite forum was organized on 19th - 20th May, 2005 at Shimla under the chairmanship of Secretary (L&E) in connection with the release of the new series of CPI-IW (Base 2001=100). The representatives of Central/State Ministries/Departments, Employers' Organizations and Central Trade Unions (CTUs) participated in the deliberations in the Tripartite Meeting. The representatives of Employers' Organizations, the Central and the State Governments, RBI etc. endorsed the immediate release of new series of CPI-IW (Base 2001=100). The CTUs representatives expressed appreciation of the efforts made by the Labour Bureau and TAC on SPCL in bringing out the new series of CPI-IW (Base 2001=100). However, they desired to have their participation besides that of the Employers' Organization in the TAC on SPCL as also evolving a suitable mechanism for periodic involvement of the Users' during the conduct of the exercise for updation of the base.

17.10 As a follow up of the National Level Index Users' Meeting, a meeting

with the representatives of the Central Trade Unions was held on 9th September, 2005 in the Ministry of Labour & Employment under the chairmanship of the Secretary (L&E). It was decided that a meeting of the reconstituted TAC on SPCL having members from Central Trade Unions and Employers' Organizations would be held so as to consider the release of the new series of CPI-IW (Base 2001=100).

17.11 Further, during the course of the meeting chaired by the Secretary (L&E) held on 22nd October, 2005 at Labour Bureau, Shimla, it was decided that necessary steps may be initiated for revision of CPI=IW Series to base 2011=100 in order to adhere to the norms of revision of the base of CPI-IW every ten years.

(b) Consumer Price Index Numbers for Rural and Agricultural Labourers [CPI-RL/AL] (Base: 1986-87=100)]

17.12 The CPI Numbers for Rural labourers and its subset Agricultural Labourers are being compiled for 20 States and all-India on base 1986-87=100 on a monthly basis. These index numbers are used for revision and fixation of minimum wages in respect of the employments in agriculture under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The indices monthly for Agricultural Labourers and annual rate of inflation are presented in **Table-17.2**. The work relating to derivation of weighting diagrams on the basis of consumer expenditure data of the 61st NSS Round (2004-2005) and subsequent revision of base for the new series of CPI-RL/AL has been initiated.

(c) Retail Price Indices of 31 Essential Commodities in Urban Areas

17.13 Retail Price Indices for 31 selected commodities in Urban Areas are compiled every month with 1982=100 as the base. These indices are compiled with the objective of monitoring the movement in prices of selected essential commodities

and are supplied to the Ministry of Consumer Affair, Food and Public Distribution to take remedial action to chase / regulate the prices of these items by the Government.

17.14 In pursuance of the recommendation of the Second National Commission on Labour, the Labour Bureau has started compilation of Retail Price Index (Rural) for 31 essential commodities with effect from April 2003. This index is of vital importance for the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to monitor the prices of essential commodities in rural areas of the country, as well.

(d) Wage Rate Index Numbers

17.15 Index Numbers of Wage Rates, compiled on the basis of data thrown up by the Second Occupational Wage Survey [1963-65] depict movement of relative change experienced in the wage rates over a period of time with 1963-1965=100 as the base. These indices are compiled for workers in twenty-one selected industries in three sectors. Sector-wise details of industries covered and percentage of workers covered to total employment in each sector is given below:-

Sector	No. of Industries	% of Workers covered to total employment in the sector
Manufacturing	14	67
Plantation	3	100
Mining	4	95

17.16 The Wage Rate indices (WRI) are compiled using data on basic wages and dearness allowance, which are of guaranteed and regular nature of earnings to the workers in organized sector in India. The Wage Rate Index Numbers have been compiled upto the year 2001 and the processing of data and compilation of wage rate. The Indices for the year 2001 is in progress. Information on Wage Rate Index Numbers, Absolute Wage Rates and Real Wage Rates (at 1960 prices) in selected 21 industries is given in **Table-17.3**. The

exercise to update the base of WRI by using data thrown up by the 5th round of occupational wage survey with coverage extended to 34 industries is in progress.

(II) Statutory & Voluntary Returns

17.17 Labour Bureau collects, compiles and disseminates labour statistics on different facets of labour based on annual statutory returns received from various States and Union Territory authorities under the provisions of various Labour Enactments and voluntary statistics relating to industrial disputes, closures, lay-offs and retrenchments furnished every month by the State and the Central Labour Departments to the Labour Bureau as given in **Table-17.4**.

(III) FIELD SURVEYS & STUDIES

17.18 As the data compiled from periodic returns do not meet all the information requirements for planning and policy formulation in the field of labour, the Bureau conducts periodic/ad-hoc surveys on Employment, Wages & Earnings and Working & Living Conditions of workers engaged in the Organized and Unorganized sectors of the economy so as to bridge the gap in the availability of labour statistics.

(a) Rural Labour Enquiry (RLE)

17.19 The Rural Labour Enquiry (RLE) data is collected by National Sample Survey Organization as a part of its general Consumption Expenditure and Employment & Unemployment Surveys conducted on quinquennial basis, the latest one pertaining to the year 1999-2000. The preparation and publication of reports on the findings of this survey has been undertaken by Labour Bureau to bring out reports on different aspects of Rural Labour Households viz., (i) General Characteristics, (ii) Indebtedness, (iii) Consumption Expenditure, (iv) Wages & Earnings and (v) Employment & Unemployment. The first four RLE (1999-

2000) reports have been released, whereas the report on Employment & Unemployment would be released shortly. The consumption expenditure data collected through RLE is also being utilized for derivation of weighting diagrams for construction of series of CPI Numbers for Agricultural and Rural Labourers.

17.20 Under this scheme, the Labour Bureau has also compiled wage rate data for 18 agricultural and non-agricultural occupations regularly every month from 600 sample villages upto November, 2004 and published in the Indian Labour Journal. This data is of immense use for drawing up appropriate policies and programmes for conducting cost studies and estimating the National / State Income. This data is also used for ascertaining the extent of implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(b) Occupational Wage Surveys

17.21 Occupational Wage Surveys are being conducted since 1958-59 with the objective of providing data/information required for studying inter and intra-industry wage differentials; Revision of base of Wage Rate Index Numbers and evaluation of the implementation of the provisions relating to the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

17.22 The Sixth Round of Occupational Wage Survey launched in 2003 covering 56 industries has been taken up. In this Round of OWS, 4 service sector industries are being covered for the first time. Field survey for collecting data on four service sector industries viz., Railways, Public Sector Motor Transport, Electricity Generation & Distribution and Ports & Docks has been completed and report writing work is in progress. The field survey in respect of three plantations and one tea processing industries is in progress.

(c) Contract Labour Surveys

17.23 The Contract Labour Surveys are conducted for studying the extent & nature of problems and working conditions of Contract Labour employed in different industries having a high percentage of such labour. Under these surveys, information on Employment, Wages and Earnings, Working Conditions, Welfare, Social Security and Industrial Relations is collected, analysed and disseminated. Reports on all the 44 surveys in 39 industries conducted so far have been released. Field Survey in Air-Transport Sector in the Country has been completed and processing of data is in progress.

(d) Socio Economic Surveys of different Segments of Labour

17.24 The major objective of these surveys is to collect data on working and living conditions of Unorganized Sector Workers, SC/ST Workers and Women Workers as well as the studies on Evaluation of Implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Labour Bureau has so far released 9 survey reports pertaining to workers belonging to Scheduled Castes, 7 to Scheduled Tribes, 29 to Unorganised Sector and 19 to Women Workers besides accomplishing 25 Evaluation Studies. The report in respect of survey on Evaluation of Implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in Stone Breaking & Stone Crushing industry in Rajasthan is under finalization. Women Workers Survey in the Food Processing Industry has been launched covering 15 States.

(e) Annual Survey of Industries

17.25 The Labour Bureau is responsible for processing and dissemination of data on absenteeism, labour turnover, employment, mandays worked, social security benefits, earnings, labour cost and cost of production collected through the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) under the Collection of Statistics Act, 1953. The main objectives of the ASI is to build a systematic database on Absenteeism;

Labour Turnover; Earnings; Employment, Labour Cost and Cost of Production, and to analyse various components of Labour Cost in Manufacturing Industries.

17.26 The scope of the ASI extends to the entire country except the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. The coverage of ASI is extended to all factories registered under sections 2m(i) and 2m(ii) of the Factories Act, 1948 and beedi and cigar manufacturing establishments registered under the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Condition of Employment) Act, 1966. For collection of data under ASI, factories in the frame are classified into two sectors, viz. the Census Sector and the Sample Sector. For ASI 2002-03, the Census Sector consists of all factories in five less industrially developed States/Union Territories; viz. Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, all factories employing 100 or more workers for rest of the States/Union Territories and factories declared as submitting Joint Returns. The units not covered under the Census Sector are covered under Sample Sector.

17.27 Comparative labour statistics for the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 combined for both Census as well as Sample Sector industries have been presented in **Table 17.5**.

(f) Research

17.28 On the recommendations of the Estimates Committee of the Lok Sabha in its 88th Report, a small cell was set up in the Labour Bureau in June, 1963 with a view to undertake research on selected problems. Two publications; i) Statistical Profile on Women Labour; and ii) Digest of Indian Labour Research are brought out by this cell. The main objective of bringing out the Statistical Profile on Women Labour is to make available all important data relating to women labour at one place. The Digest of Indian Labour

Research is brought out with the main objective of making available the annotated bibliography relating to research work done in India in the field of labour during a specified time. The eighth edition covering the period 1998-2003 is under preparation.

(IV) Training in Labour Statistics

17.29 The Bureau imparts training in Labour Statistics with the objective of improving the quality and timeliness in the flow of statistical data. Bureau conducted 43rd Central Training Course on Labour Statistics from 14-19 October 2005 in which officers of different State Govt./Union Territories and Central Departments were imparted training. Special training programmes are also conducted for the Indian Economic Service and Indian Statistical Service (IES / ISS) Probationers, as well as for the foreign participants of International Statistical Education Centre (I.S.E.C.), Kolkata deputed by the Central Statistics

Organization, New Delhi. A group of trainees from Maharashtra Institutes of Labour Studies was also given training on the Labour and Price Statistics on 21st November 2005 at Labour Bureau, Shimla. One training programmes of ISEC officers was conducted from 7-9 November 2005 . A Central Training Programme on Price collection and Index compilation for Price Supervisors and Price Collector, 14th series, was held during 9th to 13th September, 2005 at Shimla. The Kanpur Regional Office of the Bureau also renders technical assistance to different State Governments/Union Territories in conducting the training programmes for the benefit of primary units.

(V) Publications:

17.30 The Bureau brings out a number of publications based on the statistical research work, studies and surveys. The List of Publications brought out during 2005 is given in the **Table-17.6.**

