

Economic census in India

April 3, 2020

Source: *The Hindu*

Manifest pedagogy: Economic Census is a tool to deepen our understanding of the economic scenario and make policies and programmes more meaningful and effective. It also helps us model future decisions better.

In news: The 7th Economic Census is being conducted nationwide through common services centres (CSCs).

Placing it in syllabus: Economic census

Static dimensions:

- What is an economic census?
- Summary of last census

Current dimensions: Latest economic census

Content:

What is the economic census?

- Indian economic census is **the census of the Indian economy through counting all entrepreneurial units in the country** which were involved in any economic activities of either **agricultural or non-agricultural** sector, which **engaged in production and/or distribution of goods and/or services**.
- It provides detailed information on operational and other characteristics such as number of establishments, number of persons employed, source of finance, type of ownership etc.
- This information is **used for micro level/ decentralized planning** and to assess contribution of various sectors of the economy in the GDP.

- **In 1977, the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) conducted the First economic census** in collaboration with the Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES) in the States/Union Territories.
- It is **conducted once in 5 years.**
- However, the economic censuses of 1980 and 1990 were integrated with the house-listing operations of the population census.
- All other economic censuses were **conducted by the DES of the states under the overall guidance of the CSO.**

Summary of 6th economic census:

- The Sixth Economic Census (EC) **covered all States and Union Territories** and was conducted during **January, 2013 to April, 2014** in collaboration with State/UT Governments.
- The EC **enumerated all establishments engaged in various agricultural and non-agricultural activities** excluding crop production, plantation, public administration, defence and compulsory social security.
- **Data for handicraft/handloom establishments were collected for the first time.**
- **Enumeration Blocks (EBs) of Population Census, 2011** were used as the primary geographical units for collection of data.
- Around **58.5 million establishments were found to be in operation** out of which 77.6% establishments were engaged in non-agricultural activities.
- Livestock was the major economic activity (86.74%) of the agricultural sector.
- Around **96.4% establishments were under private ownership** and the remaining 3.6% establishments reported their ownership as Government or PSU.
- Proprietary establishments were 89.39%.
- **Top five states namely Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh** together accounted

for about 50% of the total number of establishments in the country.

- **Around 51.71% were employed in rural areas and 48.29% in urban areas.**
- The growth rate of employment since 2005 was of the order of 38.13%.
- **Manufacturing sector was the largest employer providing employment to 30.3 million (23.1%) persons.**
- Total number of establishments owned by **women entrepreneurs** was 8.05 million (13.76%), out of which about 34.3% belonged to agricultural activities.
- Among the **states, the largest share** in the number of establishments **under women entrepreneurship** was held by **Tamil Nadu followed by Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.**
- Total number of Handicraft/Handloom establishments was 1.87 million which provided employment to 4.2 million persons.
- Among the States, **West Bengal had the largest share in total number of Handicraft/Handloom establishments** followed by Uttar Pradesh and Odisha.

Latest (7th) economic census:

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has tied up with CSC e-Governance Service** for the 7th Economic Census.
- For the first time, the entire Census is being **conducted on a digital platform** by the **use of an application** which will ensure high accuracy and data security.
- The application will ensure that **there is no data breach** and as soon as any data is fed in the application, it is stored in the cloud and no one can access it without permission.
- The work is **pending in just three states – West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.**
- Over 1.5 lakh trained enumerators have been deployed for the nationwide survey who will visit 35 crore

establishments and households to carry out the Census.

- The **fieldwork for the Census started in June 2019.**

CSC e-Governance Services India Limited

- CSC E-governance Services India Limited is a **Non-govt company, incorporated on 16 Jul, 2009.**
- It is a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** which has been set up by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (**MeitY**) under the **Companies Act, 1956** to oversee the implementation of the Common Service Centers (CSC) scheme.
- CSC SPV provides a centralized collaborative framework for delivery of services to citizens through CSCs.