

Chapter-18

LABOUR STATISTICS

FUNCTIONS & ORGANIZATIONAL SET-UP OF LABOUR BUREAU

18.1 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 welfare 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;

18.2 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

18.3 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)

18.4 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 with reference to the base period. 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.

18.5 The Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (Base 1982 = 100) are compiled and released every month for 70 centres and all India level with a time lag of 4 weeks. CPI (IW) for six additional centres are also compiled at the request of states. The 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-18.1**.

(ii) New Series

18.6 The main objective of the scheme is to update the base year of the existing series of Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers. The two essential components 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; and
- (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.

18.7 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 Indices in respect of all the 78 centres have been compiled upto October, 2004 using the software developed by Regional Computer Centre, Chandigarh. The Retail price data for subsequent months i.e. November, 2004 onwards are being collected, posted and scrutinized for making these fit for use in compilation of indices. The fieldwork of 6th Round of Repeat House Rent Survey is in progress. The Compilation of indices for the subsequent months is in progress.

18.8 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). Preliminaries to organize the users meeting at the tripartite forum for the acceptance of the Consumer Price Indices with new base (2001=100) prior to its release have been initiated.

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

18.9 CPI Numbers for Rural labourers and its subset Agricultural Labourers are 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 for Agricultural Labourers and annual rate of inflation are presented in **Table-18.2**. The derivation of weighting diagrams on the basis of consumer expenditure data of the 55th NSS Round (1999-2000) is in progress.

(c) Retail Price Indices of 31 Essential Commodities

18.10 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 commodities and are supplied to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to take timely remedial action.

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

(d) Wage Rate Index Numbers

18.12 Index Numbers of Wage Rates, compiled on the basis of data thrown up by the Second Occupational Wage Survey depict relative changes 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

18.13 The Wage Rate indices 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 2000 and the processing of data and compilation of Index 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-18.3**. The exercise to update the base of WRI by using OWS (Fifth Round) data is in progress.

(II) Statutory & Voluntary Returns

18.14 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 as well as voluntary returns 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-18.4**.

(II) FIELD SURVEYS & STUDIES

18.15 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)

18.16 The RLE data is collected by the NSSO 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) Indebtedness, (ii) Consumption Expenditure, (iii) Wages & Earnings, (iv) Employment & Unemployment and (v) General Characteristics. RLE (1999-2000) reports on 'General Characteristics' 'Wages and Earnings' and 'Indebtedness' have been released. 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.

18.17 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 used for ascertaining the extent of implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The data is also of immense use for drawing up appropriate policies and programmes for conducting cost studies and for estimating the national/state income.

(b) Occupational Wage Surveys

18.18 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.

18.19 After completing the Fifth round of the survey, which envisaged coverage of 53 industries, the Sixth Round has been taken up. In this Round of OWS, 56 industries, including 4 service sector industries being covered for the first time, are proposed to be covered. Field survey for collecting data on 4 service sector industries viz., Railways, Public Motor Transport, Electricity Generation & Distribution and Ports & Docks is in progress.

(c) Contract Labour Surveys

18.20 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. Next survey is proposed to be conducted in Air-Transport Sector in the Country.

(d) Socio Economic Surveys of different Segments of Labour

18.21 This scheme aims at conducting surveys 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 reports on 8 Scheduled Castes, 7 Scheduled Tribes Surveys, 29 Unorganised Sector Surveys, 19 Surveys of Women Workers and 24 Evaluation Studies. Another survey at Jaipur (SC) Centre was completed, the report has been finalised

and is being printed. Yet another survey on Evaluation of Implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in Stone Breaking & Stone Crushing industry in Rajasthan has been completed and the data is being scrutinized.

(III) Training in Labour Statistics

18.22 Bureau imparts training in Labour Statistics with the objective of improving the quality and timeliness in the flow of statistical data. 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. The Bureau conducted 42nd Central Training Course from 16-21 September, 2004, in which officers of different State Government / Union Territories and Central Departments participated. The Bureau also conducted special training programmes for the Indian Economic Service and Indian Statistical Service (IES/ISS) Probationers, as well as for the foreign participants of International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC), Kolkata and the Junior/Senior Certificate Course in Statistics (JCCS/SCCS) for the Officers deputed by the C.S.O. A group of trainees from Maharashtra Institute of Labour Studies was also imparted training on Labour & Price Statistics. A training programme on Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers was also organised from 10-14th September, 2004, in which 35 Price Collectors and Price Supervisors participated.

(IV) Publications:

18.23 The Bureau brings out a number of publications based on the statistical research work, studies and surveys. The List of Publications brought out during 2004 is given in the **Table-18.5**.

Table-18.1

**ANNUAL RATE OF INFLATION BASED ON ALL INDIA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS (1982 = 100)**

Month	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
	Index	Rate of Inflation	Index	Rate of Inflation	Index	Rate of Inflation	Index	Rate of Inflation	Index	Rate of Inflation	Index	Rate of Inflation
		@		@		@		@		@		@
April	415	8.36	438	5.54	448	2.28	469	4.69	493	5.12	504	2.23
May	419	7.71	440	5.01	451	2.50	472	4.66	494	4.67	508	2.83
June	420	5.26	442	5.24	457	3.39	476	4.16	497	4.41	512	3.02
July	424	3.16	445	4.95	463	4.04	481	3.89	501	4.16	517	3.19
August	426	3.15	443	3.99	466	5.19	484	3.86	499	3.10	522	4.61
September	429	2.14	444	3.50	465	4.73	485	4.30	499	2.89	523	4.81
October	437	0.92	449	2.75	468	4.23	487	4.06	503	3.29	526	4.57
November	438	0.00	450	2.74	472	4.89	489	3.60	504	3.07	525	4.17
December	431	0.47	446	3.48	469	5.16	484	3.20	502	3.72		
January	431	2.62	445	3.25	467	4.94	483	3.43	504	4.35		
February	430	3.61	443	3.02	466	5.19	484	3.86	504	4.13		
March	434	4.83	445	2.53	468	5.17	487	4.06	504	3.49		
Annual Average	428	3.38	444	3.74	463	4.28	482	4.10	500	3.73	517*	3.40*

Note:- @ Percentage increase over the figures of the corresponding month of the previous year.

* Based on 8 months.

Table-18.4		
Statutory & Voluntary Returns		
Sl. No.	Statutory Returns	Latest Year for which Review released/data published
1.	The Factories Act, 1948	2000
2.	The Payment of Wages Act, 1936	2001
3.	The Minimum Wages Act, 1948	2001
4.	The Plantations Labour Act, 1951	2001
5.	The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961	2001
6.	The Shops and Commercial Establishments Acts	2002
7.	The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946	2002
8.	The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923	2002
9.	The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961	2002
10.	The Trade Unions Act, 1926	2000
11.	Annual Survey of Industries (Under the Collection of Statistics Act, 1953)	2001-02
Voluntary Returns		
1.	Statistics relating to Closures, Retrenchments & Lay-offs	2002
2.	Industrial Disputes in India.	2002

Table-18.5	
List of Publications brought out by the Labour Bureau during 2004	
1	Indian Labour Journal (Monthly).
2	Pocket Book of Labour Statistics 2003-2004 (Combined).
3	Annual Report on Consumer Price Index Numbers for Agricultural/Rural Labourers for the year 2002-2003
4	Annual Report on Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers for the year 2003.
5	Wage Rates in Rural India 2002-2003 .
6	Report on Indebtedness of Rural Labour Households' for the year 1999-2000.
7	Statistical Profile on Women Labour-2004
8	Statistics of Factories for the year 2000.
9	Annual Survey of Industries 2000-2001 (Vol-II) – Report on Absenteeism, Labour Turnover, Employment and Labour Cost in Sample Sector.
10	Annual Survey of Industries 2001-2002 (Vol-I) –Statistics on Employment and Labour Cost in Sample Sector.
11	Annual Survey of Industries 2000-2001 (Vol-II) – Report on Absenteeism Labour Turnover, Employment and Labour Cost in Census Sector.
12	Annual Survey of Industries 2001-2002 (Vol-I) –Statistics on Employment and Labour Cost in Census Sector.
13	Trade Unions in India –2000
14	Review of the working of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 for the year 2002 (Published in ILJ).
15	Report on the Socio economic conditions of Licenced Railway Porters.
16	Report on General Characteristics of Rural Labour Households- 1999-2000.
17	Industrial Disputes in India during 2002.
18	Statistics on Closure, Retrenchments & Lay-offs during 2002.
19	Review of the Working of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 for the year 2002 (Published in ILJ).
20	Review of the Working of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 for the year 2002 (Published in ILJ).
21	Review of the Working of the Shops & Commercial Establishment Acts for the year 2002 (Published in ILJ).
22	Review of the Working of Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 for the year 2002 (Published in ILJ).
23	Annual Survey of Industries 2001-02 (Vol.-II) Report on Absenteeism, Labour Turnover, Employment and Labour Cost in Census Sector.
24	Annual Survey of Industries 2001-02 (Vol.-II) Report on Absenteeism, Labour Turnover, Employment and Labour Cost in Sample Sector.
25	Report on Working of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for the year 2001.