

Annual Report 2007–2008



About NCAER

The NATIONAL COUNCIL OF APPLIED ECONOMIC RESEARCH (NCAER) was formally inaugurated by the President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad on December 18, 1956. The Council is an independent institution, run by a Governing Body on behalf of the General Body, to support India's economic development through empirical socioeconomic research. The bulk of the Council's revenue comes from studies done on contract for clients in government, the development community and the private sector. The NCAER work programme is currently divided into four broad research areas:

- *Growth, Trade and Economic Management*
- *Investment Climate, Physical and Economic Infrastructure*
- *Agriculture, Rural Development and Resource Management*
- *Household Behaviour, Poverty, Human Development, Informality and Gender*

A broad theme that permeates the Council's current research activities is the progress of India's economic reform programme and its impact on agriculture, industry and human development.

The current Director-General, Mr Suman K. Bery, assumed charge on January 1, 2001. He was earlier with the World Bank in Washington DC where he held a number of positions that entailed economic analysis and research. Between 1992 and 1994, Mr Bery was based in Mumbai as Special Consultant to the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Today, NCAER has links with major policy research institutions and universities outside India including the National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, MA; the Brookings Institution, Washington DC; the Centre for Economic Policy Research, London; The University of Maryland, College Park, MD; Oxford University; and the Institute of Applied Economic Analysis (IPEA), Brazil.

For further details please visit us at: www.ncaer.org

Annual Report 2007–2008



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF APPLIED ECONOMIC RESEARCH

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N.J. Sebastian

Secretary and Chief Librarian

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Parisila Bhawan, 11 Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi 110 002

T (91-11) 23379861-3 F (91-11) 23370164

W www.ncaer.org E infor@ncaer.org

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Abbreviations/Acronyms

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADBI	Asian Development Bank Institute
AFD	French Development Agency (Paris)
AIMA	All India Management Association
AoA	Agreement on Agriculture
AKST	Agricultural Knowledge, Science & Technology
APEDA	Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
ASSOCHAM	Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BCI	Business Confidence Index
BES	Business Expectations Survey
BITS	Birla Institute of Technology and Science
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CASE	Current Awareness Service in Economics
CEPR	Centre for Economic Policy Research (London)
CGE	Computable General Equilibrium
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry
CISF	Central Industrial Security Force
CLCSS	Credit-Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme
CMIE	Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy
CPRC	Chronic Poverty Research Centre
CRC	Cyclic Redundancy Check
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CUTS	Consumer Unity and Trust Society, Jaipur
DARE	Department of Agricultural Research and Education
DEA	Department of Economic Affairs
DEPB	Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme
DFID	Department for International Development (U.K.)
DRDO	Defence Research and Development Organisation
EU	European Union
FCI	Food Corporation of India
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
FTA	Free Trade Agreement

GASAB	Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GITAM	Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management
GSDP	Gross State Domestic Product
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Assistance
HDFC	Housing Development Finance Corporation
IAASTD	International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development
IPEA	Institute of Applied Economic Analysis (Brazil)
IAMR	Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi
IARI	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICFAI	Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India
ICRIER	Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDFC	Infrastructure Development Finance Company
IEG	Institute of Economic Growth
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IIC	India International Centre
IIPA	Indian Institute of Public Administration
IPRCC	International Poverty Reduction Center in China
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPF	India Policy Forum
ISP	Indra Sagar Project
ISST	Institute of Social Studies Trust
IWT	Inland Waterways Transportation
JETRO	Japan External Trade Organisation
JKP	Jan Kerosene Pariyojana
JNNURM	Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission
JNU	Jawaharlal Nehru University
KRC	Knowledge Resource Committee
KST	Knowledge, Science and Technology
LSE	London School of Economics
MSMEs	Ministry of Small Scale and Medium Enterprises
MSMEDI	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises-Development Institute
MSP	Minimum Support Price
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NBER	National Bureau of Economic Research (Cambridge, MA)
NCAER	National Council of Applied Economic Research
NCAP	National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research
NCDC	National Cooperative Development Corporation
NDTV	New Delhi Television Limited
NIPFP	National Institute of Public Finance and Policy
NIIT	National Institute of Information Technology
NISTADS	National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies

NSSO	National Sample Survey Organisation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PDS	Public Distribution System
PHDCCI	Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry
PIA	Project Impact Area
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
PSEs	Public Sector Enterprises
PRIs	Panchayati Raj Institution
RBI	Reserve Bank of India
REDS	Rural Economic and Demographic Survey
RTA	Regional Trade Arrangement
SAM	Social Accounting Matrix
SANDEE	South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics
SANEI	South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes
SEBI	Securities and Exchange Board of India
SBI	State Bank of India
SEWA	Self Employed Women's Association
SHG	Self- help Group
SHPI	Self- help Promotion Institutions
SKO	Superior Kerosene Oil
SSI	Small Scale Industries
TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute
ToR	Terms of Reference
TPDS	Targeted Public Distribution System
UCLA	University of California, Los Angeles
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAT	Value Added Tax
VEC	Village Education Committee
WCD	Wolfensohn Centre for Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WIEGO	Women in the Informal Economy; Globalizing and Organizing
WTO	World Trade Organization

The Institution

THE GOVERNING BODY*

The Governing Body met thrice during 2007–08: on April 13, August 7 and December 1, 2007. The General Body met on August 7, 2007.

President

Nandan M. Nilekani Co-Chairman, Infosys Technologies Limited, Bangalore

Vice-President

M.S. Verma Former Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and State Bank of India

Secretary

N. J. Sebastian Secretary and Chief Librarian, NCAER, New Delhi

Members

Shankar N. Acharya	Honorary Professor and Member, Board of Governors, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi
Isher J. Ahluwalia	Chairperson, Board of Governors, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi
Mukesh D. Ambani	Chairperson, Reliance Industries Limited, Mumbai
Suman K. Bery	Director-General, NCAER, New Delhi (ex-officio)
Surjit S. Bhalla	Managing Director, O(x)us Investments Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
Tarun Das	Chief Mentor, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi
Yogesh C. Deveshwar	Chairperson, ITC Limited, Kolkata
D. Subbarao	Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India (ex-officio)
Ashok S. Ganguly	Chairperson, ICICI One-Source Limited, Mumbai
K.V. Kamath	Managing Director and CEO, ICICI Bank Limited, Mumbai
Naina Lal Kidwai	Chief Executive Officer, Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd., Mumbai
Anand G. Mahindra	Managing Director and Vice-Chairperson, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Mumbai
R.A. Mashelkar	CSIR Bhatnagar Fellow, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune
Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw	Chairperson & Managing Director, Biocon India Limited, Bangalore
Rakesh Mohan	Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India
Rohini Nayyar	Former Advisor, Planning Commission, New Delhi
Deepak S. Parekh	Chairperson, Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Ltd., Mumbai
Rajendra S. Pawar	Chairperson, National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), New Delhi

* As on July 1, 2008.

FOUNDER MEMBERS

J.R.D. Tata
N.R. Pillai
C.D. Deshmukh
T.T. Krishnamachari

John Mathai
V.T. Krishnamachari
J.F. Sinclair
Ashoka Mehta

THE GENERAL BODY*

Life Members

Subir Gupta
S.M. Wahi
D.N. Patodia

Patron Members

Bata India Ltd.
DCL Polyesters Ltd.
ICICI Bank Ltd.
State Bank of India

Special Member

New Zealand High Commission, New Delhi

Corporate Members

1. Academy of Business Studies
2. A.F. Ferguson & Company
3. Ajay Sethi & Associates
4. Apollo Tyres Ltd.
5. Asian Development Bank
6. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry
7. Bajaj Auto Ltd.
8. Bharat Forge Ltd.
9. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
10. BMR & Associates
11. Business Standard Ltd.
12. CESC Ltd.
13. Confederation of Indian Industry
14. Crompton Greaves Ltd.
15. DSP Merrill Lynch Ltd.
16. Eicher Goodearth Ltd.

17. E.I.D. Parry (India) Ltd.
18. Equus Advertising Company
19. Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.
20. Godfrey Philips India Ltd.
21. Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
22. Godrej Industries Ltd.
23. Hindalco Industries Ltd.
24. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd.
25. ICICI Bank Ltd.
26. IL & FS Financial Centre
27. Indian Banks' Association
28. Indian Grameen Services
29. Industrial Development Bank of India Ltd.
30. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

* As on March 31, 2008.

31. Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd.
32. Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
33. M & C Saatchi Communication Pvt. Ltd.
34. Max India Ltd.
35. Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
36. McKinsey & Company
37. National Association of Software Services & Company
38. National Chemical Laboratory
39. National Dairy Development Board
40. National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
41. National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.
42. Nicholas Piramal India Ltd.
43. NIIT Ltd.
44. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.
45. Orient Paper and Industries Ltd.
46. PCP Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.
47. Pepsi Foods Private Ltd.
48. PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry
49. POSCO Research Institute
50. Punjab National Bank
51. Punjab University
52. Rai Foundation
53. Reliance Industries Ltd.
54. RITES Ltd.
55. Sakthi Sugars Ltd.
56. Seminar Publications
57. Shell India Private Ltd.
58. SRF Ltd.
59. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.
60. Tata Steel Ltd.
61. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
62. Thakur Vaidanath Aiyar & Co., Chartered Accountants
63. Triveni Engineering & Industries Ltd.
64. Usha International Pvt. Ltd.
65. Valsad District Co-operative Milk Production Union
66. V. Malik and Associates, Chartered Accountants

Ordinary Members

1. Apeejay Education Society
2. D.R. Agarwal
3. Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS)
4. EPW Research Foundation
5. Martin and Harris Pvt. Ltd.
6. Miven Mayfran, Conveyors Pvt. Ltd.
7. National Physical Laboratory
8. Sidho Mal Paper Conversion Co. Pvt. Ltd.
9. Sir Ratan Tata Library
10. The Godavari Sugar Mills Ltd.
11. Valsad District Co-operative Milk Production Union

Number of Members

	March 31, 2007	March 31, 2008
Corporate members paying Rs. 5,000/- per annum	25	66
Ordinary members paying Rs. 500/- per annum	11	11
Patron members paying a one-time subscription of Rs. 1 lakh	4	4
Special members paying a one-time subscription of Rs. 1 lakh	1	1
Total	41	82
Total fees received	Rs. 1, 30, 500	Rs. 3, 35, 500



DR BIMAL JALAN, PRESIDENT, GOVERNING BODY, NCAER, RECEIVING A MEMENTO FROM SUMAN BERY, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NCAER, DURING HIS FAREWELL ON APRIL 7, 2008 AT THE NCAER LAWNS.

Director-General's Report (2007–08)*



PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

Following the previous year's Golden Jubilee, 2007–08 marked the beginning of the National Council's second half-century. An important transition for the institution was Dr Bimal Jalan's decision to step down as President of the Governing Body, after serving ten years in this role, and the election of Mr Nandan M. Nilekani to succeed him, with effect from April 15, 2008.

This was Dr Jalan's second spell as President of the Governing Body; he had also held the position briefly between 1992 and 1993. Dr Jalan returned as President in 1998, when he was Governor, Reserve Bank of India, and has continued after his appointment as a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha.

It has been my privilege to serve as Director-General for more than seven of the ten years of Dr Jalan's Presidency. It has been an exceptionally stimulating and agreeable experience. NCAER has been through considerable change over this period in an effort to remain relevant and responsive to a rapidly changing Indian economy.

I am particularly indebted to Dr Jalan for his advice on managing change in the Indian environment, and for his sure feel for the appropriate visibility and tone for the NCAER in India's increasingly raucous public space. Dr Jalan's wisdom and experience, his strategic sense and his extraordinary network (domestic and international) have all been resources generously made available when requested. He

was always clear that the responsibility and accountability for the day-to-day management of NCAER lay with me, and that his primary role was to interact with NCAER's distinguished Board on issues of governance and strategy. Each interaction with him was an opportunity to learn a lesson about light, efficient, decisive and wise leadership.

Dr Jalan has assured the Board that he will remain available to help NCAER even after stepping down. I have no doubt that we will continue to call on him for his insight, judgement, warmth and friendship.

I am very excited and pleased that Mr Nandan M. Nilekani accepted the invitation of the General Body to succeed Dr Jalan. His election follows NCAER's established tradition of choosing Presidents from both the official and private sectors. NCAER's Memorandum of Association designed the NCAER to serve India's economic development through advice and assistance to both the official and commercial sectors. Mr Nilekani is currently the Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors of Infosys Technologies, and has given freely of his time to a number of public duties, including as a member of the National Knowledge Commission. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Washington DC, and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).



* The Council's financial year runs from April 1 to March 31.

GOVERNING BODY AND GENERAL BODY

I would also like to use this occasion to express my thanks to all the other Board members who have given freely of their time whenever asked, and have collectively provided important inputs and advice over the year. My particular thanks go to the Vice-President, Mr M.S. Verma, for the time and attention to detail he has consistently given to the Council's finances and other aspects of our administration, as chair of our Standing Committee.

I am also pleased to report success in our efforts at expanding our corporate membership, at the direction of the Governing Body. Our roster of subscriber corporate members, who form the greater part of our General Body, has increased from 25 to 66 as a result of a special campaign. We are grateful to those who responded to our appeal to demonstrate their support for the Council as an important national institution.

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS AND OUTPUTS

The heart of NCAER's work programme remains sponsored projects undertaken for a broad range of clients, sometimes in partnership with other academic institutions, almost always with a policy or decision focus.

While there is inevitably a certain amount of inter-year variation, NCAER typically handles a portfolio of around 60 projects in any given year, with around a quarter of these, usually the larger ones, involving data collection (More details are given in the financial pages of this report.). It may be mentioned here that the figure for new projects received in 2007–08 is unusually large on account of a single large project (in the amount of Rs. 20.4 crore) entrusted to the Council (following a competitive bidding process) by the Development Commissioner (DC), Handlooms to conduct a census (together with photo-identity cards) of handloom weavers.

Given that we are constrained in the

number of senior staff available to manage and execute projects, there is an inevitable tension between completion of existing projects and negotiation and initiation of new projects. To the extent possible, our preference is to accumulate projects toward the second half of a given fiscal year for completion in the succeeding year. Given the role of our sponsors in reviewing and approving completed projects, this is not always possible.

The portfolio of client-initiated projects is complemented by a range of self-sponsored/self-financed activities, supported by project-specific fund-raising or subscriber fees. Examples of such activities include our respected *Quarterly Review of the Economy/Business Expectations Survey* suite of products supported by approximately forty annual subscribers and our India Policy Forum, a joint activity with the Brookings Institution, Washington DC, generously supported for the fourth successive year by Tata Sons, State Bank of India, Citi (India) and HDFC.

A mix of demand and supply forces shaping the work programme serves to ensure that NCAER keeps in touch with policy concerns as they evolve, while permitting NCAER scholars to develop specialisation in chosen areas of interest. NCAER is also increasingly called upon to provide a neutral forum for public debate of issues of public policy, usually, but not inevitably, around a document or report. An example of such an activity in the past year was the discussion of the *Report of the High-Level Committee to make Mumbai an International Financial Centre* convened at the request of the Ministry of Finance with the sponsorship of Mastercard (India).

The work programme executed over the last twelve months is described in detail in the following pages; my purpose here is to touch on some of the highlights, so as to provide a flavour of some of the themes, issues and findings generated by this large body of work.

Among a whole range of activities involving household data collection, the year under review saw the finalisation of two large household datasets, each representing the culmination of several years of work.

The first of these was the “India Human Development Survey, 2005”, jointly organised by researchers at the NCAER and the University of Maryland, funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD. This is a nationally representative survey of 41,554 households located in both urban and rural areas of India. The present survey follows upon one conducted by NCAER in 1993–94 which was limited to rural households; some of those households were resurveyed in the present round.

The parlous state of India’s social indicators is well documented in a range of other descriptive datasets (such as the various rounds of the National Family Health Survey undertaken by the International Institute of Population Studies, Mumbai). Accordingly, the primary goal in designing the new dataset has been to provide an appropriate range of correlated household, facility and community data to permit rigorous examination of behavioural determinants of household human-development seeking behaviour and its relationship to outcomes.

As per the grant agreement between the University of Maryland and the NIH, this dataset is intended to be a public, documented resource for the use of scholars and policy-makers world-wide. An initial edited volume of scholarly papers by the core research team is under preparation. The expectation is that the availability of these data will stimulate much wider examination of Indian human development, which in turn forms a critical part of the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals.

The second major dataset finalised during the year was NCAER’s National Survey of Household Income and Expenditure

(NSHIE), also canvassed with reference to the fiscal year 2004–05.

The NSHIE builds upon a twenty-year old effort at NCAER to link household demographics with household consumption behaviour. This has been done more frequently than is available from the standard data source on this subject, the five-yearly “thick round” consumption surveys of the National Sample Survey (NSS). These NSS rounds form the basis of the Planning Commission’s periodic official estimates of population in poverty.

There are several important differences between the NSHIE and the NSS. The former includes questions on household income, whereas the latter focuses only on consumption. The treatment of consumption in the NSHIE is restricted to a core list of household consumption articles, without any attempt to be as exhaustive as the NSS. An important benefit of this lighter core coverage is that NCAER has considerably more flexibility to add special questions and modules at the request of sponsors. The sampling frame of the two surveys also reflects their different purposes, with the NCAER traditionally oversampling richer households to obtain reliable information on the penetration of “luxury” durables, such as cars and air-conditioners.

When initially conceived in the mid-1980s, the Market Information Survey of Households (MISH, the predecessor and model for the NSHIE) was designed to provide insight into household demand for key consumables and consumer durables. Over time, more attention started to be paid to the income data being generated as a by-product of the “listing” exercise, conducted to establish the sampling frame for each round. This income data started to generate public policy interest in its own right, as an additional perspective on poverty findings generated by the NSS. The income data also provoked interest in the private sector as a benchmark of the “growth of the middle class”. This interest

was, for instance, reflected in McKinsey and Company's report "The Bird of Gold", to which NCAER contributed, and which used the NCAER classification of income categories in order to forecast income transitions in urban and rural India.

The MISH was accordingly completely redesigned in 2005 (with the advice and guidance of outside statistical experts) to take better account of these emerging interests, while retaining comparability with the past. In particular, the questions on income were expanded and reformulated to reflect international conventions, and the sample frame was redesigned and expanded also to reflect this greater interest in income. The detailed survey of 63,016 households followed upon an initial listing exercise of 440,000 households. The costs of the survey were partially covered by special modules commissioned by Maruti Suzuki and by Max-New York Life Insurance Limited. The public policy dimension was also supported by Max-New York Life in the production of a book entitled "How India Earns, Spends and Saves" which was released by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr Montek Singh Ahluwalia in Delhi on February 6, 2008. Those portions of the household dataset which are of interest to academics are being released for wider distribution. I would like to express my appreciation to Max-New York Life for their interest and support of the public policy elements of this work.

I have dwelt upon these two datasets at length because data collection, cleaning and preparation are a large part of the Council's overall programme of work, one whose contribution to analysis and debate extends well beyond the collection of the data itself. I also wanted to draw a contrast between two quite different models of support, one originating firmly in the academic environment, the other dependent on the private sector, to demonstrate the range and flexibility of NCAER's data-collection

capacity. As already mentioned, the Council is currently engaged in its most ambitious contract for data collection (for the D.C. Handlooms). We intend and expect that managing this project will significantly enhance the Council's own capacity in the use of modern technologies in data collection.

The Council maintained its vibrant programme of activity in other areas as well. Work on poverty measurement and mitigation remained a central focus, particularly work on public distribution (food and kerosene). Longitudinal (panel data) on rural households has enabled our research on poverty dynamics. The Asian Development Bank also supported a project on strategies for poverty reduction. We continued our strong programme in the area of international trade, particularly with respect to trade negotiations in agriculture, and by assisting the Ministry of Commerce in preparing for a broad front of bilateral negotiations. We concluded an extensive programme of support to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in developing a methodology to assess progress on the various dimensions (functions, functionaries, finances) of decentralisation for each state. We deepened our work in the science and technology areas in several ways: by continuing our association with the Department of Information Technology in continuing our reports on e-readiness of India's states; by building upon the work we did for the first India Science Report (in 2005) to collaborate with an international network of scholars on public attitudes toward science and technology; and by working as part of a global team to develop a "talent index" in the major emerging markets in cooperation with the Levin Institute of the State University of New York in New York City.

With regard to the annual calendar of events, we were pleased to welcome ICRIER as an additional partner (with NBER and NCAER) in the annual conferences on the Indian economy held at Neemrana in

Rajasthan. The ninth such conference was held in January 2008, with ICRIER taking the lead. This is an appropriate occasion to acknowledge the leadership of Professor Martin Feldstein in initiating this programme on India in his capacity as President of the National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, MA, a position from which he has since stepped down. Through Professor Feldstein, NCAER and a broad group of Indian policy analysts and policy makers were introduced to some of the world's finest empirical research and researchers, a privilege for which we are enormously grateful and which has been an inspiration to us to raise our own standards. Reference has already been made to the *India Policy Forum* which is the principal product of our relationship with the Brookings Institution. That relationship was further deepened by my personal participation in a launch event of the published volume in Washington in September 2007, and by interaction with a large group of Brookings supporters on a visit to India in February 2008, led by Brookings' President, Strobe Talbott.

FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION

As the above partial recitation of achievements would indicate, NCAER has been an active, engaged place over the past year. Its value as an institution of national importance was signalled by the action of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, to extend a soft loan to NCAER for infrastructure development, received toward the end of the fiscal year.

I wish I could say that all is well and sound structurally in the Council, but a glance at the end sections of the report, those dealing with our finances and our staffing shows that there is still work to be done. With respect to our finances, the most visible concern is the decline in our recorded project revenues this year as versus both our budget and as compared with the previous year. Of the various explanations for this result two are

worth highlighting: the slow rate at which a major salary hike at mid-year was passed through to our recorded revenue on ongoing projects; and delays in closing several projects where we stood to book significant surpluses. As against these disappointments, we can take pride in the continuing cleansing of our balance sheet, this year by making additional provisions for leave encashment. This augurs well for the future.

For a human-capital-dependent organisation, of equal, and perhaps greater concern is the difficulty in retaining and attracting research staff. As Appendix II indicates, the number of research professionals at the key levels (Level 4 to 6) has continued to decline, from 30 at end-March 2005 to 26 at end-March 2008. While turnover in staff is not unexpected, fresh recruitment is proving to be a tortuous process, partly because opportunities in the for-profit sector are currently so promising. There are no quick fixes available, other than to pay more attention to human resource issues than we do presently, and to be willing to experiment with a range of models that allow us to use non-regular senior staff without compromising control or quality.

CONCLUSION

In last year's message I articulated my view of the challenges confronting NCAER. These were to modernise our physical infrastructure, professionalise our survey capacity, raise our endowment income, strengthen our review and quality control mechanisms, and invest in communication and dissemination. These remain our imperatives; we have made some limited progress in each area, but much more needs to be done. I look forward to working with our new President, the Board and NCAER's eager and dedicated staff to make more rapid progress in all these areas, so that NCAER will continue to contribute even more significantly to India's development in the years to come.

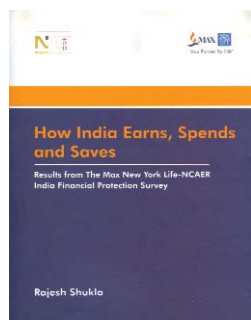
Activities 2007–08

PUBLICATIONS*

BOOKS/ PUBLISHED REPORTS

How India Earns, Spends and Saves- Results from the Max-New York Life- NCAER India Financial Protection Survey

[2007, MAX-NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY AND
NCAER, PP. 80]



The study was conducted by Max-New York Life Insurance Ltd. and the National Council of Applied Economic Research. The study offers valuable insights on the

patterns of consumption and saving across the rural and urban population.

This report tracks the various parameters that contribute towards the social and economic wellbeing of the people and their ability to protect themselves and their families against unforeseen crisis. It would be helpful in measuring the economic wellbeing of India's populace.

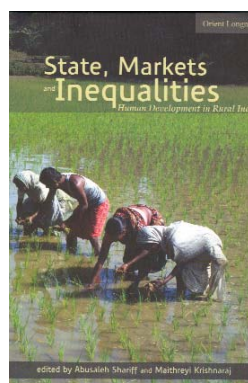
This study also focuses on life insurance and has detailed findings on the awareness, ownership among Indian households and the size of insurance premium payments. Some of the findings are: urban households earn 85% more than rural households and spend three-fourths more; they also save nearly double that of rural households. Indians have a

high propensity to save—81% of Indian households save. Bank deposits constitute the most preferred form of savings. This report reinforces the fact that a majority of Indian households are financially at risk and the major goal of the insurance companies should be to spread awareness about financial instruments. Thus, it provides valuable insights for the government and insurance sector to develop more focused strategies towards building a stronger and more financially secure India.

PRINCIPAL NCAER STAFF: RAJESH K. SHUKLA, NITASHA MONGA, ASHA SHARMA, SANDIPAN RAY, S. K. DWIVEDI, CHARU JAIN, PREETI KAKKAR, ANUJ DAS, DEBRAJ SINHA, M.K. ARORA, AND SUBRATA BANDYOPADHYAY

State, Markets and Inequalities- Human Development in Rural India

[2007, NCAER, BY ORIENT LONGMAN, PP. 800]



The book fills a major gap in the study of human development in India by addressing the role of social sector planning in alleviating deprivation. It highlights the extent of deprivation across states and amongst social groups. It also

*Research programme and study output of NCAER research published prior to August 1, 2008. These can be in the form of books, reports, journals or research papers published by NCAER as well as by other global and Indian publishing houses. NCAER publications/ periodicals are available by direct/ email order, through subscription/ online order at the NCAER's web-site: www.ncaer.org or publ@ncaer.org.

analyses the causes—inadequate financial allocations, wrong prioritisation, bad targeting, unimaginative design and insensitive delivery. Is there a mismatch between supply and demand? Is there an unexpressed latent demand or is there a problem of choice amongst various suppliers as a public, private and civil society? Is deprivation caused by unique social conditions and the interplay of people's dissatisfaction with public services? Why do people turn to private schools or private health care? What accentuates gender disparity even where services are available to both? How critical is education in ushering in other positive changes? People's responses are radically influenced by their perceptions on these issues and this volume is about the response of households and their ability to access services and exploit opportunities in the contemporary competitive world.

EDITORS: ABUSALEH SHARIFF (NCAER) AND MAITHREYI KRISHNARAJ (EDS.)

Final Report on Impact and Sustainability of the Self-Help Group (SHG) – Bank Linkage: Funded by GTZ–NABARD

(2008, NCAER, PP. 150)



Assessment of the impact due to participation in SHG activities on economic activities, household welfare and social empowerment of members.

Comparative Assessment of the quality of the groups promoted by different Self-help Promotion Institutions (SHPI) including changes over time in group members' participation and behaviours, the quantity and quality of financial services and their sustainability; identification of constraints, if any.

Identification/assessment of the extent of capacity building/training needs of SHG

members for undertaking income-generating activities. Preparation of strategies for further strengthening of group cohesion within SHGs.

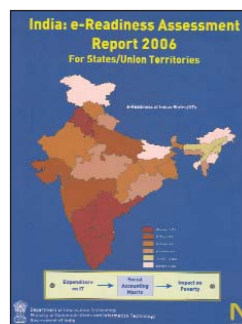
Study/assessment of the factors affecting the sustainability of SHGs and identification of constraints, if any.

Preparation of recommendations/strategies for further strengthening of the sustainability of SHGs and the related linkage banking approach.

PRINCIPAL NCAER STAFF: ANUSHREE SINHA, P. C. PARIDA, S.K. DWIVEDI, POONAM MUNJAL, RAKESH SRIVASTAVA AND KUNTAL BASU

India: E-Readiness Assessment Report 2006–For States and Union Territories

(2008, NCAER AND DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, PP. 134)



Bringing out the relative performance of the governments of Indian States/UTs in their efforts to utilise the potential gains from being e-Ready in the matters of governance and

public service delivery.

In general, states from northern and southern India are more e-Ready as compared to their counterparts in other parts of the country. However, when ranking on the basis of different sub-indices of the composite indicator (usage, environment and readiness) is done, considerable variation is observed among states. This indicates that even the leader state in the composite indicator or any one of the sub-indices has to “catch-up” in other sub-indices with the respective leaders. In this report fourth annual evaluation of certain central ministries/departments was also carried out and it was found that most of the bottlenecks are concentrated around inefficient usage of existing infrastructure.

Last but not the least, with the help of a Social Accounting Matrix (SAM), it was shown that ICT expenditure causes a significant increase in the income of poor households.

PRINCIPAL NCAER STAFF: R. VENKATESAN, WILIMA WADHWA, M.R. SALUJA, SUCHARITA SEN, SUTAPA DAS, DIANE RAI AND SIDDHARTH KUMAR

SERIALS

India Policy Forum 2007-08 (Volume 4) (Annual)

[2007, NCAER AND THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON DC BY SAGE (INDIA) LTD., PP. 304, RS. 525/-]
SUMAN BERY, BARRY BOSWORTH, AND ARVIND PANAGARIYA (EDS.)



The India Policy Forum (IPF) is an annual publication dedicated to analysing contemporary trends in the Indian economy. Its objective is to carry out theoretically

rigorous yet empirically informed research on current issues relating to India's economic policy. A joint publication of NCAER India and Brookings Institution, the IPF serves as a forum for a global network of scholars interested in India's economic transformation.

Contributor Highlights

- Indira Rajaraman on the Political Economy of the Indian Fiscal Federation
- Anjali Kochar on School Location and School Inequality
- Devesh Kapur and Pratap Bhanu Mehta on Mortgaging the Future: Indian Higher Education
- Jean-Marie Baland, Rohini Somanathan, and Lore Vandewalle on Attrition and Exclusion in Self-Help Groups
- Saugata Bhattacharya and Urjit Patel on Assessing Power Sector Reforms

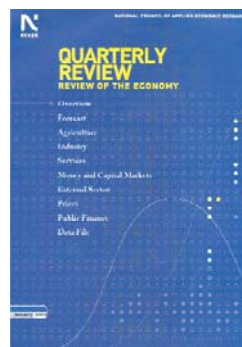
SUBSCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Quarterly Review of the Economy

[NCAER, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, INCLUDING POSTAGE
RS. 50, 000/ US\$ 1,500]

COORDINATOR: SHASHANKA BHIDE

NCAER's *Quarterly Review* product is designed to meet the needs of policy makers, corporates and others interested in tracking the latest developments in the Indian economy. It



provides an analysis of current policies and tracks developments in the domestic and world economy. NCAER growth forecasts are objective and widely quoted in Indian and international media. The subscribers to *Quarterly Review* also receive a copy of detailed report on NCAER's Quarterly Business Expectations Survey. An integral part of *Quarterly Review* is its quarterly "State of the Economy" seminars organised at NCAER, which brings policy makers, industry leaders and researchers on to a common platform.

Margin: The Journal of Applied Economic Research (Quarterly)

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2, 3, 4 AND VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1
[4 ISSUES]

CHIEF EDITOR: SUMAN BERY

MANAGING EDITOR: ANURADHA BHASIN

MARGIN: THE JOURNAL OF APPLIED ECONOMIC

RESEARCH IS A REFEREED JOURNAL EDITED BY THE

NCAER AND PUBLISHED
THROUGH SAGE (INDIA)
LTD.



Margin's emphasis on policy analysis and application of modern quantitative techniques in developmental issues brings forth research

findings in broad areas of applied economics. It also provides a forum for well-known scholars, civil servants and journalists to voice their opinion on public affairs, and at the same time serves as a vehicle for dissemination of the Council's research.

Representative Articles by Non-NCAER Contributors

Aysan, Ahmet Faruk. 2007. "Exchange Rates, Stabilisation Policy and Redistribution of Income". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 1(3): 267–298, July–September.

Dua, Pami; Raje, Nishita and Sahoo, Satyananda. 2008. "Forecasting Interest Rates in India". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 2(1): 1–41, January–March.

Dua, Pami and Banerji, Anirvan. 2007. "Predicting Indian Business Cycles: Leading Indices for External and Domestic Sectors". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 1(3): 249–265, July–September.

Goyal, Ashima and Singh, Arjun. 2007. "Through a Glass Darkly: Deciphering the Impact of Oil Price Shocks". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 1(2): 139–166, April–June.

Vadlamannati, Krishna Chaitanya. 2008. "Do Insurance Sector Growth and Reforms affect Economic Development? Empirical Evidence from India". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 2(1): 43–86, January–March.

Hoa, Tran Van. 2007. "ASEAN3+ India Trade Relations: Implications for Growth, Reforms, 'Look East' Policy and Economic Diplomacy". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 1(4): 341–357, October–December.

Hyder, Asma. 2007. "Employment Preferences and Length of Job Queues in Pakistan: An Update". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 1(4): 383–401, October–December.

Kaur, Ravinder. 2007. "Declining Juvenile Sex Ratios: Economy, Society and Technology Explanations from Field Evidence". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 1(2): 231–245, April–June.

Nair, S.K.N. 2008. "Electricity Regulation in India: Recent Reforms and their Impact". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 2(1): 87–144, January–March.

Sen, Tapas K. 2007. "Performance Measurement in Social Sectors". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 1(3): 299–319, July–September.

Singh, Thiyam Bharat. 2007. "India's Border Trade with Its Neighbouring Countries with Special Reference to Myanmar". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 1(4): 359–382, October–December.

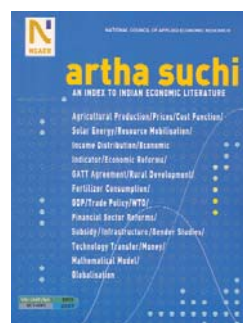
Artha Suchi (Quarterly)

(NCAER, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, INCLUDING POSTAGE, RS. 300/ US\$ 80)

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 3, 4 AND VOLUME 25,

NUMBER 1, 2 (4 ISSUES)

EDITOR: N.J. SEBASTIAN



A computerised index of government reports/ journal articles/ newspaper write-ups related to the Indian economy brought out by the NCAER Library.

Macro Track (Monthly)

(NCAER, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, INCLUDING POSTAGE,

RS. 3,000/US \$100)

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 4 TO VOLUME 10, NUMBER 3 (12 ISSUES)

EDITOR: SHASHANKA BHIDE



Information and research-based analysis on major trends in the economy, industry and finance.

Supplementary analysis, based on NCAER's *Business*

Expectations Survey (BES) and the NCAER *Macroeconomic Forecast*, are also included. Each issue carries statistics on major states, based on current issues of economic importance.

OTHER NCAER STAFF PUBLICATIONS

Bhide, Shashanka with Kalirajan, Kaliappa P. 2007. "Incorporating Regional Variations in a Macroeconometric Model for India: A Production Frontier Approach". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 1(2): 167-213, April-June.

Buragohain, Tarujyoti. 2007. "Crop Insurance Schemes and State of Life of Farmers in India" special issue on Agricultural Insurance, *Afro-Asian Journal of Rural Development* 40(1): 57-64, January-June.

Buragohain, Tarujyoti. 2007. Agricultural Development and Sources of Growth of Output: An Analysis of Major Crops in India", *Agricultural Situation in India* 64 (6): 231-42, September.

Buragohain, Tarujyoti. 2007. Sources of Growth of Foodgrain: A case Study of North-Eastern Region of India, *Assam Economic Journal* 19: 51-64, April-May.

Chadha, Rajesh; Pratap, Devender and Tandon, Anjali. 2008. A chapter on "Liberalising Border Trade: Implications for Domestic Agricultural Markets in India", in a report entitled, "Economic Development through World Trade: A Developing World Perspective", edited by Y.S. Lee : 215-264. Published by Kluwer Law International, the Netherlands.

Dubey, Amaresh with Borooah, Vani K. 2007. "Measuring Regional Backwardness: Poverty, Gender and Children in the Districts of India". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 1(4): 403-440, October-December.

Kaur, Rupinder; Ghosh, Prabir K. and Sudarshan, Ratna M. 2007. "Trade Liberalisation and Informality in the Rice Processing Industry". *Trade Liberalisation and India's Informal Economy* 128-32, edited by Harriss-White, Barbara and Sinha, Anushree. Oxford University Press.

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Elumalai, K. 2007. "Measuring Comparative Advantage in Export of India's Dairy Products". *Asian Economic Review* 49(3): 407-20, December.

- Elumalai, K. with Sharma, Ramesh K. 2008. "Trade Protection of India's Milk Products: Structure and Policy Implications". *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics* 63(1): 67–83, January–March.
- Jaiswal, Rajesh K. 2007. Review of the book "An Economic Analysis of Human Development" by Singh, Priyanka. *The Indian Economic Journal* 54(4): 184–88, January–March 2007, December.
- Nataraj, Geethanjali. 2007. "Issues for negotiation under the Doha Work Programme on RTAs" in *Economic and Political Weekly* 42(21): 1966–74, May 26–June 01.
- Nataraj, Geethanjali. 2007. Discussion paper on "Regional Trade Agreements in the Doha Round: Good for India?" 67: June, Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo.
- Nataraj, Geethanjali. 2007. Discussion paper on "Meeting Infrastructure Challenges in South Asia: Role of Public-Private Partnerships" 80: September, ADBI, Tokyo.
- Nataraj, Geethanjali and Sahoo, Pravakar. 2007. "Multilateralism vs Regionalism: Implication for India" in *South Asian Journal, Pakistan* 15: 185–195, January–March.
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- Parida, Purna C. with Sahoo, Pravakar. 2007. "Export-led Growth in South Asia: A Panel Cointegration Analysis" in *International Economic Journal, South Korea* 21(2): 155–75, June.
- Pohit, Sanjib with Mohanty, Samarendra K. 2008. "Welfare Gains from Regional Economic Integration in Asia: ASEAN + 3 or EAS," in Kumar, Nagesh; Kesavapany, K. and Chaocheng, Yao (ed.) *Asia's New Regionalism & Global Role – Agenda for the East Asia Summit*, published by Institute of South-East Asian Studies (Singapore) and Resource Information Systems (India).
- Pohit, Sanjib. 2008. "Lacuna in Trade Facilitation & Informalisation of Trade: Lesson from India-Bangladesh Trade," in Furudas Das and Thomas, C. J. (ed.) *Indo-Bangladesh Border Trade*. Published by Akansha Publishing House, New Delhi.
- Pohit, Sanjib with Das, Samantak. 2007. "Role of Economic Instruments in Mitigating Carbon Emissions: An Indian Perspective" in *Economic & Political Weekly* 42(24): 2284–91.
- Pohit, Sanjib. 2007. "Exporting from West Bengal: A Trader's Nightmare" in *Bhavishya* 1(1): 21–30.
- Pohit, Sanjib with Pal, Barun D. 2007. "Strategic Partnership between India and EU: Investment Perspective" in *Pravartak* 2(3): 139–51, April–June.
- Pohit, Sanjib with Mohanty, Samarendra K. 2007. Discussion Paper on "Welfare Gains from Regional Economic Integration in Asia: ASEAN+3 or EAS" 126, September, RIS.
- Rao, Chapalamadugu Sambasiva. 2007. "Equity vs Efficiency in Telecom Spectrum Management in India". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 1(3): 321–335, July–September.
- Shukla, Rajesh K. 2007. "Utilisation Pattern of Human Resources in Science and Technology in India". *Margin-The Journal of Applied Economic Research* 1(2): 215–230, April–June.

Singh, Kanhaiya and Kalirajan, Kaliappa P. 2007. "Monetary Transmission in the Post-reform India: An Evaluation", *Journal of Asia Pacific Economy* 12(2): 158–187, May.

Singh, Kanhaiya and Kalirajan, Kaliappa P. 2007. "Monetary Policy in India: Objectives, Reaction Function and Policy Effectiveness", *Review of Applied Economics* 2(2): 181–199.

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INDIA POLICY FORUM WORKSHOP AT INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, NEW DELHI ON JULY 17, 2007

HON'BLE FINANCE MINISTER, DR P. CHIDAMBARAM WITH DR BIMAL JALAN, PRESIDENT, GOVERNING BODY, NCAER, GREETING EACH OTHER ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDIA POLICY FORUM WORKSHOP.



INDIA POLICY FORUM WORKSHOP IN PROGRESS (DR INDIRA RAJARAMAN, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND POLICY; DR JESSICA WALLACK, INSTITUTE FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH; SUMAN BERY, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NCAER; DR RAKESH MOHAN, DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK OF INDIA AND PROF MIHIR DESAI, HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA

**APRIL 16, AUGUST 10, OCTOBER 31, 2007 AND
JANUARY 30, 2008:** Seminars on “Review of
the Indian Economy”.

AT: Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi
PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Shashanka Bhide

MAY 23, 2007: Seminar on Measuring
Decentralisation: An Index of Devolution to
the Panchayati Raj Institutions at the State
level.

AT: Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi
PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Shashanka Bhide

JULY 17-18, 2007: Fourth annual ‘India Policy
Forum’ workshop and launch of *India Policy
Forum 2006/07*, vol. 3. Lecture by Prof T.N.
Srinivasan, Samuel C. Park Jr. Professor of
Economics, Yale University on “Economic
Reforms, External Opening and Growth:
China and India”.

CHIEF GUEST: Dr. P. Chidambaram, Hon’ble
Finance Minister, Government of India

CHAIR: Dr Bimal Jalan, President, Governing
Body, NCAER.

SPONSORS: Tata Sons, State Bank of India,
Citi India and HDFC

AT: India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New
Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Suman Bery

HON’BLE FINANCE
MINISTER,
DR P. CHIDAMBARAM
LAUNCHING THE ANNUAL
INDIA POLICY FORUM 2006/07
(VOL. 3) BOOK WITH DR
BIMAL JALAN, PRESIDENT,
GOVERNING BODY, NCAER;
SUMAN BERY, DIRECTOR-
GENERAL, NCAER AND
PROF T.N. SRINIVASAN,
YALE UNIVERSITY, US,
AT INDIA HABITAT CENTRE
ON JULY 17, 2007.



MAKING MUMBAI AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE, WORKSHOP ON AUGUST 21, 2007, NEW DELHI

SUMAN BERY, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NCAER IN A DISCUSSION WITH DR ARVIND VIRMANI, CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR, MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MS INGRID SAHU, MASTER CARD, INDIA, DUBAI, DURING A WORKSHOP ON THE REPORT OF THE HIGH-POWERED EXPERT COMMITTEE ON MAKING MUMBAI AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.



DR D. SUBBARAO, FINANCE SECRETARY; DR SHANKAR N. ACHARYA, HON. PROF. AND MEMBER, BOARD OF GOVERNORS, ICRIER; DR SUBIR V. GOKARN, DIRECTOR, CRISIL; SUMAN BERY, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NCAER; AND PROF C.P. CHANDRASEKHAR, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, DURING A WORKSHOP ON THE REPORT OF THE HIGH-POWERED EXPERT COMMITTEE ON MAKING MUMBAI AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE ON AUGUST 21, 2007, NEW DELHI.



AUGUST 21, 2007: Workshop on the Report of the High-Powered Expert Committee on “Making Mumbai an International Financial Centre”.

PARTNER: Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance

SPONSOR: Mastercard (India)

AT: Hotel Imperial, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISERS: Shashanka Bhide and Suman Bery

OCTOBER 29, 2007: Workshop on “Growth and Inclusion” by Lord Nicholas Stern, I.G.

Patel, Prof. of Economics at the London School of Economics.

SPONSORS: NCAER and the World Bank

AT: Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Suman Bery

NOVEMBER 5-6, 2007: Interactive discussion on “Towards Indicators of Scientific Culture”, 25 researchers from Europe, North and South America, India, China, Korea, Japan, South Africa, and Australia. Ian Pearson, the U.K. Minister for Science & Innovation was one of the keynote speakers in the discussion.

MR SHILADITYA CHATTERJEE, MR TADASHI KONDO, DR. NARHARI RAO (ALL FROM ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK) WITH SUMAN BERY, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NCAER, DURING THE ADB WORKSHOP ON "STRATEGIES ON POVERTY REDUCTION: FOCUS ON INFRASTRUCTURE" AT HOTEL THE CLARIDGES ON JANUARY 9, 2008.



AT: Royal Society, London, U.K.

PRINCIPAL ORGANISERS: Rajesh Shukla (NCAER), and Martin W. Bauer (London School of Economics)

NOVEMBER 29, 2007: Workshop on "Development of a Comprehensive Index of Devolution to the Panchayati Raj Institutions at the State Level" as a part of the project commissioned by Ministry of Panchayati Raj and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

AT: Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Shashanka Bhide

DECEMBER 11, 2007: Interactive Discussion with Prof. Ian Harper, Melbourne Business School on "Australia's Economic Future, Post-Election". Introductory and concluding remarks by Suman Bery, Director-General, and discussant: Dr Kanhaiya Singh, Senior Fellow, NCAER

AT: Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Suman Bery

DECEMBER 19, 2007: Seminar on "The Role of Time Preference in Dynamic Health Behaviours: Evidence from Smoking Decisions" by Dr Ahmed Khwaja of Duke University.

AT: Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Abusaleh Shariff

JANUARY 8, 2008: Seminar on "India's Trade Policy Choices" by Dr. Sandra Polaski, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

AT: Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Rajesh Chadha

JANUARY 9, 2008: Workshop on "Strategies for Poverty Reduction: Focus on Infrastructure, Financial Inclusion and Social Sector Interventions", as part of the project sponsored by the Asian Development Bank.

AT: Hotel the Claridges, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Shashanka Bhide

JANUARY 13-15, 2008: Annual NCAER-ICRIER-NBER Neemrana Conference
This has been a collaborative project between National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). From 2007-08 onwards the International Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) has joined as a third partner. This allows rotating responsibility between NCAER and ICRIER for programming, design and local arrangements. The conference brings together to the Indian policy makers, researchers, regulators and other professionals to interact with leading American researchers and policy makers.

AT: Neemrana Fort Palace, Rajasthan

PRINCIPAL ORGANISERS: ICRIER-NBER-NCAER

JANUARY 24, 2008: Seminar on “Microfinance and the Market” by Jonathan Morduch, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Economics, NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and Department of Economics, New York University.

AT: Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Payal Malik

JANUARY 25, 2008: Talk by Mr Philipp Hildebrand, Vice Chairman, Governing Board of Swiss National Bank on “In the Midst of the Credit Market Turmoil: A Central Bank Perspective”.

AT: Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISERS: Suman Bery and Shashanka Bhide

FEBRUARY 6, 2008: Launch of the book, “How India Earns, Spends and Saves” by Mr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Government of India.

SPONSORS: Max-New York Life Insurance Co. Ltd., Gurgaon

AT: Hotel Imperial, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Rajesh Shukla

FEBRUARY 14, 2008: Seminar on “Public Private Partnership: Opportunities and Challenges in Indian Infrastructure” in the Eleventh Plan–Japan–India Public Private Partnership, sponsored by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and Japan–India Partnership Forum.

AT: Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISERS: R. Venkatesan and Suman Bery

FEBRUARY 19, 2008: Seminar on “The Japanese System of Cooperative Learning High Technology Dynamics: Past and Present” by Prof Yoshitaka Okada.

AT: Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Kanhaiya Singh

FEBRUARY 27, 2008: Brookings Institution Panel Discussion. Introduction by Strobe Talbott, President of the Brookings Institution. Panelists: T.N. Ninan, editor and publisher of *Business Standard* and Surjit S. Bhalla, Member, NCAER Governing Body.

AT: ASSOCHAM House, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Suman Bery

MARCH 7, 2008: NCAER-SANDEE Seminar on “International Trading of Emission Rights: Its Implications for India” by Dr V.P. Ojha.

AT: Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Sanjib Pohit

MARCH 7–8, 2008: International meet on “Mapping the Scientific Consciousness: National and Global Efforts”, attended by experts from about fifteen countries.

AT: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISER: Rajesh Shukla (NCAER), and Gauhar Raza (NISTADS)

MARCH 12, 2008: Four Institution Post-Budget Seminar 2008 on “The Union Budget 2008–09: Reform and Development Perspectives”.

AT: ASSOCHAM House, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISERS: National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), India Development Foundation (IDF) and Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)

MARCH 19–21, 2008: NCAER–Cornell–SEWA–WIEGO Exposure and Dialogue Programme (EDP): Session on National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

AT: Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi

PRINCIPAL ORGANISERS: Suman Bery and Anushree Sinha

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES*

Programme	Sponsor
1. India Policy Forum 2007–08* (G/07/015)	TATA SONS, STATE BANK OF INDIA, CITIGROUP AND HDFC
2. Quarterly Review of the Economy* (M/05/020)	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS BY CORPORATIONS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES; UNDERWRITTEN BY NCAER
3. Macrotrack Newsletter* (M/0/000)	SELF-SPONSORED BY NCAER AND SUBSCRIBERS
4. Business Expectations Survey* (M/05/068)	SELF-SPONSORED BY NCAER AND <i>THE ECONOMIC TIMES</i>
5. Macroeconomic Modelling for Policy Analysis (M/07/108)	PLANNING COMMISSION, NEW DELHI
6. Devolution Index for Panchayati Raj Institutions in India* (M/06/094)	MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, NEW DELHI
7. Index of Devolution for Assessing Environment for Panchayati Raj Institutions in States* (M/07/109)	MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, NEW DELHI
8. Assessment of the Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Scheme* (M/07/110)	MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, NEW DELHI
9. Price Escalation for Purchase of Aircraft* (M/06/096)	HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED, BANGALORE
10. India-EU, India-Japan Country Papers* (M/06/89)	MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, NEW DELHI
11. Quarterly Reports for the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi* (M/07/099)	EMBASSY OF JAPAN, NEW DELHI
12. India-China Preferential Trading Agreement* (M/06/075)	MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, NEW DELHI
13. Agricultural Trade Liberalisation and Domestic Market Reforms in Indian Agriculture (M/05/60)	AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, CANBERRA

* An asterisk indicates programme/ project completion as on/ before the financial year ending on March 31, 2008.

Programme	Sponsor
14. Diversification of Exports of China–A Sectoral Study (M/07/102)	MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, NEW DELHI
15. Study on FDI in India and its Growth Linkages (M/07/103)	DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, NEW DELHI
16. A Study of Issues Originating from the New Draft Framework Agreement on Agriculture (A/05/011)	MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, NEW DELHI
17. India-MERCOSUR-SACU Trade Cooperation in Agriculture* (A/06/014)	MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, NEW DELHI
18. Study on "Input-Output Tables and Analysis for Jharkhand, Karnataka and Uttarakhand" Phase-II* (M/06/086)	BEARING POINT GLOBAL OPERATIONS, DEHRADUN
19. Exploring Alternative Futures for Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology (KST) (M/05/073)	INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON DC
20. Impact and Sustainability of the SHG- Bank Linkage* (M/06/095)	GERMAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (GTZ), NEW DELHI OFFICE
21. Climate Change in the Indian Economy: A CGE Modelling Approach (M/06/092)	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS, NEW DELHI (IN COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME, JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY, WEST BENGAL)
22. Study of Services to Depositors and Small Borrowers in Rural and Semi-Urban Areas (S/05/021)	RESERVE BANK OF INDIA, MUMBAI
23. Study on Sustainable Development of Rural Housing in India (M/07/106)	HOLCIM GROUP SUPPORT LTD., ZURICH
24. Private Sector Participation in the Indian Power Sector and Climate Change (I/07/049)	FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (AFD), PARIS
25. Price Structure of Housing Properties (M/07/104)	NATIONAL HOUSING BANK, NEW DELHI
26. Price Index for Housing Properties (M/07/105)	NATIONAL HOUSING BANK, NEW DELHI
27. India: e-Readiness Assessment Report 2006 for States and Union Territories* (I/05/040)	DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI
28. Issues in Conserving Iron Ore for Domestic Steel Production* (I/06/043)	THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ASSOCHAM), NEW DELHI
29. Social Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Jindal Steel Projects in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa * (I/07/046)	JINDAL STEEL AND POWER LIMITED, NEW DELHI
30. State Policies Affecting Competition: Passenger Road Transportation Sector* (I/05/037)	DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, UNITED KINGDOM AND COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

Programme	Sponsor
31. An Assessment of the Impact of the Central Scheme of Assistance in Marketing, Processing, Storage and Weaker Section Activities among Cooperatives in the UD/LD States* (I/05/038)	NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, NEW DELHI
32. Global Talent Index* (I/06/044)	LEVIN INSTITUTE, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
33. Preparation of a Standard Bidding Document for Large Civil Works in the Infrastructure Sector* (I/07/047)	PLANNING COMMISSION, NEW DELHI
34. Unorganised and Organised Sectors of Inland Waterways of India: A Study of Traffic Movement in 14 States (I/06/045)	INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
35. Preparation of Standard Documents on Inviting Consultancy Services for Undertaking Feasibility Studies and Preparation of Project Reports for Two-Laning and Four-Laning of Highways (I/07/048)	PLANNING COMMISSION, NEW DELHI
36. Study on Credit-Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation* (I/06/042)	MINISTRY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE INDUSTRIES, NEW DELHI
37. State Development Report for the State of Uttarakhand* (M/05/059)	PLANNING COMMISSION, NEW DELHI
38. Study on Assessing the Prospects of Indian Textiles and Clothing Sector (M/07/113)	CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY, NEW DELHI
39. Economic Assessment of Defence Research and Development (M/06/097)	DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION, NEW DELHI
40. Bio-Fuel Policy Issues : A Study (M/06/098)	MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, NEW DELHI
41. Evaluation of Remote Village Electrification Programme (M/07/111)	MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, NEW DELHI
42. Manufacturing Competitiveness of Central PSEs – Study of their E-Preparedness (I/07/050)	NATIONAL MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, NEW DELHI
43. Assessing the Performance of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) during the Tenth Five-Year Plan* (A/06/013)	INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, NEW DELHI
44. Policy Reforms in the Sugar Sector: Implications for the <i>Gur</i> and <i>Khandsari</i> Industry (A/05/004)	MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI
45. Study of Fertiliser Consumption and Agricultural Output* (A/07/015)	MINISTRY OF FINANCE, NEW DELHI

Programme	Sponsor
46. Estimation of Status of Degraded Forest in Impact Area of Indra Sagar Project and Cost of Afforestation of Such Degraded Forests in Madhya Pradesh (M/05/064)	NARMADA VALLEY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, MADHYA PRADESH, BHOPAL
47. Assessment of Supply-Demand Balance of Foodgrains and Other Food Items over the Medium Term Future (S/07/030)	MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI
48. Study of Chronic Poverty Issues (M/07/112)	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, NEW DELHI
49. Dynamics of Chronic Poverty: Variations in Factors Influencing Entry and Exit of Chronically Poor * (M/06/093)	CHRONIC POVERTY RESEARCH CENTRE INDIA AND INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, NEW DELHI
50. Strategies for Poverty Reduction in India: Learning from Selected Interventions (M/07/101)	ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, MANILA
51. Study on Perception and Suggestions of the Disadvantaged Communities on Improving Accessibility to Programmes Promoting Human Development; and Participation in Decentralized Governance (H/07/028)	UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
52. Maternal and Child Health (H/03/016)	NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, BETHESDA, MD
53. Parental Education and Child Outcomes (H/04/021)	NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, BETHESDA, MD
54. Deployment and Professional Competence of Para Teachers* (H/06/026)	MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY, NEW DELHI
55. Impact Assessment of <i>Jan Kerosene Pariyojana</i> (JKP)* (M/07/107)	PETROLEUM AND PLANNING ANALYSIS CELL, MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS, NEW DELHI
56. Evaluation of Public Distribution System I* (S/05/022)	MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI
57. Evaluation of Public Distribution System II* (S/05/025)	MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI
58. Contract Between NCAER and Institute of Social Studies Trust (M/07/100)	INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES TRUST, NEW DELHI
59. Protection Index Project-I* (S/05/014)	MAX NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO. LTD., GURGAON
60. Protection Index Project - II (S/07/027)	MAX NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO. LTD., GURGAON
61. Third Handloom Census (S/07/029)	DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER, HANDLOOMS, MINISTRY OF TEXTILES, NEW DELHI
62. Rural Economic and Demographic Survey 2006 (S/05/015)	HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MA

GROWTH, TRADE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

Economic policies, pertaining to both the public and private sectors, require research inputs to keep in step with the demands created by the present, accelerated pace of economic growth that is causing rapid changes in economic structures worldwide. While sectoral and firm-level analysis are often necessary, there is also need for macroeconomic or economy-wide perspectives. Policies related to fiscal, monetary or trade policies have as much impact at the overall level as on individual sectors or firms. In order to address the diverse requirements of research, the Council has attempted to develop capacities for analysing policies affecting the economy as a whole and the different sectors in particular.

A set of monthly and quarterly reports disseminates the insights and perspectives derived from the research undertaken by the Council. *Macrotrack*, a monthly newsletter, provides analysis of issues related to agriculture, industry, trade, finance and the overall economy. It is now in its tenth year of publication. The *Quarterly Review of the Economy*, a package of quarterly reports and seminars, has been in operation for well over a decade. These provide a comprehensive review of the economy and include reports on the quarterly Business Expectations Survey conducted by the Council, the *Business Confidence Index*, also constructed by the Council, is based on these quarterly surveys.

The Council provides and assesses the Indian economy using macroeconomic models. Periodic surveys of the business sector, which track its expectations on output, prices,

employment and investment, provide additional insights on the state of our economy. The Council resumed studies on the economies of the various states recently, after its initial involvement in this area in the 1970s. The Council has contributed heavily to the development of State Development Reports of a number of states including Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. In two states, Karnataka and Jharkhand, the Council has been involved in developing Input-Output tables.

Trade and investment policy issues have assumed great significance in the globalised economy. India has launched a series of actions that include bilateral as well as multilateral trade and investment liberalisation. These agreements have immense impact on specific sectors and also provide for efficient allocation of resources at the national level. The issues relating to trade in services are now gaining in importance in policy debates.

The Council has undertaken major projects to understand the spread of FDI across the states of India. Various aspects of growth, development and employment linkages of FDI with suburban and rural areas are also being analysed.

The Council has developed the capability to examine various policy issues using a variety of economic tools: econometric modelling and CGE models that analyse domestic economic issues in the context of global interlinkages.

Another recent area of interest is to identify, evaluate and quantify the impact of domestic market and international trade policy reform options on agricultural prices, production, income, consumption, trade and efficiency.

This is achieved through the development of suitable industry-specific Partial Equilibrium and economy-wide General Equilibrium models. The relevant issues of competition and regulation in domestic agricultural markets are also being analysed.

This analytical capability has been developed through active collaboration with official agencies, scholars and universities in India and abroad.

INDIA POLICY FORUM* (G/07/015)

SPONSORS: Tata Sons, State Bank of India, Citigroup and HDFC

The Fourth India Policy Forum (IPF) conference was held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on July 17–18, 2007. Prof. T.N. Srinivasan, Samuel C. Park Jr. Professor of Economics, Yale University delivered the fourth annual IPF lecture on “Economic Reforms, External Opening and Growth: China and India”. This India Policy Forum annual publication (*India Policy Forum 2006/07, Volume 3*) was published in July 2007. The fourth volume (*India Policy Forum 2007/08, Volume 4*) has been published in July 2008. The India Policy Forum is a joint activity of NCAER and The Brookings Institution, Washington DC.

EDITORS: SUMAN BERY, BARRY BOSWORTH, AND ARVIND PANAGARIYA

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE ECONOMY* (M/05/020)

SPONSORS: Annual subscriptions by corporations, financial institutions, government agencies and international agencies; underwritten by NCAER

To provide an assessment of trends in the Indian economy taking into account all the latest developments. This study has provided quarterly reports on the economy during the year and has held quarterly seminars on the state of the economy. Distinguished economists and analysts collectively participated as discussants and commentators in these seminars.

PROJECT COORDINATOR: SHASHANKA BHIDE

CONTRIBUTORS: ANIL SHARMA, SAMBASIVA RAO, RAJESH CHADHA, KANHAIYA SINGH, SANJIB POHIT, GEETHANJALI NATARAJ, K. ELUMALAI, K.A. SIDDIQUI, K.J. KHAN, AND UDAYAN NAMBOODIRI (EDITOR)

EXPERT COMMENTATORS AT QUARTERLY REVIEW SEMINARS IN 2007–08

PROF. DEEPAK LAL, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (ULCA)

DR PARTHA MUKHOPADHYAY, CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH, NEW DELHI

MS MYTHILI BHUSNURMATH, *THE ECONOMIC TIMES*

MS RENANA JHABVALA, SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (SEWA)

MR ARUN GOYAL, ACADEMY OF BUSINESS STUDIES

DR ILA PATNAIK, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND POLICY (NIPFP)

MR T.C.A. SRINIVASA-RAGHAVAN, *BUSINESS STANDARD*

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

DR D.K. PANT, FITCH RATINGS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

MS ROOPA PURUSHOTHAMAN, FUTURE CAPITAL RESEARCH

PROF PAMI DUA, DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

DR JOSHUA FELMAN, INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

MACRO TRACK NEWSLETTER (M/0/000)

SPONSOR: Self-sponsored by NCAER and Subscribers

To provide a commentary on the issues facing the economy today based on analysis by the NCAER researchers. Monthly issues of the journal that include latest statistical indicators of the economy are in circulation.

PROJECT LEADER: SHASHANKA BHIDE

CONTRIBUTORS: ANIL SHARMA, SAMBASIVA RAO, RAJESH CHADHA, SANJIB POHIT, GEETHANJALI NATARAJ, K. ELUMALAI, M.M. KHAN, AND UDAYAN NAMBOODIRI (EDITOR)

DATE OF COMPLETION: JANUARY 2008.

BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS SURVEY* (M/05/068)

SPONSORS: Self-sponsored by NCAER and *The Economic Times*

OBJECTIVE: To provide a quantitative assessment of business sentiments on a regular and periodic basis.

KEY FINDINGS: Quarterly reports on the business expectations have been provided through the year. There are two main indicators that provide an overall assessment of the business sentiments. One is the Business Confidence Index and the other is the Political Confidence Index. Both the indices are calculated by means of a number of component indicators on which data is collected through a survey of respondents from the business sector.

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, SAMBASIVA RAO, AND M.M. KHAN

MACROECONOMIC MODELLING FOR POLICY ANALYSIS (M/07/108)

SPONSOR: Planning Commission, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To develop capacity for analysing issues relating to economic growth and welfare. This is done through a variety of policy choices in government spending in the provision of public goods and other measures that influence course of the macro economy. The study will examine the use of both social accounting matrix based model as well as econometric model.

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, P.C. PARIDA, ESHA JAIN, AND MONICA JAITLEY

STATUS: Initial work was to provide a documentation of the current macroeconomic model developed and maintained by NCAER. A simulation of the medium-term scenario was also generated using the model over the Eleventh Five-Year Plan period.

DEVOLUTION INDEX FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA* (M/06/094)

SPONSORS: Ministry of Panchayati Raj and United Nations Development Programme, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To assess the extent of devolution to the PRIs by the state governments based on a devolution index for the year 2007.

KEY FINDINGS: Based on the work done on the development of a comprehensive index of decentralisation to the PRIs noted earlier, the

extent and variation of devolution across the states was empirically quantified, based on the data for 2007. The rankings for the current year placed Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal and Karnataka among the top four states. These states had occupied the top four positions in the previous years as well.

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, VINITA DEODHAR, K.A. SIDDIQUI, D.B. GUPTA, AND KIRAN SHEOKAND

INDEX OF DEVOLUTION FOR ASSESSING ENVIRONMENT FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN STATES* (M/07/109)

SPONSORS: Ministry of Panchayati Raj and United Nations Development Programme, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: The key objective of this study was to develop a comprehensive index of decentralisation to the PRIs in the country. It has aimed to capture not only the measures taken by the state governments but also the effectiveness of these measures.

KEY FINDINGS: The study was implemented in three stages. In the first stage, a Working Index of Devolution was developed. In the second stage, this Working Index was operationalised using the data for 2005–06. In this third stage of the project, the objective has been to develop a comprehensive index of decentralisation. Based on the first two stages of work, the study provided an assessment of the extent of variation in the devolution or decentralisation. It measured the variation based on an index that aggregated the devolution in terms of functions, finances and functionaries. The four top-ranking states were Kerala, Karnataka, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. In the third stage of the study, the index was provided with a fourth dimension of “framework” which captured the compliance of the states in meeting the Constitutionally mandated institutional arrangements for devolution. A comprehensive set of indicators of devolution was developed for incorporation into the index.

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, K.A. SIDDIQUI,
D.B. GUPTA, K.J. KHAN, AND KIRAN SHEOKAND

ASSESSMENT OF THE PANCHAYAT EMPOWERMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY SCHEME* (M/07/110)

SPONSORS: Ministry of Panchayati Raj and
United Nations Development Programme,
New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To assess the functioning and
impact of the Panchayat Empowerment and
Accountability Incentive Scheme.

KEY FINDINGS: Keeping in view its key
mandate to empower Panchayats as
institutions of local self government, the
Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the
Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability
Incentive Scheme in 2005–06. Based on the
assessment of the extent of devolution in the
states, incentive funds have been disbursed by
the Ministry in 2005–06 and 2006–07. The
work on 2006–07 was based on an empirical
index of devolution constructed by NCAER.
The quick evaluation study was based on the
analysis of the methodology of allocation of
incentives and discussions with officials in the
department of Panchayati Raj in Karnataka
and Haryana. The study points to significant
variation in the extent of devolution across
states which necessitates measures to support
an acceleration in the process of
decentralisation.

The field visits to the two above-mentioned
states found that monitoring of the progress in
devolution and a set of incentives to reward
progress could have a positive impact. The
study made a number of useful recommend-
ations to strengthen the current scheme.

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, D.B. GUPTA, S.P.
PAL, K.A. SIDDIQUI, AND KIRAN SHEOKAND

DATE OF COMPLETION: March 2008.

PRICE ESCALATION FOR PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT* (M/06/096)

SPONSOR: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited,
Bangalore

OBJECTIVE: To provide analysis of the trends
in the international prices of inputs for the
manufacture of aircraft so that a price
escalation formula for the supply of aircrafts
could be arrived at.

KEY FINDINGS: The study provided an analysis
of the price trends and projections based on
the available data.

STUDY TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, K.A. SIDDIQUI, AND
KIRAN SHEOKAND

DATE OF COMPLETION: January 2008.

INDIA-EU, INDIA-JAPAN COUNTRY PAPERS (M/06/089)

SPONSOR: Ministry of Commerce and
Industry, New Delhi

The studies highlighted the
macroeconomic scenario in EU and Japan and
their respective status in the world economy.
The papers provided description of India-EU
and India-Japan bilateral economic relations in
terms of trade, FDI and ODA. The trade
policies of EU and Japan have been discussed
in terms of tariff and non-tariff impediments
to India's exports. India's export disadvantage
was computed using detailed analysis of
international and bilateral terms revealing
comparative advantage of India's exports at
H.S. one, two and four-digit levels.

PROJECT TEAM: RAJESH CHADHA, GEETHANJALI
NATARAJ, ANJALI TANDON, K. ELUMALAI, AND
SHUVADEEP CHAKRABARTY

QUARTERLY REPORTS FOR THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN* (M/07/99)

SPONSOR: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Four quarterly reports were submitted to
the Embassy of Japan. The topics covered
were: "Infrastructure Development in India:
Case Studies of Railways and Ports"; "Status of
Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Sector in
India"; "Food Security and Inflation Control in
India"; and "Indebtedness of Indian Farmer
Households and Role of Rural Financial System".

PROJECT TEAM: RAJESH CHADHA, K. ELUMALAI, AND
PRABHU PRASAD MISHRA

INDIA-CHINA PREFERENTIAL TRADING AGREEMENT* (M/06/075)

SPONSOR: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi

NCAER has contributed towards analysis of the trade in goods between India and China as inputs to the Joint Task Force that looked at the feasibility of bilateral FTA between India and China. The work was based on the analysis of advantage of exports of India and China. General Equilibrium Framework was also employed for this analysis.

PROJECT TEAM: RAJESH CHADHA, GEETHANJALI NATARAJ, AND ANJALI TANDON

AGRICULTURAL TRADE LIBERALISATION AND DOMESTIC MARKET REFORMS IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE (M/05/60)

SPONSOR: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Canberra

OBJECTIVE: This project is a product of NCAER research team in collaboration with Melbourne University, Australia. The present research examines the need for liberalising India's domestic trade in agricultural goods and relates it to its border trade liberalisation. The overall objective is to develop a set of policy recommendations that could enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector. This could enable the Indian farmers and consumers to gain from the ongoing process of integration of domestic and international markets.

PROJECT TEAM: RAJESH CHADHA, SHASHANKA BHIDE, DEVENDER PRATAP, ANJALI TANDON, ABHISHEK AKHOURI, PARMOD KUMAR, AND K. ELUMALAI

EXTERNAL TEAM: SISIRA JAYASURIYA, AND DONALD MACLAREN

DIVERSIFICATION OF EXPORTS OF CHINA-A SECTORAL STUDY (M/07/102)

SPONSOR: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi

The study proposes to look at the sectoral composition of Chinese exports and changes therein during the past five years and

distinguish between the relative performances of traditional versus high-tech categories. The competitiveness of China's exports would be analysed using various measures along with policy influences. The impact of international demand and supply factors would also be considered into the analysis.

PROJECT TEAM: RAJESH CHADHA, GEETHANJALI NATARAJ, ANJALI TANDON, K. ELUMALAI, GEETHA MOHAN, ASHWANI, AND SURESH KUMAR

STUDY ON FDI IN INDIA AND ITS GROWTH LINKAGES (M/07/103)

SPONSOR: Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: The extant literature provides some empirical and theoretical features of hypotheses on FDI and its effects. However, there has been no comprehensive attempt to look at the spatial and sectoral spread of the FDI-enabled production facilities in India and their linkages with the rural and suburban areas. While it may be true that FDI benefits the economy at macroeconomic as well as microeconomic levels through bringing in non-debt creating foreign capital resources, technological upgradation, spillover and allocative efficiency effects, it is equally important to probe whether the people in the rural and suburban areas get affected through such benefits. The study would look at the geographical location of FDI that has come to India and would analyse its effects on suburban and rural linkages.

PROJECT TEAM: RAJESH CHADHA, GEETHANJALI NATARAJ, K. ELUMALAI, ANJALI TANDON, GEETHA MOHAN, ASHWANI, AND SURESH KUMAR

A STUDY OF ISSUES ORIGINATING FROM THE NEW DRAFT FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE (A/05/011)

SPONSOR: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: This programme builds on the past work that the Council had undertaken to

support the Ministry of Commerce on trade negotiations under the AoA. While the July 2004 draft framework appears to be fairly comprehensive in dealing with several weaknesses in the current AoA, ambiguities and weaker provisions in the new modalities that may undermine many of the positives originating from the draft framework continue to exist. The provision of export subsidies under the three pillars are fairly explicit. However, in domestic support and market access there are several issues that need detailed research for taking an objective view to fulfil the mandate of the agreement and safeguard genuine concerns.

PROJECT TEAM: ANIL SHARMA, AJAY SAHU, AND LAXMI JOSHI

STATUS: Ongoing.

INDIA-MERCOSUR-SACU TRADE COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE* (A/06/014)

SPONSOR: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: The study forms a part of the assignment that has been allotted to three institutions namely, NCAER, ICRIER and RIS on the Study for India-MERCOSUR-SACU Trade Agreement. NCAER has been assigned the agricultural sector. The study involves examining current status and recent trends in agricultural trade between India-MERCOSUR and India-SACU, areas of comparative advantage, existence of tariff and non-tariff barriers and other issues related to forming a regional trading agreement.

PROJECT TEAM: ANIL SHARMA AND AJAY SAHU

STUDY ON "INPUT-OUTPUT TABLES AND ANALYSIS FOR JHARKHAND, KARNATAKA AND UTTARAKHAND" PHASE-II* (M/06/86)

SPONSOR: Bearing Point Global Operations, Dehradun

OBJECTIVE: To develop database and simulation input-output based models needed for assessing the economies and projecting the revenues of each of three states, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand.

KEY FINDINGS: This report presents the 2003–04 Input-Output (I-O) table for Jharkhand, Karnataka and Uttarakhand. The I-O tables are available at the national level. However, no attempt has been made to construct the same for these three states. The major difference between the I-O table at the national level and the same for Jharkhand, Karnataka and Uttarakhand are (i) the 115 sectors of the national I-O table are clubbed into 32 sectors for each of the state. In addition, the study has taken the parental sector for each state, e.g., coal mining for Jharkhand, IT and alcohol for Karnataka, and sugar and hotel & restaurants for Uttarakhand. Information on imports and exports variables in the state I-O table are defined in a way that is different from the national I-O table. The analysis of the study furnishes important information on output, value added, employment and income of each sector. In addition, the study discusses the tax revenue analysis, which acquires great importance in the present context.

PROJECT TEAM: ANUSHREE SINHA, SAURABH BANDYOPADHYAY, PURNA CHANDRA PARIDA, POONAM MUNJAL, RAKESH SRIVASTAVA, PRAVEEN SACHDEVA, SUDESH BALA, AND SADHANA SINGH

DATE OF COMPLETION: April 2007.

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE FUTURES FOR AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (KST) (M/05/073)

SPONSOR: International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC

OBJECTIVE: The main objective is to explore alternative means for agricultural knowledge, science and technology (KST). The specific goal of this project is to provide policy makers with options and investments for agricultural knowledge, science and technology (KST). It is based on the analysis of alternative development paths and trade policies and their implications for food security, rural development, and environmental sustainability.

The objectives of the project are:

- To develop 4 to 5 alternative development paths or scenarios for agriculture up to 2050;
- To develop consistent qualitative and quantitative KST policies for these scenarios;
- To analyse quantified scenarios related to IAASTD and to develop investment implications;
- To analyse additional scenarios focussing on joint trade and KST policies; and
- To disseminate research results.

PROJECT TEAM: ANUSHREE SINHA AND POONAM MUNJAL

STATUS: Ongoing.

IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SHG-BANK LINKAGE* (M/06/095)

SPONSOR: German Development Cooperation (GTZ), New Delhi Office

OBJECTIVES:

- Assessment of the impact of participation in SHG activities on economic activities, household welfare and social empowerment of members.
- Comparative Assessment of the quality of groups promoted by different Self- Help Promotion Institutions (SHPI), including the changes over time in group members' participation and behavior, the quantity and quality of financial services and their sustainability, and identification of constraints, if any.
- Identification/assessment of the extent of capacity building/training needs of SHG members for undertaking income generating activities.
- Preparation of strategies for further strengthening of group cohesion within SHGs.
- Study/assessment of the factors affecting the sustainability of SHGs and identification of constraints, if any.
- Preparation of strategies for further strengthening of group cohesion within SHGs.
- Study/assessment of the factors affecting the sustainability of SHGs and identification of constraints, if any.
- Preparation of recommendations/ strategies for the further strengthening of the sustainability of SHGs and the related linkage banking approach.

PROJECT TEAM: ANUSHREE SINHA, PURNA CHANDRA PARIDA, S.K. DWIVEDI, P.K. ROY, RAMAMANI SUNDAR, POONAM MUNJAL, RAKESH SRIVASTAVA, AND SADHANA SINGH

STATUS: Final Report submitted.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE INDIAN ECONOMY: A CGE MODELLING APPROACH (M/06/092)

SPONSOR: Ministry of Environment and Forests (in collaboration with Global Change Programme, Jadavpur University, West Bengal)

OBJECTIVE: The proposed study addresses three key issues. First, to examine the economic impact of climate change on the Indian economy with and without agricultural trade liberalisation. Second, to evaluate the current set of policy options for curbing carbon (GHG) emissions. Finally, to explore future policy options (which will arise once the developing countries accept emission reduction commitments and participate in the international emissions trading regime) for GHG mitigation.

The project attempts to attain the above objectives in the following way:

- Through building up the modelling framework based on the capacity of Indian researchers and institutes.
- Through integration of India-specific behavioural parameters developed from an Indian database and econometric model into the CGE modelling framework.
- Through development of a global model linked to the India-specific mode.

The proposed modelling activity could lead to a model that will not be a black box. It will also allow researchers to have all the freedom to modify and adjust it to meet changing policy needs.

PROJECT TEAM: SANJIB POHIT

INVESTMENT CLIMATE, PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Well-functioning power, telecommunications and transportation infrastructure are vital for any modern economy. Over the years, NCAER has produced a number of important studies and reports on India's infrastructure. These include topics such as domestic fuel use, use of non-conventional energy, regulatory framework for electricity generation and supply, telecommunication, and transportation.

The Council has established a Centre for Infrastructure Studies and Regulation. A project on regulation and competition in infrastructure has been completed recently. The project was a collaboration between NCAER and a group of European Research institutions led by the Centre for Economic and Policy Research, London. The Centre for Infrastructure Studies and Regulation has carried out a series of studies in the telecommunication sector focusing on Universal Service Obligation. Rural infrastructure issues have now emerged as key to rural development strategy. The Council has accomplished an important programme on rural infrastructure that reviews the status of these services and the lessons from various approaches to rural infrastructure development.

In the field of transportation, the Council has carried out several important studies on the civil aviation sector and inland transportation. The Council is currently involved in carrying out a study of passenger transportation in the States.

Besides the physical infrastructure sectors, development of industrial sectors has been an

important area of research to us. Studies on e-Readiness in the states to facilitate e-governance are some of our pioneering work.

Two studies have also been initiated in the housing sector. The studies aim to provide a better understanding of the prices of the housing properties.

STUDY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL HOUSING IN INDIA (M/07/106)

SPONSOR: Holcim Group Support Limited, Zurich

OBJECTIVE: Keeping in view the enormous challenges and opportunities in India's rural housing sector, Holcim Limited has commissioned a comprehensive study to provide insights that would help address the problem of inadequate housing in rural India. These are specifically tuned to regional requirements and are scalable. The study is to be carried out in two phases. In Phase I, existing data sources would be used to assess the current status of the rural housing stock in India. In Phase II, the study would involve purposive household surveys to confirm the extent of unmet demand for rural housing, financing capabilities of households, appropriate technologies for rural housing, etc. The main purpose of the survey would be to test the validity of the schemes and policies as identified in Phase I.

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, SAUMEN MAJUMDAR, AND D.B. GUPTA

STATUS: Phase I is complete and the sample survey of rural households in 150 villages spread across the country has been launched.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE INDIAN POWER SECTOR AND CLIMATE CHANGE (M/07/049)

SPONSOR: French Development Agency (AFD), Paris

OBJECTIVE: To analyse the regulatory framework of private sector participation in the power sector and the incentives to limit greenhouse gases (GHGs).

To draw an overview of private sector participation in power generation (IPP), transmission and distribution, with a specific focus on what has been done in the field of GHG emissions reduction (renewable energy, “climate friendly technologies”).

To illustrate through a detailed case study on Delhi’s distribution, the main issues in Public Private Partnerships in power distribution and the impact of private participation on GHG.

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, PAYAL MALIK, NANDINI ACHARYA, MONICA JAITLEY, AND M.A. AZEEZ

STATUS: The review of the policy framework and an assessment of the impact of ownership of alternative fuel type, parameters using secondary data are in progress.

PRICE STRUCTURE OF HOUSING PROPERTIES (M/07/104)

SPONSOR: National Housing Bank, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: The overall objective is to provide a basis for taking up measures for the reduction of costs of real estate transactions. More specifically, the study aims to

- *Assess the structure of total price of housing property—residential and commercial – for both urban and rural areas.*
- *Map the process of various activities in real estate housing, purchase/construction.*
- *Examine the existing status of legal and taxation issues concerning housing transactions.*
- *suggest measures for improving the efficiency in the above areas with a view to ensure orderly development of housing/ real estate finance market.*

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, SAMBASIVA RAO, D.B. GUPTA, KIRAN WADHVA, K.A. SIDDIQUI, AND KIRAN SHEOKAND

STATUS: The survey of property dealers, developers and housing finance agencies in 46 cities across the country has been completed. Analysis of data is in progress.

PRICE INDEX FOR HOUSING PROPERTIES (M/07/105)

SPONSOR: National Housing Bank, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: The study aims to develop a methodology for estimating the prices of housing properties in the urban areas. The study has taken two cities, viz. Noida and Faridabad, as a pilot for this exercise. The methodology developed here is based on a sample survey of recent buyers of properties and tenants so that information covers both price and rental values.

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, K.A. SIDDIQUI, D.B. GUPTA, AND KIRAN SHEOKAND

STATUS: Draft report has been submitted.

INDIA: E-READINESS ASSESSMENT REPORT 2006 FOR STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES* (I/05/040)

SPONSOR: Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To bring out the relative performance of the governments of Indian states/UTs in their efforts to utilise the potential gains from being e-ready in matters of governance and public service delivery.

KEY FINDINGS: In general, states from northern and southern India are more e-ready in comparison to their counterparts in other parts of the country. But when it comes to ranking on the basis of different sub-indices of the composite indicator (usage, environment and readiness), considerable variation among states is observed. This suggests that even the leader state in the composite indicator or any

one of the sub-indices has to “catch-up” in other sub-indices with the respective leaders. In this fourth of the series report, evaluation of certain central ministries/departments was also carried out and it was found that most of the bottlenecks are concentrated around efficient usage of existing infrastructure. Last, but not the least, with the help of Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) it was shown that ICT expenditure causes significant increase in the incomes of poor households.

PROJECT TEAM: R. VENKATESAN, WILIMA WADHWA, M.R. SALUJA, SUCHARITA SEN, SUTAPA DAS, DIANE RAI, AND SIDDHARTH KUMAR

OUTCOME: The Report was launched by Dr. A.R. Kidwai, Governor of Haryana at Panchkula on February 7, 2008.

ISSUES IN CONSERVING IRON ORE FOR DOMESTIC STEEL PRODUCTION* (I/06/043)

SPONSOR: The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM), New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: The objective of the study was to analyse the issues involved in conserving iron ore considering future requirements and strategic goals. Input-Output analysis was carried out to compare the economic benefits accruing to a state economy, when iron ores are simply mined and exported out of the state with a case where value addition in form of iron and steel production takes place within the state.

KEY FINDINGS: The study concluded that the reserves of medium and high grade iron ores would not last for more than two decades even if exports were frozen at the 2006 level. As far as economic benefits accruing to a state with mines is concerned, the prospective gains from iron and steel production is much more than just iron ore mining and its subsequent export out of the state. This is true for two reasons: output and employment multipliers for the iron and steel are much higher than that of the iron ore and secondly, because the value of

final output generated in the case of iron and steel is also substantially greater.

PROJECT TEAM: R. VENKATESAN, WILIMA WADHWA, M.R. SALUJA, SIDDHARTH KUMAR, POOJA JAIN, AND GAGAN PAHWA

OUTCOME: Final report submitted in July 2007.

SOCIAL COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF THE JINDAL STEEL PROJECTS IN CHHATTISGARH, JHARKHAND AND ORISSA* (I/07/046)

SPONSORS: Jindal Steel and Power Limited, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To carry out an Input-Output based analysis of the economic benefits accruing to the three states where proposed steel plants were to come up. Using a Social Accounting Matrix, analyse the impact on the income of different household groups in these states.

KEY FINDINGS: The analysis suggests substantial economic benefits to the states in terms of increased industrialisation, output and employment generation. This is achieved through value addition of iron ores through iron and steel production within the state. Also, due to increased economic activities, direct and indirect impact on the income of poor households was also found to be quite significant.

PROJECT TEAM: R. VENKATESAN AND SIDDHARTH KUMAR

STATUS: Draft report submitted in February 2008.

STATE POLICIES AFFECTING COMPETITION: PASSENGER ROAD TRANSPORTATION SECTOR* (I/05/037)

SPONSORS: Department for International Development, United Kingdom and Competition Commission of India, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: The objective of the study is to advocate enhanced competition and institutional reforms to bring about greater

competition within the passenger transport sector across the states of India. The reports assess the economic benefits related to competition and its impact on profit, efficiency, market structure, etc. through survey of operators. It also throws new light on the existing state level transport policies.

KEY FINDINGS: The universal experience upholds the validity of competitive tendering as a means of selecting the right of private sector operator for public transportation operators. On the other hand, from internal learning it is observed that competition enhancing policies could be the main catalyst in Rajasthan for its efficient performance compared to its affluent neighbour, Maharashtra. Similarly, Orissa's STC has benefitted from competition while its relatively affluent neighbour, West Bengal, has lagged behind in this respect. In the case of non-commercial markets, the concept of Universal Service Obligation ensures that basic services are available to all.

PROJECT TEAM: R. VENKATESAN, SIMRIT KAUR, SUJIT BASU, RASHMI RASTOGI, DIVYA SATIJA, V.R. PANCHMUKHI, AND WILIMA WADHWA

DATE OF COMPLETION: April 2007

OUTCOME: Final report submitted.

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE CENTRAL SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE IN MARKETING, PROCESSING, STORAGE AND WEAKER SECTION ACTIVITIES AMONG COOPERATIVES IN THE UD/LD STATES* (I/05/038)

SPONSOR: National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: The objective is to study the impact of the central scheme of assistance that has been in operation for the past 30 years. This is done with a view to assess, at the ground level, the changes brought about in the income levels of the rural population through cooperatives. Thereafter, recommending

changes required in the scheme to improve upon deficiencies of the scheme for achieving its objectives.

KEY FINDINGS: Based on this analysis, it was found that by and large the UD/LD scheme had a positive impact on the development of the co-operative sector in UD/LD states. It has definitely resulted in the creation of infrastructure for the co-operatives and provided them the necessary wherewithal for business activities. It was also felt that the co-operative movement has resulted in income and employment generation.

PROJECT TEAM: R. VENKATESAN, SAURABH BANDYOPADHYAY, CH. PURNACHANDRA RAO, SHANKAR PRASAD SARMA, P.S. RAMAKRISHNAN, AND RASHMI RASTOGI

EXTERNAL TEAM: VEENA NABAR (EX-CHIEF DIRECTOR, NCDC)

DATE OF COMPLETION: Draft report submitted in November 2006.

GLOBAL TALENT INDEX* (I/066/044)

SPONSOR: Levin Institute, State University of New York

OBJECTIVE: To carry out a quantitative and qualitative analysis of Science and Technology talent in India as part of the Indian chapter of the Global Talent Index project.

KEY FINDINGS: Problem of paucity of authenticated and updated data especially from the official sources was brought to the fore. The forecasting result suggested that the issue of adequate availability of science and technology talent in India has more to do with the quality than quantity. This finds resonance in the industry, revealing thereby that only a small percentage of the available stock is "employable".

PROJECT TEAM: R. VENKATESAN, WILIMA WADHWA, SUTAPA DAS, DIANE RAI, SIDDHARTH KUMAR

STATUS: Final draft report submitted in February 2008.

PREPARATION OF A STANDARD BIDDING DOCUMENT FOR LARGE CIVIL WORKS IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR* (I/07/047)

SPONSOR: Planning Commission, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: NCAER was entrusted with the task of preparation of a Standard Bidding Document for inviting bids for the large civil works in the infrastructure sector. As a good bidding document relates to government's procurement policy, problem arises due to the existing bidding documents. These documents often contain different words to convey the same meaning, resulting in different interpretations. Hence, the need to develop a National Standard document for procurement of large civil works which draws on national and international experience.

PROJECT TEAM: R. VENKATESAN AND SIDDHARTH KUMAR

EXTERNAL TEAM: M.P. GUPTA, S.C. SHARMA, AND M.S. BHATI

STATUS: Draft report submitted in February 2008.

UNORGANISED AND ORGANISED SECTORS OF INLAND WATERWAYS OF INDIA: A STUDY OF TRAFFIC MOVEMENT IN 14 STATES (I/06/045)

SPONSOR: Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida

OBJECTIVE: Inland Water Transport (IWT) is energy efficient, economic and environment-friendly. It has the potential to serve as an alternate/supplementary mode of transportation. India has a large number of rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks and lakes with the potential for development as efficient waterway networks.

On earlier occasions too, NCAER has worked on the development of infrastructure and services in the IWT sector. In order to develop and maintain waterways and to attract private participation, NCAER is currently studying traffic data on movement of traffic by the organised and unorganised sectors of

inland water transportation, originating and culminating in 14 states.

PROJECT TEAM: R. VENKATESAN, R.K. SHUKLA, WILIMA WADHWA, AND M.R. SALUJA

PREPARATION OF STANDARD DOCUMENTS ON INVITING CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR UNDERTAKING FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND PREPARATION OF PROJECT REPORTS FOR TWO-LANING AND FOUR-LANING OF HIGHWAYS (I/07/048)

SPONSOR: Planning Commission, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: Preparation of standard documents holds the key to successful international competitive bidding for inviting consultancy services. These standard documents have the potential to save money and time for the public exchequer. Thus, NCAER was entrusted with the task of preparing two base/standard documents, one for two-laning and the other for four-laning of highways. The documents to be prepared include 'Invitation of proposals', 'Instruction to applicants', 'ToR for the services of consultant' and a 'Draft contract agreement between the Government and technical consultant'.

PROJECT TEAM: R. VENKATESAN AND SIDDHARTH KUMAR

EXTERNAL TEAM: D.P. GUPTA AND S.C. SHARMA

STATUS: Draft report submitted in February 2008.

STUDY ON CREDIT-LINKED CAPITAL SUBSIDY SCHEME FOR TECHNOLOGY UPGRADATION* (I/06/042)

SPONSOR: Ministry of Small and Medium Scale Industries, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this evaluation is to provide an indication of the success of the above two schemes. Also, to assess how far they have been successful in achieving the objectives with which they were conceptualised. Keeping in view the ToR of

the study, we have submitted the methodology.

KEY FINDINGS:

- *High percentage of beneficiaries belonged to the tiny and micro sectors, which is an encouraging sign.*
- *Survey of beneficiaries and PLIs suggest that CLCSS has been a successful scheme for technology upgradation in the small-scale sector.*
- *Currently, the emphasis appears to be on productivity, quality, energy saving and profitability. In due course, other aspects of CLCSS, like environment, pollution, safety, comfort, etc. are bound to get due importance.*
- *It is recommended that CLCSS should continue at least for another five years coterminous with the 11th Five-Year Plan.*

PROJECT TEAM: ANUSHREE SINHA, R. SUNDAR, KUNTAL BASU, AND SADHANA SINGH

STATUS: Completed in October 2007.

STATE DEVELOPMENT REPORT FOR THE STATE OF UTTARAKHAND* (M/05/059)

SPONSOR: Planning Commission, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: Preparation of full report containing 10 chapters and an executive summary.

KEY FINDINGS: In recent years, Uttarakhand has accelerated its pace of growth, which has helped it bridge the gap with the national average. There has been a clear shift in the sector-wise contribution to the GSDP growth of Uttarakhand. Unlike the period prior to 1999–2000, most of the recent growth has taken place in the secondary and services sectors. The secondary sector, which became a significant contributor during the late nineties, contributed between 31 and 50 per cent of the growth during 2001–04. This appears impressive when compared with the all India average.

PROJECT TEAM: KANHAIYA SINGH, PRADEEP KUMAR SRIVASTAVA, S.K.N. NAIR, S.S. RAO, RACHNA SHARMA, AND Y. VENKATARAMANA

STUDY ON ASSESSING THE PROSPECTS OF INDIAN TEXTILES AND CLOTHING SECTOR (M/07/113)

SPONSOR: Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: Research theme includes identification of various categories of products of textiles and clothing sector, which are experiencing rising demand in the domestic and export markets. This is followed by an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of these categories. These analyses include cost structure, size, scale and efficiency. The conditions of technology and skills of this sector would be investigated so as to find the investment required for its modernisation.

PROJECT TEAM: JATINDER S. BEDI, PRADIP KUMAR BISWAS, AND RADHESHYAM VERMA

ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (M/06/097)

SPONSOR: Defence Research and Development Organisation, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To make quantitative and qualitative assessment of the final output of DRDO in terms of capacity to face technological complexity and cost effectiveness over time. Also, to make quantitative and qualitative assessment of backward and forward linkages of the products and the prototype products developed at DRDO labs, carry out social cost benefit analysis of selected projects as representative case studies and to suggest ways and means to increase operational effectiveness and sustainability of cutting edge research and development activities.

STATUS: In all, 24 sets of questionnaires have already been prepared and circulated. Specialist consultants are appointed for the purpose. Important laboratories have been visited. Household survey in four locations is complete and the data is being processed.

Other data collection and cleaning is underway.

PROJECT TEAM: KANHAIYA SINGH AND S.K. MONDAL

BIO-FUEL POLICY ISSUES: A STUDY (M/06/098)

SPONSOR: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To develop a methodology for working out the MSP (minimum support price) for non-edible oil seeds of *Jatropha* and *Pongamia* and other non-edible oil seeds, taking into account the package of practices being presently adopted. Also critical is an examination of the existing tax structure, including excise duty, custom duty (for import of bio-diesel; plant and machinery), central and state VAT, etc.

PROJECT TEAM: SANJIB POHIT AND J.S. BEDI

EVALUATION OF REMOTE VILLAGE ELECTRIFICATION IN INDIA (M/07/111)

SPONSOR: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: The basic aim of the study is to examine the functionality of Solar Home Lighting system. It would assess the level of

satisfaction of beneficiaries, effectiveness of implementation arrangement, effectiveness of service and maintenance infrastructure and level of community participation. Jharkhand, Assam and Meghalaya were covered.

STUDY TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, TARUJYOTI BURAGOHAIN, ATUL MEHTA, AND R.S. LANDGE

STATUS: On going (Analysing data set).

MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVENESS OF CENTRAL PSES—A STUDY OF THEIR E-PREPAREDNESS (I/07/050)

SPONSOR: National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To calculate the total factor productivity for central public sector enterprises (PSE) and study the performance of central PSEs, group and sub-group wise, on total factor productivity and e-preparedness.

The study includes carrying out an e-readiness survey of central PSEs.

PROJECT TEAM: R. VENKATESAN, WILIMA WADHWA, SUCHITRA SEN, SIDDHARTH KUMAR, AND DIANE RAI

STATUS: Ongoing.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The importance of a dynamic agricultural sector in achieving the goals of rapid economic growth and development has been recognised in the calls for 'inclusive growth'. While the importance of agriculture in terms of its contribution to the overall GDP has declined over the years to reach less than 20 per cent in 2007–08, its role as provider of livelihood to the unskilled labour cannot be overlooked. The rural economy, where about 71 per cent of India's labour force is concentrated, continues to depend a lot on the agricultural sector.

The prospects of this sector, however, are intertwined with the growth of the non-agricultural sectors. It is important to recognise that non-agricultural sectors would be required to generate far more employment opportunities than has been the case so far. This is the only way through which re-allocation of labour from agricultural sector to the non-agricultural sectors can take place and productivity of this sector can be improved upon in the long run.

There are several opportunities as well as challenges confronting the agricultural sector including globalisation, rising food prices and climate change. As recent events have demonstrated, India can not remain isolated from these changes. Appropriate policies must be designed to combat these challenges and exploit opportunities in the agricultural sector. Trade policies for agriculture need to be aligned with the changing structure of the economy to improve efficiency. Similarly, new methods of production, marketing and trade would have to be considered to improve

efficiencies in production, processing and distribution of agricultural products.

Over the years, the Council has carried out a large number of studies in different areas of the sector for a wide range of sponsors. The studies have utilised both primary as well as secondary data for analysis in the partial as well as Computable General Equilibrium framework.

ASSESSING THE PERFORMANCE OF INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (IARI) DURING THE TENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN* (A/06/013)

SPONSOR: Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To assess the performance of Indian Agricultural Research Institute with reference to its overall mandate as a premier national agricultural research institute. Also, to identify the constraints in achieving the goals.

KEY FINDINGS: The study has examined the functioning of India's premier agricultural research institute, IARI, through interactions with all its major constituencies and stakeholders. Sample surveys of students, agro-industries, scientists and faculty of the institute were carried out to capture the impact and functioning of the institution. Using a variety of indicators, the study provides a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the institution and the constraints faced by it in meeting its goals.

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, D.B. GUPTA, VINITA DEODHAR, S.P. PAL, SURINDER SUD, RAJESH KUMAR, RAKESH RAJENDRAN, AND S.K. BATHLA

**POLICY REFORMS IN THE SUGAR SECTOR:
IMPLICATIONS FOR GUR AND KHANDSARI
INDUSTRY (A/05/004)**

SPONSOR: Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this study is to examine the current status of *gur* and *khandsari* industry and suggest policy options to address the problems that would arise from liberalisation of sugar industry. Accordingly, the precise goals of the study are to estimate the size and output of *khandsari* and *gur* units in selected sugarcane growing states of the country and examine the systems of sugarcane supply, pricing, rates of recovery and economics of production of *khandsari* and *gur*.

PROJECT TEAM: ANIL SHARMA, TEJINDER SINGH, AJAY SAHU, JATINDER BEDI, ANIMESH KUMAR, AND SUNIL KUMAR

STATUS: Draft report submitted.

**STUDY OF FERTILISER CONSUMPTION AND
AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT* (A/07/015)**

SPONSOR: Ministry of Finance, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: In recent years there has been concern that rising fertiliser consumption is no longer having the same productivity impact as in the past. The stagnation/deceleration in crop production as well as overall agricultural output against increasing consumption of fertilisers has forced policy makers to think about disconnect between fertiliser use and crop production. The objective of the current study is to assess the impact of fertiliser consumption on agricultural output based on available data on fertiliser consumption, crop output and other related variables at the state and national level.

PROJECT TEAM: ANIL SHARMA AND LAXMI JOSHI

**ESTIMATION OF STATUS OF DEGRADED
FOREST IN IMPACT AREA OF INDRA SAGAR
PROJECT AND COST OF AFFORESTATION OF
SUCH DEGRADED FORESTS IN MADHYA
PRADESH (M/05/064)**

SPONSOR: Narmada Valley Development Authority, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal

OBJECTIVE: The study broadly covers defining what is a degraded forest, estimation of the quantity of the degraded forests in the Project Impact Area (PIA) of Indra Sagar Project (ISP) and also prepares a cost estimate of afforestation in the Project Impact Area (PIA) of ISP.

PROJECT TEAM: KANHAIYA SINGH, Y.K. TANWAR, AND R.R. CHAUHAN

STATUS: Inception Report has been submitted and accepted. Questionnaires have been issued. Field work is in progress.

**ASSESSMENT OF SUPPLY-DEMAND
BALANCES OF FOODGRAINS AND OTHER
FOOD ITEMS OVER THE MEDIUM TERM
FUTURE (S/07/030)**

SPONSOR: Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To analyse demand and supply projections for foodgrains and other food items in India up to 2011-12 made by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and other agencies to assess the impact of various policy measures. It would also suggest measures to ensure domestic availability of foodgrains and edible oils in the country over the medium term commensurate with the projected requirements.

PROJECT TEAM: PARMOD KUMAR, SHASHANKA BHIDE, RAJESH CHADHA, K. ELUMALAI, STEENA CHAKO, AND S.K. SINGH

HOUSEHOLD BEHAVIOUR, POVERTY, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, INFORMALITY AND GENDER

What enables households to adjust to changing economic structure and growth? Households are faced with choices that determine their consumption, savings and incomes. New employment opportunities, declining prospects in some sectors and technological advances are the changing realities that households and individuals need to contend with. Some population groups are able to make greater progress than others in exploiting new opportunities. To ensure that there are social safety nets for the disadvantaged and the poor requires information and analysis of the changes that are taking place in the various parameters noted above.

The Council has retained a strong focus on assessing the socioeconomic status of households through the various stages of India's economic development. The emphasis on health, education and employment have been important areas of interest in our research programme.

The Council has usefully contributed to this area over the years by carrying out surveys of expenditure and income of households. The expenditure surveys have provided profiles of consumers and consumer purchases, mobility of households across income groups and their patterns across economic-demographic characteristics. While some of the surveys are unique in their longitudinal nature the others have extensive coverage in that they provide information at the state-level, for both rural and urban areas.

Surveys of household expenditure provide important data to understand the role of

different sectors in terms of their impact on the economy. A detailed survey of domestic tourism has provided useful insight on the nature of spending by domestic tourists in the country. The Market Information Survey of Households has generated a large database on consumer purchases of major consumer goods across income groups, states, major cities and for urban and rural areas.

A large programme for monitoring human development has been an important activity for the Council for about a decade now. Presently, it focusses on maternal and child health issues. The Council has developed a capacity for designing and implementing statistically-valid, large and small samples for socioeconomic surveys.

STUDY OF CHRONIC POVERTY ISSUES (M/07/112)

SPONSOR: Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To assess alternative poverty scenarios based on the trends emerging from panel data supplemented by information from relevant parameters of the economy.

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE

STATUS: The work on developing transition matrices of poverty dynamics is in progress.

DYNAMICS OF CHRONIC POVERTY: VARIATIONS IN FACTORS INFLUENCING ENTRY AND EXIT OF CHRONICALLY POOR* (M/06/093)

SPONSOR: Chronic Poverty Research Centre India, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To assess the variations in the factors influencing the dynamics of poverty over time. Panel data on rural households covering the period 1970–71 to 1999–00 was used to analyse whether the impact of factors such as household characteristics, social class, household assets, village infrastructure, village size, urban linkages and economic growth have varied over period of time.

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE AND NIDHI DHAMIJA

STATUS: Final Report submitted.

STRATEGIES FOR POVERTY REDUCTION IN INDIA: LEARNING FROM SELECTED INTERVENTIONS (M/07/101)

SPONSOR: Asian Development Bank, Manila

OBJECTIVE: The main objective of the study is to review some of the major initiatives on poverty (including non-income poverty) reduction in India in the recent 15 years. It aims to map economic reforms in the early 1990s and to provide lessons for the future.

PROJECT TEAM: SHASHANKA BHIDE, AASHA KAPUR MEHTA, B.K. PRADHAN, AND ANURADHA BHASIN

STATUS: A workshop on the draft papers covering the three key areas of the study, viz. rural infrastructure, financial inclusion and social sector strategies, was held on January 9, 2008. The concluding report along with a synthesis paper is already under preparation.

STUDY ON PERCEPTION AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES ON IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY TO PROGRAMMES PROMOTING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT; AND PARTICIPATION IN DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE (H/07/028)

SPONSOR: United Nations Development Programme, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To assess the perception of the disadvantaged sections on how the disadvantaged define poverty, vulnerability, risk and security.

PROJECT TEAM: ANUSHREE SINHA, RUPINDER KAUR,

P.K. GHOSH, RAKESH SRIVASTAVA, PALASH BARUAH, AND SADHANA SINGH

STATUS: The project study is in progress.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (H/03/016)

SPONSOR: National Institutes of Health and Human Development, Bethesda, MD

OBJECTIVE: The detailed information on children and women from over 41,500 households was collected during the first phase. The project is now in its second phase of data validation, which is expected to be complete by June 2008. Based on this data, a detailed report is being prepared which is likely to be published as the India Human Development Report.

PROJECT TEAM: AMARESH DUBEY, O.P. SHARMA, JOYDEEP GOSWAMI, M.K. ARORA, DEVENDRA KUMAR, RUCHI JAIN, RAJENDER SINGH, LATIKA GARG, AND SANGITA KAMAL

EXTERNAL TEAM: REEVE VANNEMAN, SONAL DESAI AND MITALI SEN (ALL FROM UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND)

SENIOR ADVISOR: ABUSALEH SHARIFF

PARENTAL EDUCATION AND CHILD OUTCOMES (H/04/021)

SPONSOR: National Institutes of Health and Human Development, Bethesda, MD

OBJECTIVE: Collect detailed information on school-going children from over 41,500 households during the first phase. In addition to this, all children in the surveyed household falling in the age group of 8–11 years to be administered specially designed learning tests. The project is in the second phase, and is expected to be complete by June 2008. Based on this data, a detailed report would be prepared which would thereafter be included in the “India Human Development Report”.

PROJECT TEAM: AMARESH DUBEY, O.P. SHARMA, JOYDEEP GOSWAMI, M.K. ARORA, DEVENDRA KUMAR, RAJENDER SINGH, AND SANGITA KAMAL

EXTERNAL TEAM: REEVE VANNEMAN, SONAL DESAI AND MITALI SEN (ALL FROM UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND)

SENIOR ADVISOR: ABUSALEH SHARIFF



THE FIELD STAFF OF THE PROJECT, DEPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF PARA TEACHERS, DURING A FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION ON EDUCATION IN KORAPUT, ORISSA, MARCH 2008.



THE FIELD STAFF OF THE PROJECT, DEPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF PARA TEACHERS, DURING A FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION ON EDUCATION IN JODA, KEONJHAR DISTRICT, ORISSA, MARCH 2008.

DEPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF PARA TEACHERS* (H/06/026)

SPONSOR: Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education and Literacy, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: In this project, the role of para teachers was investigated. Detailed information was collected on about 2,100 para teachers in 12 states, viz., Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, the perceptions of head teachers, BRC/ CRC, PRI/ VEC and focus group were also collected. The collection of primary data from the field is to be done.

PROJECT TEAM: AMARESH DUBEY, RUPINDER KAUR, O.P. SHARMA, JOYDEEP GOSWAMI, M.K. ARORA, SUDHIR SINGH, AND LATIKA GARG

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF JAN KEROSENE PARIYOJANA (JKP)* (M/07/107)

SPONSOR: Petroleum and Planning Analysis Cell, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To review the costs and benefits of JKP estimated in the 2006 study and provide a more comprehensive assessment based on fresh data so that some of the long-term impact of JKP could be visualised.

PROJECT TEAM: ANUSHREE SINHA, PURNA CHANDRA PARIDA, P.K. ROY, RAKESH SRIVASTAVA, DINESH KUMAR, PALASH BARUAH, ATUL MEHTA, AND SADHANA SINGH

STATUS: Final Report submitted.

EVALUATION OF TARGETED PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM I* (S/05/022)

SPONSOR: Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To check identification of Below-Poverty-Line (BPL) and *Aantyaodaya Anna Yojana* (AAY) beneficiaries and study the off-take pattern from fair price shops by BPL and AAY categories.

KEY FINDINGS: It appears that the targeted public distribution system (TPDS) is functioning quite effectively. Among the poorest of the poor households, around 95 per cent households in Chhattisgarh, 92 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, 90 per cent in Mizoram, 85 per cent in Rajasthan and 62 per cent in Assam achieved entitlement quite regularly during the six months of survey period. However, intense probe into the subject revealed gross idiosyncrasies hidden behind the bright picture. The gross irregularities that came into the picture were huge identification errors, excess cards issued and large number of unidentified families in some of the states.

PROJECT TEAM: PARMOD KUMAR AND DEEPTI SETHI

EVALUATION OF TARGETED PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM II (S/06/025)

SPONSOR: Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the PDS system in another set of six states.

KEY FINDINGS: The findings for this separate set of six states were not grossly different from what has been indicated above for the first set of six states. In the second round six states above 90 per cent selected AAY households and above 80 per cent BPL households obtained their entitlements quite regularly. Thus, although on the delivery front, the picture looks very rosy, there are gross irregularities in respect of identification errors, excess number of cards issued and widespread diversion of PDS food meant for the targeted poor. On the basis of observed income and expenditure of the selected households, the inclusion error was calculated to be up to 80 per cent in Kerala, above 50 per cent in Delhi, around 40 per cent in Maharashtra and between 20 to 40 per cent in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand. With respect to expenditure criterion, the exclusion error was more than 80 per cent in Jharkhand, 70 to 80 per cent in Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand and 50 to 60 per cent in

Delhi and Maharashtra. Thus, although food was being distributed to the poor, it actually was being diverted to the non-poor because of the problem of wrong identification.

PROJECT TEAM: PARMOD KUMAR AND S.K. SINGH

OUTCOME: Draft report has been submitted.

PROTECTION INDEX PROJECT - I* (S/05/014)

SPONSOR: Max-New York Life Insurance Co. Ltd., Gurgaon

OBJECTIVE: The major purpose of the study was to provide an objective measure of the economic wellbeing of Indian families by evaluating their level of financial security and vulnerability as compared to their financial risks, based on their earnings, expenditures and savings. Also, this study was aimed at understanding the significance of life insurance as a risk-mitigating tool for Indian households and to arrive at a risk profile of Indians across various socio-economic and demographic groups.

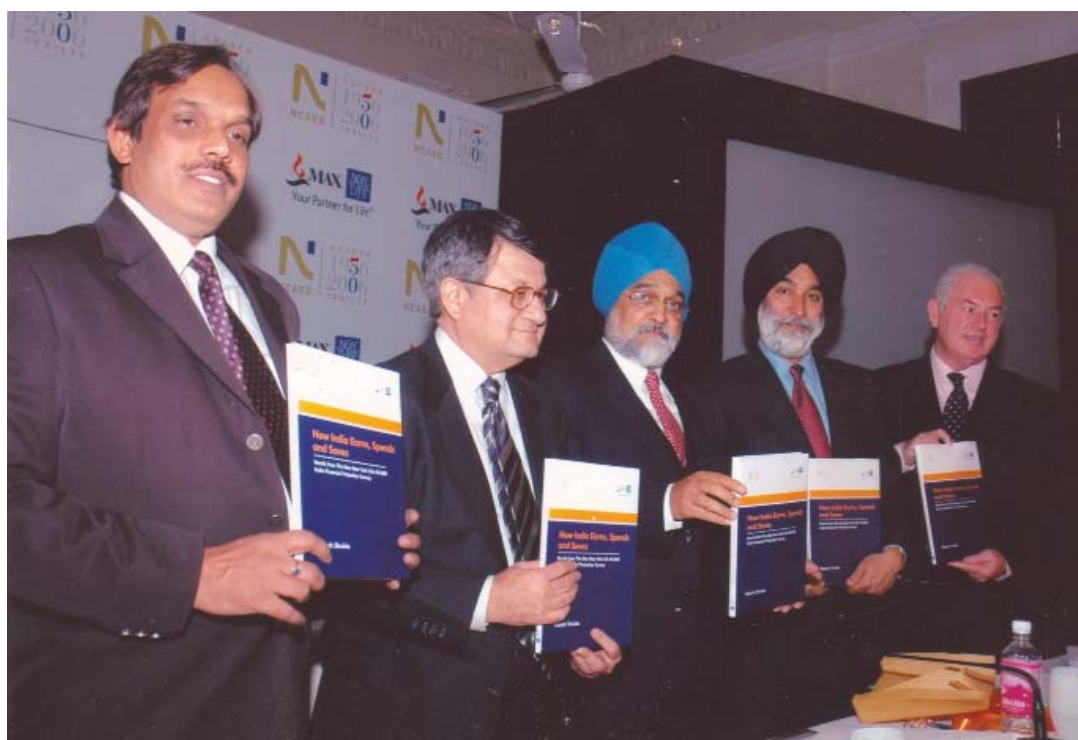
PROJECT TEAM: RAJESH K. SHUKLA, NITASHA MONGA, ASHA SHARMA, SANDIPAN RAY, SANJAY KUMAR DWIVEDI, CHARU JAIN, PREETI KAKKAR, ANUJ DAS, DEBRAJ SINHA, M.K. ARORA, AND SUBRATA BANDYOPADHYAY

OUTCOME: Published a report titled, "How India Earns, Spends and Saves—Results from The Max-New York Life—NCAER India Financial Protection Survey".

PROTECTION INDEX PROJECT - II (S/07/027)

SPONSOR: Max-New York Life Insurance Co. Ltd., Gurgaon

OBJECTIVE: To perform detailed analysis of saving patterns and derive insights on households' attitude to various insurance products (such as children's education, retirement, life and health products) using different statistical techniques. The results can be used for public relations during product launches, planning market expansion, prioritizing marketing efforts and creating



MR MONTEK SINGH AHLUWALIA, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, PLANNING COMMISSION, LAUNCHING THE BOOK, "HOW INDIA EARNS, SPENDS AND SAVES" WITH DR RAJESH SHUKLA, SENIOR FELLOW, NCAER; MR SUMAN BERY, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NCAER; MR ANALJIT SINGH, CHAIRMAN, MAX-NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO. LTD. AND MR GARY BENNETT, CEO, MAX-NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO. LTD. AT HOTEL IMPERIAL ON FEBRUARY 6, 2008, NEW DELHI.

sales tools customised to different demographic segments.

PROJECT TEAM: RAJESH K. SHUKLA AND PREETI KAKKAR

THIRD HANDLOOM CENSUS (S/07/029)

SPONSOR: Development Commissioner, Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi

OBJECTIVE: To create a data base, including map, on the actual number of household and

non-household weaving units as well as number of handlooms with emphasis on working handlooms, all over the country.

PROJECT TEAM: RAJESH K. SHUKLA, K.A. SIDDIQUI, O.P. SHARMA, RACHNA SHARMA, PREETI KAKKAR, SANDEEP MISHRA, K.J. KHAN, P.K. GHOSH, P.K. ROY, RAKESH SRIVASTAVA, BIJAY CHOUHAN, LOKESH DWIVEDI, POONAM DHAWAN, AND RAJENDER SINGH

Finances: Annual Accounts 2007-08

MANAGEMENT REPORT ON FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR 2007-08

The Management of the National Council of Applied Economic Research has the responsibility for preparing the accompanying financial statements and for their integrity and objectivity. The annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, applied on a consistent basis, and there are no material departures. Management has taken proper and sufficient care, to the best of its knowledge and ability, for the maintenance of adequate accounting records for safeguarding the assets of the Council and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities. The financial statement includes amounts that are based on management's best estimates and judgements. Management has also prepared other information in the Annual Report and is responsible for its accuracy and consistency with the financial statements.

S.P. Chopra & Co., independent auditors, appointed by the Governing Body, and approved by the General Body have audited the Council's financial statements. Management has made available to the auditors all the Council's financial records and related data, as well as the minutes of the General Body and Governing Body meetings. Furthermore, management believes that all representations made to the auditors during its audit were valid and appropriate.

Management of the Council has established a system of internal controls in order to carry on the business of the Council in an orderly and efficient manner, ensure adherence to management policies, safeguard assets and secure, as far as possible, the completeness and accuracy of records. The system of controls also provides for appropriate division of responsibility. Management monitors periodically the internal controls for compliance and their adequacy. Internal auditing programme independently assesses the effectiveness of the internal control and recommends possible improvement thereto. The existing internal controls are also supplemented through an appropriate management reporting system.

Management also recognises its responsibility for fostering a strong ethical climate so that the Council's affairs are conducted according to the highest standards of personal and corporate conduct. This responsibility is characterised and reflected in the Council's code of conduct, which includes the necessity of ensuring open communication within the Council; avoiding potential conflicts of interest and compliance with all domestic and foreign laws, including those relating to financial disclosure and the confidentiality of proprietary information.

New Delhi
Date: August 07, 2008

Suman Bery
Director-General



VALUE OF PROJECTS 2007-08

Year	Value of Projects brought forward from previous year		Value of New Projects received in Year		Projects completed in Year		Projects carried forward to next year	
	Nos.	Rs. lakhs	Nos.	Rs. lakhs	Nos.	Rs. lakhs	Nos.	Rs. lakhs
Financial Year 2007-08	26	1,601.01	32	2,706.81	32	624.20	26	3,683.62
Financial Year 2006-07	42	2,046.29	27	772.10	43	1,217.38	26	1,601.01

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS PERIOD: 1998-99 TO 2007-2008

Particulars	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Project Fees	767.41	884.28	638.94	791.51	751.57	634.55	895.92	1025.38	971.22	869.04
Interest on Investments	59.28	58.72	62.96	53.85	56.50	61.58	58.99	54.74	56.13	61.15
Sale of Publications	15.80	21.25	10.35	8.90	7.19	22.50	13.01	8.61	6.29	3.18
Others	71.39	73.10	72.40	57.93	82.01	56.29	57.96	64.76	61.87	72.04
Total Revenues	913.88	1,037.35	784.65	912.19	897.27	774.92	1,025.88	1,153.49	1,095.51	1,005.41
Salary Cost*	528.93	647.91	544.71	551.27	619.37	547.31	688.26	699.29	683.33	664.98
Non-Salary Cost	214.86	239.41	233.71	238.70	326.32	315.31	341.82	394.54	358.82	275.86
Depreciation	90.32	67.00	49.52	38.81	37.10	36.16	32.27	37.71	47.39	44.11
Total Expenditure	834.11	954.32	827.94	828.78	982.79	898.78	1,062.35	1,131.54	1,089.54	984.95
Surplus	79.77	83.03	(43.29)	83.41	(85.52)	(123.86)	(36.47)	21.95	5.97	20.46
Corpus Fund	305.47	318.57	416.38	508.43	788.72	913.85	936.55	961.25	985.94	1010.60
Other Grants	2.72	51.58	18.93	9.29	5.70	5.30	5.30	3.30	3.30	3.30
Investments	453.86	455.01	455.01	481.04	800.70	918.72	941.48	966.18	990.88	990.80
Surplus to Total Revenue	8.73%	8.00%	-5.52%	9.14%	-9.53%	-15.98%	-3.55%	1.90%	0.54%	2.03%
Salary to Project Revenue	68.92%	73.27%	85.25%	69.65%	82.41%	86.25%	76.82%	68.20%	70.36%	76.52%

Note : Project Fees have been booked as per new income recognition system from financial year 2002-03 onwards.

* Includes payment to external organisations for data collection.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2007-2008 AND BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2008-09

(Rs. in lakh)

Particulars	2006-07 ACTUAL	2007-08			2008-09 Budget
		Budget	Revised Budget	ACTUAL	
INCOME					
Fees – Project & Seminar	971.22	1329.49	1,093.10	869.04	1818.77
Golden Jubilee Fund	7.44	–	2.00	2.26	–
Government Grant	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Grant – ICICI Bank	5.00	–	–	–	–
Membership & Subscription	1.36	2.00	2.00	3.86	3.30
Sale of Publications	6.48	8.59	6.50	3.18	3.00
Interest on Investments	26.86	29.97	29.97	28.18	29.97
Transfer from Corpus-Interest	29.28	29.55	29.55	28.85	29.55
Miscellaneous Income	5.32	2.50	2.50	20.04	17.00
TOTAL	1,102.95	1,452.10	1,215.62	1,005.41	1,951.59

(contd.)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2007-2008 AND BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2008-09 *(contd.)*

Particulars	2006-07 ACTUAL	(Rs. in lakh)			2008-09 Budget
		Budget	Revised Budget	ACTUAL	
EXPENDITURE					
NCAER Staff Salaries & Allowances	436.16	443.46	418.46	438.83	409.42
Payment to Professionals & Survey/Data Gathering	242.45	371.81	303.00	222.45	898.27
Travelling & Conveyance	138.12	166.11	135.00	77.79	214.78
Council's Publications	12.39	24.08	24.08	7.16	14.51
Rent, Rates & Taxes	4.36	2.00	2.00	5.32	4.00
Postage, Telegram & E-Mail Expenses	8.38	9.50	9.50	10.32	8.00
Telephone & Fax Expenses	8.96	11.45	9.50	7.62	11.50
Stationery & Printing	18.09	16.89	16.89	13.45	15.60
Repairs & Maintenance	18.03	41.50	20.00	25.31	36.60
Periodicals & Journals	22.13	27.50	27.50	24.10	26.50
Entertainment Expenses	2.02	3.50	3.50	1.90	1.10
Advertisement Expenses	0.61	0.70	0.70	0.20	–
Car Running & Maintenance Expenses	3.50	6.00	6.00	3.18	4.00
Interest on Bank Overdraft	5.60	6.00	6.00	5.70	2.00
Interest on Infrastructure Loan	–	–	–	0.16	60.00
Payment to Auditors	1.22	1.25	1.25	0.83	1.75
Depreciation on Fixed Assets	47.39	60.00	50.00	44.12	49.00
Legal Expenses	1.57	3.00	3.00	1.70	3.44
Maintenance of Computers & Stat. Lab. Charges	17.30	22.25	20.00	13.65	50.19
Miscellaneous Expenses	1.56	5.90	4.00	2.39	2.25
ICICI Loan Expenses & Other Finance Charges	0.62	5.50	4.00	3.56	3.00
Workshop & Seminar	31.52	43.80	30.00	19.28	47.80
Staff Welfare Expenses	3.45	6.50	6.50	2.60	6.00
Staff Development Expenses	1.84	15.00	15.00	0.76	0.95
Water & Electricity	42.15	50.20	45.00	39.63	53.50
Golden Jubilee Celebration Expenses	19.51	–	–	–	–
Amount Written Off	0.30	–	–	4.41	–
Amortisation of Premium on Investments	0.53	0.50	0.50	0.53	0.50
Estimated Cost of Incomplete Projects	1.25	–	–	8.00	–
Loss on sale of Assets	2.11	–	–	–	–
Fixed Assets Written off	0.77	–	–	–	–
Provision for Doubtful Debts-Projects	–	–	–	–	–
Provision for Old Publication Stock	3.09	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	1,096.98	1,344.40	1,161.38	984.95	1,924.66
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	5.97	107.70	54.24	20.46	26.93

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON MARCH 31, 2008

Particulars	Amount	(Rs. in lakh)
		Amount
Opening Cash & Bank Balances		
– Cash & Bank Balances	19.71	
– Bank Overdraft	45.65	65.36
INFLOW		
– Operation-Receipts	1,242.65	
– Govt of India-Grant-in-Aid	50.00	
– I T Upgradation Grant – ICICI Bank	5.00	
– Ministry of Finance – Soft Loan	1,500.00	
– Sale of Publications	4.43	
– Membership & Subscription	3.37	
– Interest Received	72.41	
– Golden Jubilee Receipt	2.00	
– TDS Refund	35.17	
– Misc. Receipts	17.50	2,932.53
Total Funds Available		2,997.89
OUTFLOW		
– Payment of ICICI Loan/Laptop Loan	30.00	
– Expenses	900.05	
– Purchase of Assets	34.79	
– Library Expenses (including Books)	22.06	986.90
Balance		2,010.99
Closing Cash & Bank Balances		
– Cash & Bank Balances	1,989.77	
– Bank Overdraft	21.22	2,010.99

For S.P. CHOPRA & CO.
Chartered Accountants

31F, Connaught Place, New Delhi 110 001
T +91-11-23313495-6-7 F +91-11-23713516
E spc@bol.net.in and spcnco@nda.vsnl.net.in

AUDITORS' REPORT

The Members
National Council of Applied Economic Research
New Delhi.

1. We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi as at 31st March, 2008 and Income and Expenditure Account of the Council for the year ended on that date annexed thereto. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.
2. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from any material misstatement. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.
3. We further report that:
 - (a) we have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
 - (b) in our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Council so far as appears from our examination of the books;
 - (c) the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account dealt with by the Report are in agreement with the books of account;
 - (d) in our opinion, the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account of the Council dealt with by this report comply with the applicable mandatory accounting standards *except to the extent as disclosed in note No. (7) of Part-B of Schedule '14' of the Accounts.*
 - (e) in our opinion and to the best of our information and according to explanations given to us, the said Accounts read together with the Significant Accounting Policies and *subject to Note No. (4) Re: Shortfall in provision of leave encashment liability of Rs. 20.76 lacs which is at variance with Accounting Standard-15 (Revised 2005);* and other notes thereon in Schedule '14' give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:
 - (i) in the case of the Balance Sheet of the State of affairs of the Council as at 31st March, 2008; and
 - (ii) in the case of the Income and Expenditure Account of the Surplus for the year ending on that date.

For S.P. Chopra & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Place: New Delhi
Date: August 07, 2008

(Sanjiv Gupta)
Partner
M. No. 83364

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2008

(Rs.)			
Particulars	Schedule No.	As at 31st March, 2008	As at 31st March, 2007
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
Corpus	1	101,059,546	98,594,546
Reserves & Surplus	2	24,247,077	22,201,035
Grant Funds (Restricted)	3	330,275	330,275
Loan Funds	4	151,967,155	5,450,246
Total		277,604,053	126,576,102
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Fixed Assets (Net)	5	18,435,102	19,264,051
Investments	6	99,088,000	99,088,000
Net Current Assets	7	159,565,884	7,656,136
Miscellaneous Expenditure		515,067	567,915
(Premium on Investments – to the extent not written off or adjusted)			
Total		277,604,053	126,576,102
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts	14		

Schedules 1 to 14 form an integral part of the Accounts.

As per our report of even date attached
For S.P. Chopra & Company
Chartered Accountants

(Sanjiv Gupta)

Partner
M. No. 83364

S.J. Sultan

Finance
Officer

Jatinder S. Bedi

Senior Officer
Operations

Suman Bery

Director-General

Nandan M. Nilekani

President

Place: NEW DELHI

Date: August 07, 2008

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH, 2008

(Rs.)

Particulars	Schedule	Current Year	Previous Year
INCOME			
Fees – Project and Seminars (Gross)		86,903,921	97,121,544
Government of India – Grant-in-Aid		5,000,000	5,000,000
ICICI Bank – Grant – I T		—	500,000
Membership Subscription		386,000	136,500
Sale/ Subscription of Publications (Net of Discount)		318,135	629,052
Golden Jubilee Celebration:			
– Receipts		226,338	743,996
– Less: Expenses		—	(1,207,158)
Interest	8	6,114,534	5,613,429
Other Income	9	1,592,080	340,060
Total		100,541,008	108,133,427
EXPENDITURE			
Employees' Remuneration and Benefits	10	44,082,774	43,961,435
Survey/ Data Gathering		9,940,965	16,235,981
Travelling & Conveyance		7,779,084	13,811,744
Consultants' Fees		12,474,415	8,166,475
Cost of Publications	11	716,165	945,009
Interest & Finance Charges	12	942,772	621,736
Administration and Other Expenses	13	18,094,223	19,001,428
Amortisation of Premium on Investments		52,848	52,848
Depreciation		4,411,720	4,738,956
Total		98,494,966	107,535,612
Surplus for the year		2,046,042	597,815
Balance available for Appropriation		2,046,042	597,815
Less: Transferred to Capital Assets Fund		(2,046,042)	(597,815)
Deficit brought forward		(14,290,354)	(14,290,354)
Deficit Carried over to Reserve and Surplus		<u>(14,290,354)</u>	<u>(14,290,354)</u>
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts	14		

Schedules 1 to 14 form an integral part of the Accounts.

As per our report of even date attached
For **S.P. Chopra & Company**
Chartered Accountants

(Sanjiv Gupta)

Partner
M. No. 83364

S.J. Sultan

Finance
Officer

Jatinder S. Bedi

Senior Officer
Operations

Suman Bery

Director-General

Nandan M. Nilekani

President

Place: NEW DELHI

Date: August 07, 2008

SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Schedule 1 – Corpus

Particulars	As at 1st April, 2007	Add: Grant Received during the year	Add : Interest for the year 2007-08	Less: Interest transferred to Income & Expenditure Account	Plough Back to Corpus Fund	As at 31st March, 2008
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
CORPUS – 1						
Government of India Grant – 1994-95	9,550,000					9,550,000
Ford Foundation Grant	8,075,779					8,075,779
General Fund	16,323,017		2,513,282	2,513,282	–	16,323,017
Total	33,948,796	–	2,513,282	2,513,282	–	33,948,796
CORPUS – 2						
Sir Ratan Tata Trust Grant	8,291,000		648,565	583,565	65,000	8,356,000
Total	8,291,000	–	648,565	583,565	65,000	8,356,000
CORPUS – 3						
Ford Foundation Grant	29,344,750		2,426,500	1,201,500	1,225,000	30,569,750
Sub Total A	29,344,750	–	2,426,500	1,201,500	1,225,000	30,569,750
Matching contribution received from (against Corpus – 3)						
Canadian International Development Agency	8,000,000		–	–	–	8,000,000
Government of India Grant – 2002-03	6,500,000	–	–	–	–	6,500,000
Reserve Bank of India	7,500,000	–	–	–	–	7,500,000
Interest Ploughed Back on Matching Contribution	5,010,000	–	2,274,992	1,099,992	1,175,000	6,185,000
Sub Total B	27,010,000	–	2,274,992	1,099,992	1,175,000	28,185,000
Total (A+B)	56,354,750	–	4,701,492	2,301,492	2,400,000	58,754,750
Grand Total	98,594,546	–	7,863,339	5,398,339	2,465,000	101,059,546
Note: Refer to Note no. 5 of Schedule 14.						

Schedule 2 – Reserve and Surplus

Particulars		As at 31st March, 2008		As at 31st March, 2007
		Rs.		Rs.
Capital Assets Fund:				
As per last Accounts	36,491,389		35,893,574	
Add: Transferred from Income & Expenditure Account	<u>2,046,042</u>	38,537,431	<u>597,815</u>	36,491,389
Deficit in Income & Expenditure Account		(14,290,354)		(14,290,354)
Total		24,247,077		22,201,035

SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Schedule 3 – Grant Funds (Restricted)

Grant	Total Grant Received	As at 31st March, 2008	As at 31st March, 2007
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Fulbright NCAER Grant		272,168	272,168
– HDFC Limited	200,000		
– Sir Ratan Tata Trust	400,000		
IT Upgradation Grant		58,107	58,107
– I.D.R.C., Canada	3,814,150		
– ICICI Limited	1,150,000		
– HDFC Limited	1,000,000		
– GE Capital Service India	600,000		
– ILFS Limited	500,000		
– DSP Merrill Lynch Limited	400,000		
Total		330,275	330,275

Schedule 4 – Loan Funds

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2008	As at 31st March, 2007
	Rs.	Rs.
SECURED LOAN		
– ICICI Bank Limited (Secured by Hypothecation of EDP Equipments)	1,967,155	2,450,246
UNSECURED LOAN		
– ICICI Bank Limited (Interest Free)	–	3,000,000
– 4% Ministry of Finance – Infrastructure Loan (Refer to Note No. '9' of Schedule '14')	150,000,000	–
Total	151,967,155	5,450,246

SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Schedule 5 – Fixed Assets

Description	GROSS BLOCK			DEPRECIATION			NET BLOCK	
	As at 1st April, 2007	Additions	Sale/ Adjustment	As at 31st March, 2008	As at 1st April, 2007	For the year 2007– 2008	As at 31st March, 2008	As at 31st March, 2007
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land (Leasehold)	49,330	–	–	49,330	–	–	49,330	49,330
Building	1,786,653	155,867	–	1,942,520	928,174	25,359	988,987	858,479
Electric Installations	2,384,188	42,000	–	2,426,188	1,514,313	91,188	1,605,501	869,875
Diesel Generator Set	443,820	–	–	443,820	419,421	2,208	421,629	24,399
Statistical & Laboratory	270,156	–	–	270,156	256,648	–	256,648	13,508
EDP System	34,428,089	2,407,808	45,000	36,790,897	30,057,525	2,708,666	32,727,023	4,370,564
Office Equipments	3,609,398	103,649	365,111	3,347,936	1,548,546	291,043	1,698,702	2,060,852
BPL PABX Tele System	108,400	–	–	108,400	11,525	9,688	21,213	96,875
Air Conditioner & Refrigerators	6,025,479	29,500	–	6,054,979	3,143,092	291,189	3,434,281	2,882,387
Library Books	8,394,422	793,403	1,355	9,186,470	4,090,706	509,576	4,599,323	4,303,716
Motor Car	1,002,129	–	–	1,002,129	216,262	157,173	373,435	785,867
Furniture & Fixtures	6,768,951	280,374	–	7,049,325	3,839,469	320,948	4,159,795	2,929,482
Misc. Fixed Assets	226,218	–	–	226,218	207,501	4,682	212,183	18,717
Current Year	65,497,233	3,812,601	411,466	68,898,368	46,233,182	4,411,720	50,463,266	19,264,051
Previous Year	61,892,805	6,970,372	3,365,944	65,497,233	44,475,965	4,738,956	46,233,182	19,264,051

SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Schedule 6 – Investments

Description	Corpus Related Investments				Investment from own Funds	Total As at 31st March, 2008
	Corpus 1	Corpus 2	Corpus 3	Matching Contribution		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Long Term Investments (Unquoted)						
A. FIXED DEPOSITS						
– Housing Urban Development Corporation	–	288,000	4,727,000	3,500,000	230,000	8,745,000
– Sardar Sarovar Nigam Limited	–	70,000	–	1,375,000	400,000	1,845,000
– Housing Development Finance Corporation Trust	–	3,600,000	–	6,900,000	900,000	11,400,000
B. BONDS						
– 8.63% Power Grid Corporation	–	–	15,000,000	–	–	15,000,000
– 8% Indian Railway Finance Corporation	–	–	5,000,000	–	–	5,000,000
– 8% RBI (Saving) Taxable	31,329,000	4,333,000	2,642,000	14,035,000	2,359,000	54,698,000
– 7.5% Govt. of India – 2034	–	–	1,200,000	1,200,000	–	2,400,000
Current Year	31,329,000	8,291,000	28,569,000	27,010,000	3,889,000	99,088,000**
Previous Year	31,329,000	8,291,000	28,569,000	27,010,000	3,889,000	99,088,000

* Investment of Rs. 24,65,000/- towards ploughing back of interest earned on Corpus Fund has been made in April, 2008.

** These Investments are subject to Negative Lien with ICICI Bank Ltd. against overdraft facility of Rs. 150 lacs [As on 31.03.2008 there is debit balance of Rs. 2,122,539/-].

SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Schedule 7 – Net Current Assets

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2008		As at 31st March, 2007	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash & Bank Balances				
– Cash in Hand (inclusive of Postage Stamps)	25,109		80,939	
– Cheques-in-hand	150,000,000		–	
– Balances with Scheduled Banks				
– In Savings Accounts (including Rs. 101,919.30 in FCRA – INR Account)	4,078,460		1,232,703	
– In Overdraft Account	2,122,539		4,565,365	
– Margin Money – Deposits against Bank Guarantees	44,830,603		598,629	
– In Current Account	<u>42,411</u>	201,099,122	<u>59,185</u>	6,536,821
Interest Accrued on Investments				
– Accrued and due	868,035		590,633	
– Accrued but not due	<u>1,802,477</u>	2,670,512	<u>1,789,262</u>	2,379,895
Sundry Debtors				
(Unsecured – considered good unless specified otherwise)				
– Project Debtors				
– Considered Good	11,907,930		15,295,544	
– Considered Doubtful	<u>578,702</u>		<u>1,328,702</u>	
	12,486,632		16,624,246	
Less: Provision for Doubtful Debts	<u>578,702</u>	11,907,930	<u>1,328,702</u>	15,295,544
– Publication Debtors		2,725		5,479
Projects in Progress		14,563,214		16,203,613
Other Receivables (Unsecured – Considered Good)				
– Planning Commission	–		1,293,952	
– ICICI Bank – Grant	–		500,000	
– Staff Group Insurance – Birla Sun Life	<u>–</u>	–	<u>123,764</u>	1,917,716
Publications Stock	1,847,425		1,865,000	
(As physically verified , valued and certified by the Management)				
Less: Provision for Old Publications Stock	<u>1,021,500</u>	825,925	<u>1,014,385</u>	850,615

(contd.)

SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Schedule 7 – Net Current Assets (contd.)

Particulars	As at 31st March, 2008		As at 31st March, 2007	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Advances & Deposits				
(Unsecured – considered good)				
– Advances to staff & Field offices	262,541		216,622	
– TDS Recoverable	4,572,927		4,666,588	
– Prepaid Expenses	2,118,442		2,028,527	
– Deposits	159,667		159,667	
– Other Advances	1,059,380	8,172,957	61,704	7,133,108
Total Current Assets		239,242,385		50,322,791
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Project Fees Received in Advance		62,781,862		24,723,457
Liabilities for Expenses		9,740,938		9,441,958
Provision for Estimated Cost on Incomplete Projects		905,000		175,000
Due to Provident Fund Trust		318,799		265,715
Provision for Leave Encashment		4,439,242		1,939,242
Other Liabilities		1,490,660		6,121,283
Total Current Liabilities		79,676,501		42,666,655
Net Current Assets (As per Balance Sheet)		159,565,884		7,656,136

SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE INCOME STATEMENT

Schedule 8 – Interest

Particulars		Current Year Rs.		Previous Year Rs.
On Investments				
– Corpus	7,863,339		7,616,285	
Less: Interest Ploughed back to Corpus Fund	<u>2,465,000</u>	5,398,339	<u>2,470,000</u>	5,146,285
(Refer Schedule – 1)				
– Others		305,289		304,765
On Short Term Deposits		39,830		30,390
On Saving Bank		62,469		79,468
On Income Tax Refund		308,607		52,521
Total		6,114,534		5,613,429

Schedule 9 – Other Income

Particulars	Current Year Rs.	Previous Year Rs.
Profit/ (Loss) on Sale of Fixed Assets (net)	959	(210,544)
Liabilities/ Provisions no longer required written back	1,480,644	424,372
Miscellaneous Income	110,477	126,232
Total	1,592,080	340,060

Schedule 10 – Employees’ Remuneration and Benefits

Particulars	Current Year Rs.	Previous Year Rs.
Salaries & Allowances	28,183,723	23,645,450
Performance Linked Incentive Pay	5,591,140	4,701,166
Gratuity	687,384	5,210,451
Payment to Temporary / Casual Workers	4,758,814	6,720,034
Provident Fund Contribution	2,160,824	1,839,452
Leave Salary	2,500,000	1,500,000
Staff Welfare Expenses	200,889	344,882
Total	44,082,774	43,961,435

Schedule 11 – Cost of Publications

Particulars	Current Year Rs.	Previous Year Rs.
Opening Stock	1,865,000	2,173,703
Add: Printing, Editing & Translation Expenses	<u>698,590</u>	<u>636,306</u>
	2,563,590	2,810,009
Less: Closing Stock	<u>1,847,425</u>	<u>1,865,000</u>
Total	716,165	945,009

SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE INCOME STATEMENT

Schedule 12 – Interest & Finance Charges

Particulars	Current Year Rs.	Previous Year Rs.
– On Overdraft Facility	570,257	559,955
– On 4% Ministry of Finance – Infrastructure Loan	16,500	–
– On Other Accounts	356,015	61,781
Total	942,772	621,736

Schedule 13 – Administration and Other Expenses

Particulars		Current Year Rs.		Previous Year Rs.
Rent, Rates & Taxes		531,633		436,285
Water & Electricity		3,962,581		4,215,146
Stationery & Printing		1,345,014		1,808,588
Postage, Telegram & Telephones		1,793,761		1,735,036
Repairs & Maintenance		2,530,761		1,803,319
Periodicals & Journals		2,410,002		2,213,126
Computer Services		1,364,621		1,730,394
Seminars & Workshops		1,927,880		3,152,025
Estimated Cost on Incomplete Projects		800,000		125,000
Car Running & Maintenance		318,206		350,481
Entertainment Expenses		189,678		201,867
Staff Recruitment Expenses		60,823		59,756
Auditor's Remuneration				
– Audit Fee	26,000		26,000	
– Certification Fee	57,453	83,453	96,334	122,334
Staff Development Expenses		75,697		121,045
Advertisement		20,000		60,760
Amount Written Off		440,889		29,715
Fixed Assets Written Off		–		77,204
Miscellaneous Expenses		239,224		759,347
Total		18,094,223		19,001,428

SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

Schedule 14 – Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts for the year ended on 31st March, 2008

1. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation of Financial Statements

The accompanying financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles in India ("GAAP").

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with "GAAP" in India requires the management to make estimates and assumptions to be made that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities on the date of financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Difference between the actual result and estimates are recognised in the period in which the results are known/ materialised.

Revenue Recognition

- (i) Income & Expenditure is recognized on accrual basis except the income pertaining to self-sponsored projects, subscription to Journals and membership subscription, which are accounted on receipt basis.
- (ii) *Project Fee*
 - (a) Revenue from project is recognized in proportion to the cost incurred on project (including cost of associated computers, equipment etc. purchased from project funds) assuming that the cost incurred represents corresponding progress of the project.
 - (b) The difference, if any between the contract price of the project and the revenue recognised as stated in para (a) above is recognised when the project work is completed in all respect.
 - (c) Where cost incurred is out of proportion to progress of work, for revenue recognition the actual progress is taken into account.
 - (d) Provision for expected over run, if any, on uncompleted projects are recorded in the period in which the same become probable based on current estimate.
 - (e) Cost incurred on the project is ascertained by applying per day charges determined on the basis of estimated time spent by research staff of different categories, plus cost of common facilities and other overheads, etc.

Grants

Grant from government and other agencies received as contribution for utilization for specific purpose is credited to "Corpus Account" and Grant received as non-recurring/administrative expenses is recognised as income in the year of receipt.

Investments

Long-term investments are primarily meant to be held over long term period and are valued at cost. Provision is made when in the management's opinion, there is decline, other than temporary, in the carrying value of such investments. Current investments are valued at cost or net realizable value, whichever is less. In respect of unquoted interest-bearing bonds, the premium paid at the time of acquisition is amortized over the remaining period to the date of maturity of the bonds.

Fixed Assets

- (i) Fixed assets are accounted for on historical cost basis inclusive of all the incidental and installation cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment loss, if any.
- (ii) Depreciation is provided on the written down value basis at the rates determined as under, retaining 5% of the original cost of the assets as residual value.

Fixed Assets	Rate (%)
Building	2.50
Electric Installation, EPABX System, Air Conditioners & Refrigerators,	
Library Books and Furniture & Fixture	10.00
Office Equipment	15.00
Diesel Generator Set, Statistical laboratory, and Motor Car	20.00
EDP Systems	40.00
Miscellaneous fixed Assets	25.00

- (iii) In the case of addition, the depreciation is charged for the full year and in case of sale/deletion no depreciation is charged in the year of sale/deletion.

Retirement Benefits

- (i) Gratuity to employees is funded through a Trust, which in turn has taken a Group Gratuity Scheme with LIC of India. The liability is provided/ paid as determined by LIC under the said scheme based on actuarial valuation.
- (ii) Liability towards Provident Fund is funded through a separate Trust and contribution thereon is accounted for on accrual basis.
- (iii) Liability towards leave encashment is provided for on the basis of actuarial valuation.

Stock of Publications

Stock of unsold publications is valued at cost, net of provision for old and slow/ non-moving stock.

Foreign Currency Transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies, covering current assets and current liabilities, are accounted for at the exchange rates prevailing on the date transaction takes place. Gains and losses arising out of subsequent fluctuations in the exchange rates at the time of settlement are adjusted in the Income & Expenditures account under the respective head of account. Transactions which remain unsettled at the year-end are translated at year-end/ contract rate.

2. Notes to Accounts

- (1) Balances in the accounts of sundry debtors, sundry creditors and other parties are subject to confirmation/reconciliation. The impact, if any, subsequent to the reconciliation will be taken in the year the confirmation/reconciliation is carried out.
- (2) Reserve & Surplus includes Capital Assets Fund, which represents amount appropriated over the years towards fixed assets of the Council. The amount of Rs. 20,46,042/- available for appropriation in the Income & Expenditure Account has been transferred to Capital Assets Fund during the year.
- (3) Foreign exchange variation loss (net) amounting to Rs. 6.31 lacs (Previous year: loss (net): Rs. 0.79 lacs) has been debited/ credited to the respective revenue heads.

- (4) During the year an adhoc provision of Rs. 25.00 lacs (Previous year: Rs. 15.00 lacs) was made towards the leave encashment of its regular employees, however as per the actuarial valuation there remains an un-provided liability of Rs. 20,76,103/- as on 31.03.2008. The management is expected to provide the shortfall in the near future.
- (5) Corpus in "Schedule – 1" includes as under:

Corpus-1: Ford Foundation granted an endowment grant of US \$ 250,000 (Rs. 8,075,779) in the year 1993 for publications, faculty development and other core activities. As per terms and conditions, Council is to raise 1:1 as matching contribution, which the Council raised within stipulated time. Matching Contribution has been received from Government of India and Council itself.

Corpus-2: Sir Ratan Tata Trust granted Rs. 75 Lacs in the year 1997 to enhance the library services. As per terms and conditions of said Grant, 10% of interest earned on Corpus fund, alongwith the unutilised amount of income is to be ploughed back to Corpus every year which condition is complied with every year.

Corpus-3: Ford Foundation granted an endowment grant of US \$ 5,00,000 (Rs. 24,302,750) in the year 2002 for core support. As per terms and conditions, 50% of interest earned during the year is to be ploughed back to Corpus every year. As per revised terms and conditions, Council is to raise 1:1 as matching contribution, which the Council raised within stipulated time. Matching Contribution has been received from Canadian International Development Agency, Government of India, Reserve Bank of India and Council.
- (6) (a) The income of the Council was declared exempt under sub- clause (iv) of sub section (23C) of Section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 upto the assessment year 2007–08 vide Notification No.146/ 2006 dated 29.06.2006 issued by Government of India, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi. The Council had applied for renewal of aforesaid exemption for a further period of 3 years i.e. assessment years 2008–2009 to 2010–2011. As the said exemption is in the process and is expected to be received during the year 2008–09, therefore, no provision towards income tax is considered necessary.
- (b) The income tax assessment of the Council has been completed upto the assessment year 2006–07 and refunds including the interest thereon have been accounted for in the enclosed accounts.
- (7) The Council has complied with the applicable mandatory Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India except in respect of leave encashment wherein adhoc provision is made and not as per actuarial valuation resulting in non-compliance of "Accounting Standard-15 (Revised 2005) on Employee Benefits" (as per para '4' above). Further, certain income as per the accounting policy No. '3 (i)' are being accounted on receipt basis. The said policy of accounting of income on receipt basis is being followed by the Council consistently.
- (8) In the opinion of the management, the Current Assets and Loans and Advances as on 31.3.2008 have a value on realisation in the ordinary course of business at least equal to the amount at which they are stated in the Balance Sheet as on that date and that all the known and ascertained liabilities and all the accrued income and expenses relating to the year ended on 31.3.2008 have been duly provided/ accounted for in these Accounts.
- (9) Council received a loan of Rs. 1500 lacs during the year from Ministry of Finance for its infrastructure development. As per the terms of sanction, the aforesaid loan is to be secured by furnishing the security of Rs. 2000 lacs to which Council has shown its inability and has requested the Ministry for the waiver of the aforesaid clause vide its letter dated 19.03.2008,

which as per the Council has been waived off, however the confirmation in this regard from the Ministry is yet to be received. As such the aforesaid loan has been classified as unsecured.

(10) Employee Benefits:

(a) General description of the defined benefit scheme:

Gratuity	Payable on separation @ 15 days pay for each completed year of service to eligible employees who render continuous service of 3 years or more.
Leave Encashment	Payable on encashment or on separation as per the policy to the eligible employees who have accumulated earned leaves.

(b) Other disclosures as required under AS-15 (Revised 2005) on "Employee Benefits" in respect of defined benefit obligations are as under:

(i) Expenses recognised in Income & Expenditure Account:

	(Rs.)	
	Gratuity	Leave Encashment
Current Service Cost	6,68,770	11,86,435
Interest cost on benefit obligation	6,36,609	3,32,329
Expected return on plan assets	6,40,879	–
Net actuarial (Gain)/ Loss recognised in the year	(23,01,606)	12,46,535
Amount to be recognised in Income & Expenditure Account	(16,37,106)	27,65,299
Amount recognised in Income & Expenditure Account	6,87,384	*25,00,000

(ii) The amount recognised in the Balance Sheet:

	(Rs.)	
	Gratuity	Leave Encashment
Present Value of obligation as at 31.03.08 (i)	(66,43,654)	(65,15,345)
Fair Value of Plan assets as at 31.03.08 (ii)	75,22,323	–
Difference (ii – i) i.e. Assets/ (Liabilities)	8,78,669	(65,15,345)
Net Asset/ (Liability) recognised in the Balance Sheet.	–	*[44,39,242]
* Refer to Note No. '4' above.		

(iii) Changes in the present value of the Defined Benefit Obligations:

	(Rs.)	
	Gratuity	Leave Encashment
Present Value of obligation as at 01.04.07	84,88,122	41,54,116
Interest cost	6,36,609	3,32,329
Current Service Cost	6,68,770	11,86,435
Benefit Paid	8,48,241	4,04,070
Net actuarial (Gain)/ Loss on obligation	(23,01,606)	12,46,535
Present value of the defined benefit as at 31.03.08	66,43,654	65,15,345

(iv) Changes in the fair value of plan assets:

	(Rs.)	
	Gratuity	Leave Encashment
Fair Value of plan assets as at 01.04.07	70,91,554	–
Expected return on plan assets	6,40,879	–
Contributions by employer	6,38,131	4,04,070
Benefit Paid	8,48,241	4,04,070
Actuarial Gain/ (Loss) on plan assets	–	–
Fair value of plan assets as at 31.03.08	75,22,323	–

- (v) The disclosure in respect of previous four annual periods as required by 'AS-15 (Revised 2005)' is not presented as the management considered it impracticable in the absence of requisite information. Further, due to adoption of 'AS-15 (Revised 2005)' there is no transitional impact as actuarial valuation has been carried out on the same assumption/ basis as in the earlier year.

(vi) Actuarial Assumptions:

Principal assumptions used for actuarial valuation are:

	Gratuity	Leave Encashment
Method Used	Projected Unit Credit Method	
Discount rate	8.00%	8.00%
Salary Escalation	5.00%	5.50%
Mortality Rate	LIC (1994–96) Ultimate/modified	
Withdrawal rate upto 30/44 and above 44 years	3%/2%/1%	
Rate of return on plan assets	9.15%	–

(11) The previous year's figures have been regrouped – rearranged wherever considered necessary.

Signatures to Schedules '1' to '14' of the Balance Sheet**(S.J. Sultan)**

Finance Officer

(Jatinder S. Bedi)

Senior Officer Operations

(Suman Bery)

Director-General

(Nandan M. Nilekani)

President

As per our Report of even date attached

S.P. Chopra & Co.

Chartered Accountants

(Sanjiv Gupta)

Partner

M. No. 83364

Place: New Delhi

Date: August 07, 2008

Appendix I: Activities of Senior Staff

SUMAN BERY

Selected Positions

MEMBER

- Technical Advisory Committee on Monetary Policy, Reserve Bank of India
- State Bank of India, Central Board
- Governing Body, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP)
- Committee on Financial Sector Reform (Chair: Raghuram Rajan)
- Advisers' Group to Administrator, UNDP, New York
- Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GASAB)
- Committee to Review Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), Planning Commission (Chair: Surendra Singh)
- Development Evaluation Advisory Committee, Planning Commission
- Steering Committee on Industry for the 11th Plan, Planning Commission
- Sub-Group on Inflow of Foreign Savings-11th Five Year Plan, Planning Commission
- Steering Group on Macro Framework, Bihar Planning Board (Chair)
- Planning Board of NCT of Delhi
- Group of Experts for formulating a new scheme to replace the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Chair: A. Hoda)
- High Level Committee on Outcome Budget (Chair: Suresh Prabhu)
- Evaluation Committee for Performance Assessment of JNNURM Cities – Ministry of Urban Development
- TERI Corporate Awards Selection Committee
- Brand Ambassador, India Brand Equity Foundation
- India Today Economists Panel

Lectures/ Presentations/ Major Conferences

APRIL 26-27, 2007: Presentation, "India's Rise: The Opportunities and Risks" – Global Wealth Management Investment Symposium, organised by UBS, Zurich, Switzerland.

MAY 5-6, 2007: "India 2007: Dealing with Success" – Presentation at Citigroup's "Emerging Markets Investor Seminar" during ADB's Annual Meetings, Kyoto.

JUNE 15, 2007: Meeting of Heads of National Economic Research Organisations, OECD Headquarters, Paris.

JUNE 14-16, 2007: OECD workshop on, "Structural Reforms and Economic Resilience: Evidence and Policy Implications", Paris.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2007: Mastercard Knowledge Panel Meeting, Hongkong.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2007: Visit to RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007: The Brookings Institution: Discussion of India Policy Forum, Volume III. Organised at: Washington DC

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2007: The Leaders Project: "India and the United States: Through Each Other's Eyes", Jacksonville, FL.



SEPTEMBER 26–28, 2007: Workshop on, “Ownership in Practice” – OECD Development Centre/DAC, Sevres, France.

JANUARY 18, 2008: Panelist in the High Level Dialogue on, “Asian Perspectives on the Future Role of the IMF”, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy & Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Singapore.

JANUARY 25, 2008: Panelist in Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Expert Panel Discussion on Potential Programmatic Priorities for the Foundation’s New Global Development Policy and Advocacy Portfolio, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

FEBRUARY 22, 2008: Keynote Address in the Indian Marketing Summit on the topic “The Reality of Mass Market”.
Organised by: MART, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

MARCH 3, 2008: Panelist in the Asian Development Bank Panel Discussion on Budget 2008 “Implications for the Indian Economy”.
Organised by: Asian Development Bank, New Delhi

MARCH 5, 2008: Keynote Speaker in the CII Rural Development Summit: Session III – Rural Market: Stimulating Demand, Accelerating Growth.
Organised by: Confederation of Indian Industry, Hotel Intercontinental, New Delhi

MARCH 7, 2008: Session Chair: International meet on “Mapping the Scientific Consciousness, National and Global Efforts”.
Organised by: NISTADS, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi

MARCH 8–10, 2008: Keynote Speaker, “India After the 2008 Budget: What Will Drive Growth?”

Organised by: Indian Business and Professional Network (IBPN), Doha, Qatar.

MARCH 13–16, 2008: Indo-Italian Seminar, “Scanning the Trail into the Future”, Venice, Italy.

MARCH 26, 2008: Presentation at National Defence College, “The Political Economy of Economic Reforms in India”.
Organised by: National Defence College, Tees January Marg, New Delhi

MARCH 27, 2008: Chair in a seminar on Capital Flows: Chaired Session “Exchange Rates”.
Organised by: NIPFP-DEA, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

SHASHANKA BHIDE

Selected Position

MEMBER

- *Member of the Working Group on Macroeconomic Issues in Bihar’s Eleventh Five Year Plan Strategies, Constituted by Government of Bihar*

Lectures/ Presentations/ Major Conferences

APRIL 20, 2007: Made a presentation to visiting financial sector executives from Finland on “Indian Economy, Status and Prospects”, organised by FinPro, at Shangri-La Hotel, New Delhi.

JUNE 5–8, 2007: Participated in a Workshop “Asian Think Tanks: Strengthening Knowledge Management and Knowledge Sharing”, organized by Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo, Japan.

JUNE 20, 2007: Participated in the one day workshop, “Re-recognising Determinants and Basic Experiences of Large Scale Poverty Reduction in China”, organized by International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) and Wolfensohn Centre for Development (WCD), the Brookings Institution, in Beijing.

OCTOBER 10, 2007: Participated as a discussant in the “Workshop on Economic Policy and Development: A Critical Appraisal of Bihar Economic Survey, 2006–07” held in Patna. The workshop was organised by the Government of Bihar and Asian Development Research Institute, Patna.

OCTOBER 31, 2007: Public Lecture, “Drivers of India’s Economic Growth”, at Minnesota State University Mankato, Mankato, Minnesota.

OCTOBER 31, 2007: Presented a seminar on “Economic Growth and Poverty Dynamics: An Empirical Assessment Using Panel Data for Rural India”, Department of Economics, at Minnesota State University Mankato, Mankato, Minnesota.

JANUARY 6, 2008: Panel member in the session on “Macroeconomic Models” at the Indian Econometric Society annual meeting held at Hyderabad.

JANUARY 9, 2008: Presented the findings of the paper, “Infrastructure and Poverty Reduction” at the “Workshop on strategies for Poverty Reduction: Focus on Infrastructure, Financial Inclusion and Social Sector Interventions”, as a part of the project sponsored by ADB with the same title. The workshop was held at Vice Regal Hall, Hotel Claridges, New Delhi.

FEBRUARY 26, 2008: Made a presentation on the Indian Economy to a group of visiting

international executives from SAB Miller, Committee Room, NCAER, New Delhi.

MARCH 22, 2008: Made a presentation on “PPPs and Infrastructure Development: Some Macroeconomic Concerns” to the Ph.D scholars at the Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

RAJESH CHADHA

Lectures/ Presentations/ Major Conferences

MAY 11, 2007: “Indian Agricultural Markets: Competition and Regulation Issues”, presentation delivered at Competition Commission of India.

JUNE 4, 2007: “India China Economic Cooperation: Trade in Goods”, presentation made at the 4th Meeting of the China-India Joint Task Force, Beijing, China.

JUNE 7–9, 2007: “Liberalising Border Trade: Implications for Domestic Agricultural Markets of India”, Tenth Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis, presentation at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

JULY 12, 2007: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) workshop on Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) issues for India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

JULY 17, 2007: Participated in the India Policy Forum Seminar and the annual book launch at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007: “Pan-Asia Free Trade Agreement”, a lecture delivered to the Indian Economic Service students at the Institute of Economic Growth.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2007: “General Equilibrium Results of India-China Trade Liberalisation”, discussion during the 5th Meeting of the China-India Joint Task Force, Beijing, China.

OCTOBER 11, 2007: Seminar on “The Future of the World Trade Regime after Doha”, organised by the Warwick Commission at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

OCTOBER 31, 2007: “Changes in World Economy since July 2007”, presentation made in Quarterly Review of the Economy Seminar at NCAER.

DECEMBER 5, 2007: Seminar on “Indo-Canadian Investment & Business Institute” ICBC National Convention, organised by Canadian High Commission.

JANUARY 09, 2008: Workshop on “Strategies for Poverty Reduction: Focus on Infrastructure, Financial Inclusion and Social Sector Interventions” at Hotel, The Claridges, organised by Dr. Shashanka Bhide.

JANUARY 11, 2008: “EU-India FTA”, presentation at ORF Seminar.

FEBRUARY 13, 2008: Presentation on “EU-Asia Trade Initiatives: Indian Perspective” during the conference on “European Union in the Global Economy: Fit to Meet 21st Century Challenges”, Wilton Park, West Sussex, U.K.

FEBRUARY 29, 2008: “FDI and Indian Economy” project presentation at Ministry of Industry, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi

MARCH 3, 2008: “Government Procurement” project presentation at Ministry of Industry, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi

SANJIB POHIT

Selected Positions

MEMBER

- *Member, Modelling Subgroup on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India (May 2007 onwards)*
- *Member, Expert Committee to review & suggest best Method of declaration of Retail Sale Price on pre-packed commodities (Aug 2007 onwards)*

Lectures/ Presentations/ Major Conferences

AUGUST 13, OCTOBER 18, 2007 AND JANUARY 9, 2008: Participation and Presentations in Modelling Subgroup on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India on Structure of Model, Database of Model, Policy Simulation.

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2007: “ASEAN+6 versus ASEAN+3 Approaches for Regional Economic Integration: Lessons from CGE Simulations,” Co-author, Presented in Sixth High Level Conference on Asian Economic Integration: Agenda for the East Asia Summit, Shangri-La Hotel, New Delhi.

FEBRUARY, 2008: Invited lecture on “International Trade Theory and Policy Issues”, Management Development Institute, Gurgaon.

ANIL KUMAR SHARMA

Selected Positions

MEMBER

- *Expert Group on Agricultural Trade Negotiations constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Planning Commission, New Delhi*
- *Participated as member of Government official delegation in bilateral and multilateral meetings on*

Agreement on Agriculture, WTO Negotiations held in Geneva

- *Expert Group on Nutrition and Food Security constituted by the Planning Commission in connection with the 11th Five Year Plan, Planning Commission, New Delhi*
- *Inter-Ministerial Group constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Agricultural Trade Negotiations, New Delhi*

Lectures/Presentations/Major Conferences

APRIL 2007: Participated in a workshop on Critique of the Eleventh Five Year Plan as a discussant on a paper, "Accelerating Agricultural Growth", organised by Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) at National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi.

JUNE 2007: Made a presentation before a Group of Secretaries in the Ministry of Agriculture on "Special Products under the New Framework Agreement on Agriculture" in the Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

JUNE 2007: Attended a meeting on India-MERCOSUR-SACU Trade Relations organized by the Ministry of Commerce and made a presentation on "India-MERCOSUR-SACU Trade Co-operation in Agriculture", Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.

JULY 2007: Participated in technical level discussions on Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanism organized by G33 members in Geneva and made a presentation on "How to make Indicators for Special Products and Special Safeguard Operational?"

AUGUST 2007: Made a presentation on "Some Issues related to Special Products", before the G33 Heads of Delegations organized by G33 members in Geneva.

NOVEMBER 2007: Participated in a Session on WTO Negotiations: Will It Be A Development Round?, with Dr. H.V. Singh, Deputy Director General, WTO and made a presentation on the "Status of Agricultural Trade Negotiations", organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at Hotel Inter-Continental, New Delhi.

JANUARY 12-15, 2008: Participated in ICRIER-NCAER-NBER Annual Neemrana Conference held at Neemrana Fort Resort.

JANUARY 2008: Participated in a workshop and commented on "India's Trade Policy Choices", a study carried out by Sandra Polaski of Carnegie Endowment and her colleagues, NCAER, New Delhi.

MARCH 2008: Delivered a lecture on "Agricultural Trade Negotiations under the WTO" in a Training Programme for Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

MARCH 2008: Delivered a talk on "Status of Agricultural Trade Negotiations" to government officials from Africa, South, Central and East Asian countries at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi.

R.K. SHUKLA

Selected Positions

MEMBER

- *Executive Member of Working Group NSS 65th Round, National Sample Survey Organisation, Ministry of Statistics, Government of India.*
- *Technical Advisor for the study "TA6352-REG: Enhancement of Sub-regional Cooperation in BIMPEAGA and IMT-GT", Asian Development Bank, Manila.*

Lectures/Presentations/Major Conferences

FEBRUARY 6, 2008: Book launch titled, “How India Earns, Spends and Saves”, organised by Max-New York Life Insurance Co. Ltd., Hotel Imperial, New Delhi.

MARCH 08, 2008: Papers presented on “Impact of Scientific Activities on Regional Socio-Economic Development” and “Conceptual and Methodological Framework of Index Construction of S&T”, at International meet on “Mapping the Scientific Consciousness: National and Global Efforts”, organised by NISTADS, New Delhi.

KANHAIYA SINGH

Selected Positions

MEMBER

- *Member of the Technical Advisory Committee, Ministry of Urban Development (Urban Transport)*
- *Member, Governing Body of Bharati College, University of Delhi, New Delhi*

Lectures/Presentations/Major Conferences

10 APRIL 2007: Kalirajan, K.P. and Singh, K. 2007, “A Comparative Analysis of Recent Export Performances of China and India”. Paper presented at the Asian Economic Panel Meeting at the Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

10 APRIL 2007: Comments on Amar Bhide “What Holds Back Bangalore Businesses”, Paper presented at the Asian Economic Panel Meeting at the Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2007: Comments on Tetsushi Sonobe, John E. Akoten, and Keijiro Otsuka, “An Exploration into the Successful Development of the Leather-Shoe Industry in Ethiopia”. Paper presented at the International

Workshop on “Empirical Research on Cluster-Based Industrial Development in Africa and Asia” at GRIPS/FASID, National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies, Tokyo.

7-8 DECEMBER 2007: Comments on Hongshik Lee & Backhoon Song, “Quantitative Estimates of the Economic Impacts of Korea-US FTA”, Paper presented at the Asian Economic Panel Meeting at the KEIO University, Tokyo.

JANUARY 3-5, 2008: Kalirajan, K.P. and Singh, K.: “Convergence theory: revisited”, 44th conference of The Indian Econometric Society, held at University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.

FEBRUARY 14-15, 2008: Comments on various papers: - (1) Ajay Shah: “New Issues in Macroeconomic Policy”; (2) Kumarjit Mandal, Indrinil Bhattacharya, and B. B. Bhoi: “Are Oil Price Shocks Gaining Importance in India?”; (3) Pami Dua and Upasna Gaur, “Open Economy Phillips Curve for Developing and Developed Asian Countries”; and (4) K. R. Sanmugam and Vidhya Sundarajan, “Sources of Output Growth in Indian Agriculture during the Post Reform Period” presented at National Conference on “Growth and Macroeconomic Issues and Challenges in India” at the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi.

ANUSHREE SINHA

Selected Positions

MEMBER

- *Member of Wolfson College, University of Oxford, U.K.*
- *Associate of the Department of International Development, QEH, University of Oxford, U.K.*
- *Member of Steering Committee and Technical Committee, Ministry of Small Scale Industry, Government of India*

Lectures/Presentations/Major Conferences

APRIL 18, 2007: Presented a paper on “Reform project, USAID/India Input-Output Table and Analysis Development”, workshop held at Karnataka.

APRIL 30, 2007: Delivered special lecture titled, "How to set-up Business in India, Its Problems and its Limitations" to Norway Women Entrepreneurs Delegation, organised by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) at Federation House, New Delhi.

MAY 24-25, 2007: Discussant of paper, "Valuation of Unpaid Work" by Sarita Sharma and Naresh Kumar in Seminar titled, "Toward Mainstreaming Time Use Surveys in National Statistical System in India", organised by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, and Centre for Development Alternatives (CFDA) held in Goa.

JUNE 10-14, 2007: Invited as a coordinating lead author at “Fourth Global Authors meeting of the IAASTD” held at Cape Town, South Africa.

JUNE 25, 2007: Presented a paper on “Evaluation study of CLCSS” at Ministry of Small Scale and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), New Delhi.

SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2007: Presented a paper titled, “Gender and Informal Sector Analysis in India: Economywide Approach” with Haider A. Khan, in UNU-WIDER Conference on “Southern Engines of Global Growth: China, India, Brazil and South Africa”, held at Marina Congress Center, Helsinki, Finland.

OCTOBER 18-25, 2007: Presented a paper titled, “Urbanization of Indian Women: What

Access to Work, Hygiene and Medical Care” with Poonam Munjal, in UNU-WIDER project workshop on “Beyond the Tipping Point: Development in an Urban World”, held at London School of Economics, U.K.

OCTOBER 24, 2007 AND FEBRUARY 21, 2008: Presented papers on “Impact Assessment Study on *Jan Kerosene Pariyojana* (JKP)” workshops at Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, New Delhi.

JANUARY 22, 2008: Presented a paper titled, “The Indian Demand for Crops as a Consequence of the World Price Changes” at the ASSOCAP (the Italian Association of Agrarian Consortium) Forum, organised by Coldiretti at Palazzo Rospigliosi, Rome, Italy.

JANUARY 24, 2008: Presented a paper on “State Macroeconomic Database and Input-Output Table Report” USAID Reform/NCAER workshop at New Delhi.

MARCH 26, 2008: Delivered special lecture titled, "Capacity building Workshop on Trade Liberalisation Policies & FTAs: Social and Gender Implications of EU-India FTA- Approach to Research on Gender and Trade", organised by Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF-India) at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

R. VENKATESAN

Selected Positions

MEMBER

- *Nominated as an Expert Member of Working Group for “Revisiting MoU System for Central PSEs” by Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India.*
- *Member of the Governing Body of Shivaji College, Delhi University.*

Lectures/Presentations/Major Conferences

NOVEMBER 19–20, 2007: Presentation on “New Economy – Input–Output Analysis and Social Accounting Methods” in the Workshop on ICT measurement for Knowledge Economy organised by Department of Information Technology, Government of India and OECD in New Delhi.

FEBRUARY 7, 2008: Participated in the 11th national conference on e-Governance at Panchkula, Haryana for the inauguration of the fourth in a series of e-Readiness Report for the year 2006.

FEBRUARY 14, 2008: Guided NCAER’s team in organising in New Delhi a one-day seminar on PPP Opportunities and Challenges in Indian Infrastructure, sponsored by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

FEBRUARY 15, 2008: The international consultancy group “Centennial Group” regarded a 2004 Report “Study on the Revamping of the MoU System” in Indian Central PSEs as internationally best practices. In the same context, it also received at the instance of Government of India, an official delegation from the Philippines who evinced interests in applying the study for their PSEs.

Appendix II: Resources

STAFF COMPOSITION

Composition of NCAER Permanent and Regular Staff Members in Active Service on March 31, 2008

Researchers	March 31, 2005	March 31, 2006	March 31, 2007	March 31, 2008
(I) Professionals	37	35	34	33
Director-General	1	1	1	1
Level 6	11	10	11	9
Level 5	4	3	2	4
Level 4	14	15	12	12
Level 3	7	6	8	7
Level 2	–	–	–	–
(II) Field Staff	4	4	4	4
Level 4	3	3	3	3
Level 3	1	1	1	1
Total (I+II)	41	39	38	37

Composition of NCAER Non-Regular Research Staff in Active Service on March 31, 2008

Researchers	March 31, 2005	March 31, 2006	March 31, 2007	March 31, 2008
Professionals	32	47	40	37
Sr. Consultants/ Advisors	4	6	6	4
Consultants/Editor	10	12	14	9
Research Associates	18	29	20	24
Total	32	47	40	37

STAFF ANALYSIS

	Researchers	Support Staff	Total
Total Staff	74	33	107*
Permanent Staff	08	07	15
Regular Staff (3 Years and above)	29	23	52
Contractual staff (1–3 years)	37	03	40
Staff on deputation	–	–	–
Staff on lien/ long leave	15	01	16
Male staff	54	27	81
Female staff	20	06	26
Doctorates	25	01	26

* Staff composition does not include contractual staff on term less than six months and those on lien/ long leave.

Regular Professional Research Staff 2007–08

(I) PROFESSIONALS Mr. Suman Kumar Bery <i>Director-General</i>	Dr. Pramod Kumar Dr. Saumen Majumdar Dr. Geethanjali Nataraj	LEVEL 3 (RESEARCH ANALYST) Ms. Sutapa Das Ms. Ruchi Jain Ms. Preeti Kakar Mr. Geetha Mohan Mr. Ajaya Kumar Sahu Mr. Anuj Sharma Dr. Tejinder Singh
	LEVEL 6 (SENIOR FELLOW) Dr. Shashanka Bhide <i>(Senior Research Counsellor)</i> Dr. Rajesh Chadha Dr. Hari K. Nagarajan Dr. Sanjib Pohit Dr. Anil Kumar Sharma Dr. R.K. Shukla Dr. Kanhaiya Singh Dr. Anushree Sinha Mr. R. Venkatesan	LEVEL 4 (ASSOCIATE FELLOW) Dr. Tarujyoti Buragohain Dr. K. Elumalai Mr. P.K. Ghosh Dr. R.K. Jaiswal Dr. Laxmi Joshi Dr. Rupinder Kaur Mr. M.M. Khan Dr. Purna Chandra Parida Dr. Ch. Sambasiva Rao Mr. Badri Narayan Rath Mr. K.A. Siddiqui Mrs. Anjali Tandon
LEVEL 5 (FELLOW) Dr. J.S. Bedi <i>(additional responsibility as Senior Officer Operations)</i>		(II) FIELD STAFF LEVEL 4 (ASSOCIATE FELLOW) Mr. S.K. Bathla Mr. Om Prakash Sharma Mr. K.S. Urs LEVEL 3 (RESEARCH ANALYST) Mr. R.S. Landge

Non-Regular Research Staff 2007–08

SENIOR CONSULTANTS/ADVISORS	Mr. P.K. Roy Mr. Y.K. Tanwar	Mr. Shailender Kumar Mr. Siddharth Kumar Mr. Suresh Kumar Mr. T. Naga Krishna Kumar Ms. Bindu Kumari Mr. Atul Mehta Mr. Shibananda Nayak Mr. Barun Deb Pal Ms. Kiran Sheokand Mr. Kalicharan Shukla Mr. Sudhir Kumar Singh Mr. Deepak Varshney Ms. Jyothsna Versha
Prof. D.B. Gupta Dr. V.P. Ojha Prof. M.R. Saluja Dr. Wilima Wadhwa	RESEARCH ASSOCIATES Ms. Nandini Acharya Mr. Ashwani Mr. Rajendra Singh Bargali Mr. Palash Baruah Ms. Ashima Bhuyan Mr. Deborshi Brahmachari Ms. Latika Garg Ms. Easha Jain Ms. Monica Jaitly Mr. Honey Karun Mr. Devender Kumar	
CONSULTANTS/EDITOR Mr. M.K. Arora Dr. Joydeep Goswami Mr. Rajesh Kumar Mr. Prabhu Prasad Mishra Mr. S.K. Mondal Mr. Udayan Namboodiri Ms. Diane Rai		

Staff on Lien/Long Leave (as on March 31, 2008)

Dr. S. Bandyopadhyay Dr. Samantak Das Dr. Amaresh Dubey Dr. Anil Gumber Ms. Veena Kulkarni Mr. Devender Kumar	Mr. Santosh Kumar Mrs. Poonam Munjal Mr. J.M. Pandit Dr. B.K. Pradhan Mr. Amrendra Sahoo Dr. Abusaleh Shariff	Mrs. Rachna Sharma Mr. Shalabh Kumar Singh Dr. Sunil Kumar Sinha Mr. A. Subramanain
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SUPPORT UNITS

Composition of Support Units of NCAER

	March 31, 2004	March 31, 2005	March 31, 2006	March 31, 2007	March 31, 2008
REGULAR & PERMANENT					
Level 5	4	3	2	2	2
Level 4	2	1	1	3	3
Level 3	14	13	13	13	11
Level 2	19	19	13	11	10
Level 1	4	4	4	4	4
Total	43	40	33	33	30
SUPPORT STAFF (SHORT-TERM)					
Officers	2	1	3	1	1
Technical Staff	3	3	2	–	–
Office Staff	10	10	6	6	2
Service Staff	8	8	8	8	–
Total	23	22	19	15	3

Regular Support Staff 2007-08

LEVEL 5 Mr. J.M. Chawla <i>Head, Computer Centre</i> Mr. N.J. Sebastian <i>Secretary and Chief Librarian</i>	Mr. Ajay Gupta Mrs. Geetu Makhija Mr. J.S. Punia Mr. B. Ramesh Mr. Praveen Sachdeva Mr. Praveen Sharma Mr. Dhanraj Singh Mr. Rakesh Srivastava Mr. Netram Verma	Mr. Vinay Kumar Sharma Mr. Rajender Singh Mr. Budh Singh Mr. Niraj Kumar Singh
LEVEL 4 Mr. B.B. Chand <i>Senior Assistant Librarian</i> Mr. S.A. Huda <i>Maintenance Officer</i> Mr. S.J. Sultan <i>Finance Officer</i>	LEVEL 2 (EXECUTIVE) Mrs. Shalini Aggarwal Mr. Ram Belas Mrs. Sangita Chaudhary Mr. Bijay Chouhan Mr. Vinod Kumar Gupta Mr. G.C. Khulbe	LEVEL 1 (SERVICE ASSISTANT) Mr. Khurshid Ahmed Mr. Ram Kumar Mr. Surinder Kumar Mr. Satyender Singh
LEVEL 3 (SENIOR EXECUTIVE) Mrs. Sudesh Bala Mr. Dharampal		SHORT-TERM SUPPORT STAFF Mrs. Poonam Dhawan Mrs. Jaya Koti Dr. Dalip Kumar <i>Admn. Officer (Projects)</i>

LIBRARY

NCAER boasts of a tremendously rich and useful library within its lush green premises. The NCAER library continues to provide research support to all the researchers at the Council and a large number of outside users as well. The annual user's survey is conducted to assess and evaluate the quality of library services provided to its users. The survey also attempts to expose the areas that require further strengthening. More than 1000 researchers visited the library in the last year. The increased use of the library by researchers and visiting scholars is attributed to the quality of different services rendered by the library management. Numerous policy-makers and consultants used the library during the year 2007–08.

Collection Development

The collection development of the library is advised by the Knowledge Resource Committee (KRC). It is an internal committee which provides guidance to many initiatives of the library. The library added more than 461 books, 377 reports, and 115 CDs to its collection during the reference period. The library continued to subscribe to 40 e-journals and nine online databases. Most of these online databases are statistical databases used by the researchers at the Council for their project-related works. The KRC advised the library to consolidate the subscription of all online and CD-based databases by the library rather than distributed subscription by different research areas. This is being carried out from the last year. The major online

databases subscribed to by the library include Indiatat.com, Econlit, Comtrade, Prowess, CMIE State analysis Service, Balance of Payments Statistics, International Financial Statistics, World Development Indicators, and Global Development Finance, etc. The Library, as part of its collection development policy acquired NSSO data and 2001 Census CDs. As Depository Library, the Library continued to receive documents both from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Asian Development Bank.

Library Services

As part of the information dissemination programme, the library continues to regularly release different "Alert Services" for the benefit of researchers. A new service, Monthly Index, was introduced during 2007–08. This product is a spin-off of the *Artha Suchi* database maintained and continuously updated by the library. This Index of articles is disseminated to researchers electronically. Three issues of *Artha Suchi* were also published during the year. Besides these services, the Library has released twelve issues of 'List of Additions' and twelve issues of 'CASE – Current Awareness Service in Economics', a newspaper-based index to articles. The library constantly endeavors to provide services to researchers augmenting their multifarious collection of books, reports, databases, press clippings, etc. All these services are uploaded on the library section of NCAER's webpage for wider accessibility.

NCAER library also provides a new

service, 'Contents Alert Economics', which is electronically circulated to researchers at NCAER. Many of these journals are not subscribed to by the Library. Fortunately, being a member of iManagement, the NCAER library has access to the full-text of all these journals. The Library's Intranet is updated regularly with news feeds, new digitized documents, e-journals and other useful information for the benefit of researchers. During the year, a bibliographical database of all available NCAER publications is uploaded on the Library's Intranet. This database helps to retrieve bibliographical information of projects completed by the Council in the past with names of the Project leaders, key-word and subject searches. As part of the digitization plan, a pilot project of

selected NCAER's unpublished reports was also undertaken and completed successfully.

Towards 2008

The NCAER library is destined to play a prominent role in the dissemination of information for researchers in the area of economics. One of the major initiatives of the Library in the year 2008 would be digitization of all NCAER's unpublished reports and to make it available to wider user group subject to disclosure norms. With assured funding this would be a major task for the library. Another challenge facing the library is converting bibliographical data of more than 50000 documents in to machine-readable form. The Library is expected to initiate these jobs during 2008.

LIBRARY COLLECTION AS ON MARCH 31, 2008

Year	Books	Reports	Other Documents	Total Collection
2006-07	25643	35285	18085	79013
2007-08	26104	35662	18704	80470

COMPUTER CENTRE

The Computer Centre maintains the Information Technology (IT) infrastructure of NCAER. It also services the data processing requirements of the Council .

Due to a rapid increase in the use of computer as a productivity tool, the number of desktops have been increased to meet the requirement. Each researcher and support personnel has been provided with a personal computer. The Computer Centre maintains 180 high-end Pentium IV desktop PCs, 30 laptops, an array of local and network laser jet printers, colour laser printers, scanners, CD writers and LCDs for the research and support staff. It plans to consolidate the servers to state-of-the-art blade servers and implementation of NAS.

Researchers have been provided with econometric and statistical software packages/ programmes like EVIEWS, GEMPACK, GAMS, STATA, MICROFIT, SHAZAM, etc. Among others, these have been made available to researchers along with good email and internet connectivity through a 256 kbps leased line. Besides, most of the members of

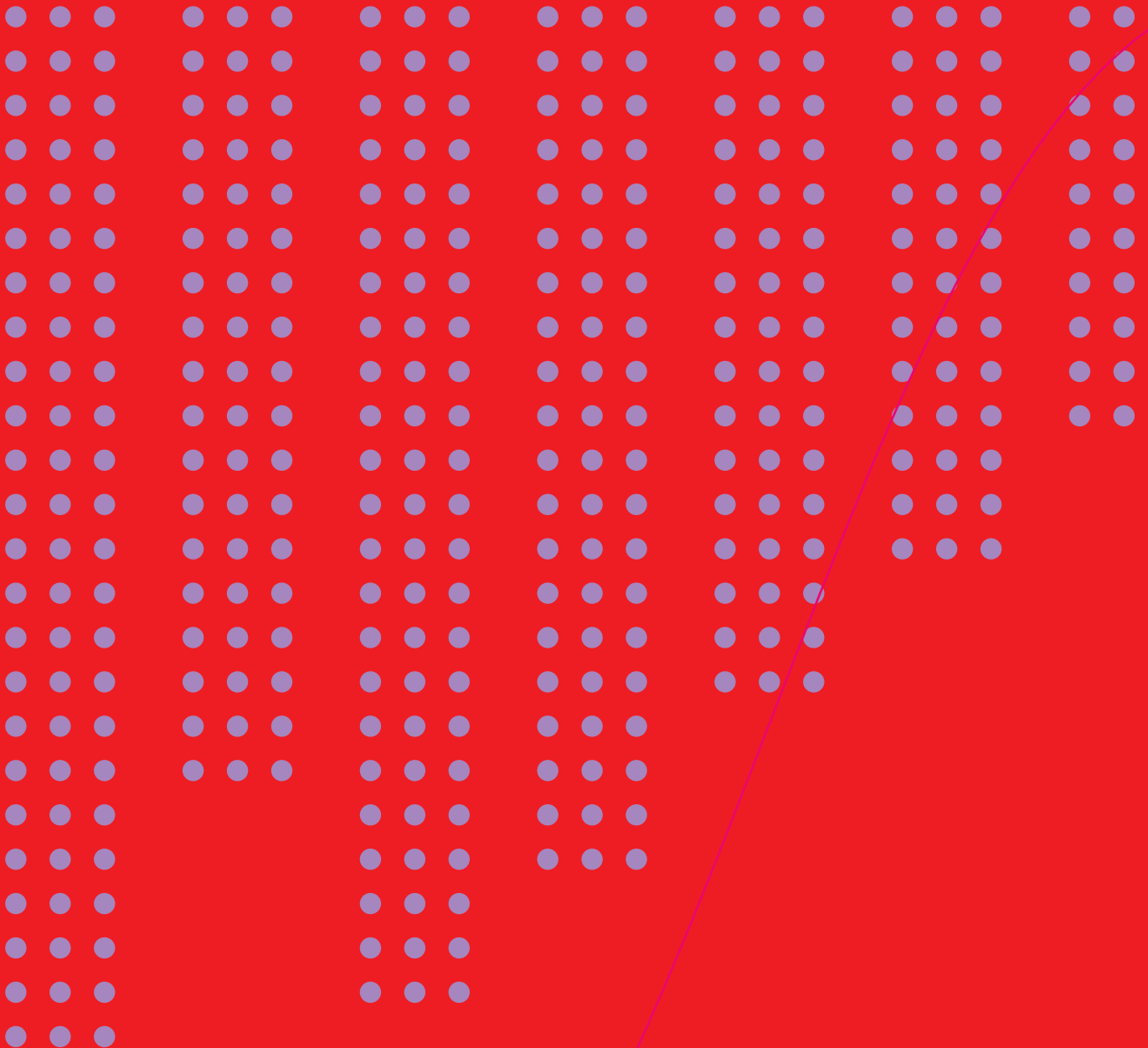
the support staff have internet and e-mail access. An additional 1 mbps (shared) leased line serves the staff exclusively for internet browsing. It also aspires to increase the internet bandwidth to 1 mbps and to acquire SPSS software system in the near future.

A small part of the building has been made Wi-Fi enabled, on experimental basis, and it is proposed to extend it further after its successful implementation.

NCAER's own web site (www.ncaer.org <<http://www.ncaer.org/>>) has undergone a major changeover in this year. All major events at NCAER are posted on the web site for public viewing.

An office management system is in place in the Council. It effectively helps to streamline the administrative activities, maintain records of personnel as well as to serve the management information system.

Together with the Library, the Computer Centre is working on the implementation of a data management system for conversion of all completed primary survey data sets to a usable format to facilitate research and analysis work.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF APPLIED ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Parisila Bhawan 11 Indraprastha Estate New Delhi 110 002 India
T +91 11 2337 9861-63 F +91 11 2337 0164 E infor@ncaer.org W www.ncaer.org