

DATA ON MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN INDIA— CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DIFFERENT SOURCES AND AVAILABILITY : 1951 TO DATE

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I. Introduction

The objective of this paper is to investigate the availability and comparability of data on Employment, Capital, Output and Value added for the manufacturing industries in India from 1951 to date.

The two main sources of data up to 1958 are the Census of Indian Manufactures (CMI) and Sample Survey of Manufacturing Industries (SSMI). From 1959 these two were replaced by Annual Survey of Industries (ASI).

II. Concepts of CMI, SSMI and ASI

Census of Indian Manufactures (CMI)

An annual census of 29 out of the 63 manufacturing industry groups was started in 1946 under the provisions of Industrial Statistics Act, 1942 and the Census of Manufacturing Industries Rules 1945 framed thereunder. This was called CMI scheme.

The Census of Indian Manufactures (CMI) covers establishments registered under Section 2(j) of the Factories Act 1934, i.e. those factories employing 20 or more workers and using power. The CMI does not cover establishments employing less than 20 as it was considered that it would make the census unmanageable, at the same time without any substantial advantage from the standpoint of response, reliability and quality of data.

Thus, as per the 1948 Act, there were about 29,000 factories in the country in 1949, but according to the definition of the 1934 Act (which was followed by CMI) there were only 17,000 factories; and further since CMI covered only 29 out of 63 industries it covered only between 6,500 to 7,000 factories.

For National Income purposes larger coverage both in respect of industries and in respect of geographical coverage, was considered desirable, and hence the Committee recommended that a Sample Survey of Manufacturing Industries be carried out. Consequently from the year 1951 onwards Sample Surveys were carried out annually till 1958. At the same time CMI was also carried out annually till 1958.