

A Note on Industrial and Trade Classification-Comment

T. R. Bishnoi

This note has reference to Vidya Pitre and Latika Argade's article on "A Note on Industrial and Trade Classification" (this Journal, Sept. 1978, Vol.20, No.3). It consists of two parts. The first part outlines the main points of their note and deals with the points where they and we are in broad agreement. The second part highlights our differences with them.

Pitre and Argade have presented a comparison among a number of different classifications, viz. Old Annual Survey of Industries (ASI before 1970), new (ASI after 1970), Monthly Statistics of Production (MSP) old and new, Indian Trade Classification (ITC) and Revised Indian Trade Classification (RITC). One of the conclusions of this attempt is that the regrouping of industries in National Industrial Classification, 1970 (NIC-1970) according to old ASI Classification, at three digit level in all groups as done by them in appendix, makes data comparable overtime.

It would be seen from the references that the new ASI classification is comprised of about 180 industry groups where as old ASI had 63 groups. In 46 groups of old ASI, they suggest more or less complete correspondence. Therefore, we do not present them. Of the remaining 17 groups, we have differences on (a) correspondence in 13 groups which involves reclassification of 12 groups of new ASI and (b) comparability overtime in 8 groups which involves 7 groups of new ASI. ((4 groups are common in (a) and (b)).

In order to present the points of disagreement more explicitly, a brief account of the correspondent groups of new ASI classification is necessary here. Broadly, the groups of new ASI are of three types: (1) The first type of groups can be classified, for correspondence purpose, with due consideration of each group's place therein old