Advisory Group on "Data Dissemination"
Report released

May 30, 2001

It may be recalled that Standing Committee on International Financial Standards and Codes was constituted in December 1999 under the Chairmanship of Dr.Y.V.Reddy, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India with Secretary (Economic Affairs), Government of India as Alternate Chairman in order to identify and monitor developments in global standards and codes, consider aspects of applicability of these standards to Indian financial system, periodically review the status and make available its Reports to all concerned organisations in public or private sector.

The said Standing Committee constituted ten Advisory Groups consisting of experts in different subject areas. The Advisory Group on "Data Dissemination" under the Chairmanship of Dr. A.Vaidyanathan (vice Late Dr. Pravin Visaria) with Dr. S.L.Shetty, Director, EPW Research Foundation, Dr. Ajay Shah, Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of the Development Research as Members and Dr. A.C. Kulshreshtha as Special Invitee from Central Statistical Organisation, Government of India submitted its Report to the Standing Committee on May 23, 2001.

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Standing Committee, it has been decided to make these Reports available to the public for wider discussion. The full text of the Report of the Advisory Groups on "Data Dissemination" has been placed on the RBI Website www.rbi.org.in

The Group has endorsed the rationale behind Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) and its usefulness in ensuring smooth and healthy functioning of the financial system both nationally and internationally. According to the Group, India is already fully compliant in respect of practically all items in the SDDS. The Advisory Group observed that in case of international reserves and foreign currency liquidity, many countries do not give all the information as per new data template. The Group observed that the data on foreign exchange reserves and forward liabilities put out by India under the template compares favourably with many other countries. Therefore, the Group suggested that a view has to be taken for disclosing sensitive information based on the disclosure of information as practiced by many other developing countries, in the background of country's market depth and development. Besides, the Group felt that dissemination arrangements under SDDS would have to be strengthened with hyper-links between various data sources in India and IMF's electronic bulletin board. Also the Group made a separate set of recommendations to improve the general standard of dissemination of India's financial sector statistics although the issue was outside the purview of terms of reference.

The recommendations contained in this Report are the product of independent evaluation and assessment of standards and codes undertaken by non-official experts, and do not reflect the views of the Reserve Bank, or the Government of India or any other concerned regulatory agencies.

Alpana Killawala
General Manager

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