**Brief Regarding Constitution of Committee for Recommendations & Adoption of Best Practices for Upcoming Population Census**

The Sixth Population & Housing Census 2017 was conducted w.e.f. 15th March to 25th May 2017 and provisional results were released in August 2017 with the approval of CCI. The same results were used for the delimitations for General Elections 2018.However, the final results have not yet been released due to reservations raised by certain stakeholders on census methodology and field operation mechanism. It is pertinent to mention here that Cabinet in its meeting held on 11th February 2020 constituted five members’ committee to **deliberate and make recommendations for approval of final results of Census 2017**. The committee after detail deliberations have submitted it recommendations to cabinet. The cabinet in its meeting held on 22nd December 2020 has approved to forward the recommendations of the cabinet committee to CCI for final decision

2. Keeping in view the issues faced during census process (preparation stage to final results) regarding Census methodology, Field Operation strategy, the questionnaire, mode of data collection etc. strong need is felt for deliberations to overcome such problems before conduct of next census. Further it is pertinent to mention here that last census was conducted manually through paper-based questionnaire, however, modern-day censuses are being conducted electronically, therefore, it is essential to discuss the shifting from manual to electronic data collection. Therefore, Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives constituted the Committee for Recommendation & Adoption of best practices for upcoming population Census under the Chairmanship, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission with the mandate to review the census process, data collection and field operation methodologies used for Census-2017 & recommend the modern methodologies being adopted for census in region & globe for conduct of upcoming census. The committee is composed of Six (6) members including Chairman, members from relevant organizations and two renowned demographers**.**

**Terms of reference**

1. to review the census process, data collection and field operation methodologies used for Census 2017 & recommend the modern methodologies being adopted for censuses in region & globe for conduct of upcoming census
2. to compare the regional/globally adopted census questionnaires and proposals for improvement
3. to review mode of Data Collection (Manual /Electronic) for provision of timely & credible results & recommendation for adoption of innovative tools & technologies for geo referred enumeration up to the household level for upcoming census
4. to review the best practices of field operations including monitoring/supervision & data processing to minimize the omissions/ errors and complete coverage
5. to devise strategy for confidence building measures of all stakeholders for smooth completion of census operations and for increasing reliability & credibility of census results

3. First meeting of the Committee was held under the Chairmanship of DCPC on **14th January, 2021**. Detailed deliberations were made on Terms of Reference of the committee and devising a mechanism of way forward. It was decided in a meeting that it is goodness of things if the Committee may be expanded to give broad based representation by inclusion of more demographers / researchers from different institutions/provinces. Further PBS will prepare material regarding key issues / questions raised on Census-2017 while using the record from, minutes of technical committee meetings of committee constituted for Census-2017, International observers report, PBS own evaluation reports and question raised by independent researchers through print media / electronic media and will provide to Chief Economist for review and further comments by involving PIDE.

4. In pursuance of the decisions of the first meeting PBS has submitted the material regarding key issues raised in **National / International observers report**, Sub-Committee of Governing Council and Technical Committees of Province along with PBS view point. PBS is working on the preparation of the remaining material. Further the committee has also been expanded by including representatives from all provinces and relevant institutions and now committee consists of twelve (12) members including Chairman**.**

**5. Second meeting of committee was held on 26th March 2021 and third meeting held on 27th April 2021.** Extensive deliberation is in progress for preparation of recommendations for the next census .