



भारतीय अन्तर्देशीय जलमार्ग प्राधिकरण (पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

मुख्यालय: जलमार्ग भवन, ए-13, सेक्टर-1, नौएडा-201 301 (उप्र०)

INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)

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No. IWAI-11039/17/2025-ADMIN RECTT

Date:01.04.2026

CIRCULAR

Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, OM No. F-23015/01/2021-PIMD-PART(1) dated 23.03.2026, reg. Adoption of Harmonized Definitions of Pucca / Semi-Pucca / Kutcha Houses, is enclosed herewith for information and necessary action.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.


(Neeraj Singh)

Assistant Secretary (Admn. & Estt.)

Email Id: nsingh@iwai.gov.in

Phone: 0120-2474050

Encl: As above

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F-23015/25/2022-PIMD (E-49519)

भारत सरकार/Government of India

सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय/Ministry of Statistics and Programme
Implementation

राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय/National Statistics Office

(प्रशासनिक सांख्यिकी और नीति प्रभाग/Administrative Statistics and Policy Division)

खुर्शीद लाल भवन/Khurshid Lal Bhawan

जनपथ, नई दिल्ली/ Janpath, New Delhi - 110001

दिनांक/ Dated: 16.12.2025

Office Memorandum

Subject: Reconciliation of divergent definitions of Pucca/Semi Pucca/Kutcha Housing Structure used by different Government Agencies

Synchronization of data/datasets collected and disseminated by the Central Ministry/Departments/Organizations, and State administrative Departments/Organizations, has been a long felt need in the National Statistics Office.

2. Principle 3 of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (UNFPOS), as adopted by the Government of India in 2016, provides for facilitating a correct interpretation of the data. The statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

3. Reference is also invited to letter no. F-23015/61/2024-ASPD dated 03.01.2025 on *Mechanism for reconciliation of divergent datasets* vide which it was requested that Ministry/Departments may refer matters of definitional divergences in concepts that are being used in surveys/ censuses and datasets for action as appropriate.

4. Some time back this Ministry received a reference from NITI Aayog requesting to reconcile the definitional divergences in the definition of kutcha/pucca houses between NFHS and NSS surveys and Population Census. In addition, the communication of the NITI Aayog, also placed on record the request of State of Nagaland that houses made of bamboo may not be considered as kutcha house.

5. In this regard, it was observed that five government agencies viz. NSS, MoH&FW, MoRD, MoHUA and ORGI follow different definitions of a Pucca/Semi Pucca/Kutcha Structure. Hence, after several meetings with the stakeholder Ministries/Departments/Organizations including Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) the definition of the Pucca/Semi-Pucca/Kutcha structure along with the list of materials classifying Roof/Wall/Floor as Pucca/Kutcha have been reconciled and the same have been approved by the National Statistical Commission (NSC).

6. Accordingly, the approved standard definitions of the Pucca/Semi Pucca/Kutcha Houses for the surveys/census etc. are as under:

- a) Pucca: Both roof and walls made of pucca materials.
- b) Semi-Pucca: Either roof or wall made of kutcha material.
- c) Kutcha: Both roof and walls made of kutcha materials.

7. Further, the list of building materials classifying Roof/Wall/Floor as Pucca/Kutchra are attached at Annexure.

8. In case of Bamboo as the building material for houses, NSC accepted the recommendation that Bamboo treated with preservatives to be classified as a Pucca material for use in roofs and walls, while raw bamboo will continue to be treated as a Kutchra material for the same.

9. It is requested that all the stakeholder Ministries/Departments/Organizations adopt the above harmonized definitions to ensure consistencies in the datasets produced across the country.

10. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Encl: As above



(M G Jayasree)
Deputy Director General

To,

1. All Secretaries of M/Ds
2. CEO (NITI Aayog)
3. DG (NSS)
4. DG (BIS)

Copy to,

1. PPS to Secretary, MoSPI
2. PPS to DG (DG)
3. PS to ADG (ASPD)
4. ADG (CQCD/HSD/EnSD)

F-23015/01/2021-PIMD-Part(1) (E-37078)

भारत सरकार/Government of India

सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय/Ministry of Statistics and Programme

Implementation

राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय/National Statistics Office

(प्रशासनिक सांख्यिकी और नीति प्रभाग/Administrative Statistics and Policy Division)

खुशीद लाल भवन/Khurshid Lal Bhawan

जनपथ, नई दिल्ली/Janpath, New Delhi - 110001

दिनांक/Dated: 23.03.2026

Office Memorandum

Subject:- Harmonization of definitions of Kutcha/Pucca Houses across various Government Surveys, Census and Administrative Sources in Government of India.

Reference is invited to our OM dated 16.12.2025 (copy enclosed) regarding harmonization of divergences in the definition of Kutcha/Pucca Houses emerging from various Surveys, Censuses and other administrative data Sources in Government of India.

2. In this context, a clarification on definition of bamboo treated with preservatives has been sought by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

3. In this regard, based on the clarification by the Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), the following is informed:

As per Clause 5.1.2 of IS 15912: 2018 (Structural Design using bamboo-Code Practice), bamboo species for structural use in housing construction shall be treated in accordance with IS 9096: 2006 (RA 2018).

IS 9096: 2006 recommends different preservatives, their concentration and absorption and the method of treatment of Indian bamboo species to be used for structural purposes. The different types of preservatives for different structural uses are a) Coal Tar Creosote, b) Acid Curpric Chromate Composition, c) Copper Chrome Boron Composition, d) Boric Acid Borax and e) Copper Zinc Naphthenate/Abietates. Bamboos can be treated by brushing, dipping, vacuum pressure process, hot and cold process, fast fluctuating pressure (FFP) process and by Boucherie process.

4. Accordingly, bamboo treated with preservative used in pucca houses involves bamboo that has been impregnated with preservatives such as boric acid and borax, or other approved chemicals, to protect against termites, fungi, and decay. The treatment is applied through soaking or pressure methods to ensure deep penetration, and the bamboo is dried to maintain low moisture content for durability.

5. It is requested that all the stakeholder Ministries/Departments/Organizations adopt the above criteria for classifying bamboo treated with preservatives to ensure consistencies in the datasets produced across the country.

6. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Encl: As Above.



(Jayasree M.G.)

Deputy Director General

To,

Secretaries (Ministries/Departments/BIS)

Annexure

Roof		Walls		Floor ¹	
Pucca	Kutcha	Pucca	Kutcha	Pucca	Kutcha
Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC)	Thatch/Palm Leaf or leaves	Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC)	Cane/Palm/Trunks	Brick	Mud/Clay/Earth
Precast concrete	Reed/Grass	Cement, Concrete, Cement Bricks, Cement Blocks Concrete blocks, ACC blocks, Lime blocks	Mud	Stone	Sand
Reinforced Brick Concrete (RBC)	Mud	Precast Concrete Stone Masonry Block	Grass/Reeds/Thatch	Parquet or Polished Wood	Raw Wood planks
Cement, Concrete, Cement Bricks	Plastic/Polythene/Tarpaulin	Burnt Bricks, Burnt clay brick, Fly ash brick, Calcium silicate bricks, Hollow brick and blocks, Clay fly ash brick, Stabilized soil blocks	Raw Bamboo	Vinyl or Asphalt	Palm
Stone, Limestone, Sandstone, Stone slab	Palm	Stone with lime/cement mortar, Laterite stone block, Granite, Limestone, Sandstone	Cardboard Unburnt Brick	Ceramic Tiles	Dung

¹ Floor is relied by MoHFW as one of the components for deciding pucca houses in NFHS as the same is in consensus with the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS).

Slate, Tiles, Roofing Slate Tiles, Mangalore Tiles, Clay roofing tiles, Clay roofing country tiles, Hollow clay tiles	Unburnt Brick	Wood Planks/Shingles	Stone not packed with mortar	Cement	
Burnt brick	Loosely Packed Stone	Wooden Board	Stone With Mud	Carpet	
Roofing shingles	Raw woods planks	Plywood	Plastic/polythene	Polished Stone/Marble	
Sheets, Asbestos sheets, Fiber cement sheets, Cement roofing sheets, Bamboo mat sheets	Rustic Mat	G.I./metal/asbestos sheets, Galvanized steel sheets, Corrugated aluminum sheets, Fiber cement sheets, Cement roofing sheets, Bamboo mat sheets, Sandwich Panel		Granite	
Calamine	Sod/Mud and Grass Mixture	Bamboo treated with Preservatives			
Metal/GI, Galvanized steel sheets, Corrugated aluminum sheets	Raw Bamboo				
Wood/Timber/ Bamboo treated with Preservatives	Handmade Tiles				