The external capability of a Statistics Office is much influenced by the status of the head of the statistical service in relation to colleagues in government hierarchy. There can be no doubt that the building of a robust statistical service is contingent on assigning top people to it. In view of the great national importance of many decisions which may be affected by statistics, it would appear to be in the national interest for the statistical service to have an equal opportunity to compete with other government departments for an outstanding individual of proven capability to be its leader and manager. He/She should be in a position to develop rapport with policy advisers of other government departments and to negotiate various proposals on statistics with authority and insight... He/She should have the same status as the top civil servant of a ministry (2003).

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