

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 792
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2024**

OUTDATED SURVEY METHODOLOGIES

792. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the concerns raised by experts over the outdated survey methodologies used in national surveys, such as the National Sample Survey (NSS), National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and Periodic Labour Force Survey(PLFS);

(b) if so, the steps the ministry has taken or plans to undertake to review the methodologies of national surveys; and

(c) the steps the Ministry has taken to minimize errors in cases of representation discrepancies in rural and urban areas?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
[RAO INDERJIT SINGH]**

(a) and (b): The concerns raised by experts over the representativeness of National Sample Surveys was brought to the notice of Ministry of Statistics and PI and the same has been examined by the Ministry in consultation with domain experts and reputed statisticians. It has been found that the concerns raised on the NSS sampling design are not tenable, since the conclusions drawn have been based on the assessment of sampling design with faulty application inapplicable method/approach.

Further, for designing survey instruments, deciding on the sampling method to be adopted and determining sample sizes for generation of estimates in NSS surveys, the guidelines as stipulated in the UN Handbook, “Designing Household Survey Samples: Practical Guidelines” are adhered to. Estimates of primary indicators derived from various NSS surveys are statistically efficient, consistent, robust and representative with Relative Standard Error (RSE) within the acceptable limits of error. The methodologies followed in various NSS surveys have been finalized under the guidance of committees of experts and are regularly updated depending on the objective of the survey, availability of resources and other operational aspects.

With regard to National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the scope and content of the survey in each round has undergone expansion as per the requirements and to provide relevant data to measure the progress made in the SDG indicators. Over the different rounds, the sampling design also has been modified to cater to the need for providing estimates at not only National and State level but also district level.

(c): In NSS surveys, the sampling frame for drawing sample for urban sector is the list of Urban Frame Survey (UFS) blocks as UFS 2017-22 and for rural sector, it is the list of villages as per Census 2011 updated by removing those villages which are urbanized and included in latest UFS (till the time of sample selection). The updation UFS Frame is carried out on continuous basis, thereby the urban and rural frames are updated regularly. During surveys, within each of the selected final village or urban block, all the households are listed and this serves as the sampling frame for selection of ultimate stage units with the latest population as on the date of survey. Therefore, the urban and rural frames used in NSS surveys ensure relevance and representativeness of the sampling frame.

In case of NFHS, the sampling design ensures accurate representation across various strata of the society including urban/rural areas.
