

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2553
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021

WEALTH AND INCOME INEQUALITY DATA

2553. SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN:

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

- (a) the reasons why the most recent data for wealth inequality has not been updated for the past five years, and is available only in NSSO data from 2011 and 2012, and NFHS-4 data from 2015-16;
- (b) whether Government plans to update this data with more recent surveys dedicated to determining wealth inequality indicators under Sustainable Development Goal 10;
- (c) if so, the details and timeline thereof, and if not, reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government plans to regularly compile evidence on wealth and income inequality in India, and if so, details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

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) to (d): The UN General Assembly, in its 70th Session held on 25th September 2015, considered and adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which came into force with effect from 1st January, 2016. SDGs are comprehensive list of global goals integrating the social, economic and environmental sectors of development. The SDG 10, i.e. “Reduce inequality within and among countries”, aims at reducing inequality within and among countries.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the progress report 2021 (version 3.1) on SDGs National Indicator Framework (NIF) on 29th June, 2021, which includes targets and national indicators under SDG 10. These indicators of SDG 10 *inter-*

alia include wealth inequality related indicators which are based on the data of Household Consumer expenditure Survey (HCES) 2011-12.

This Ministry has carried out an All-India survey on Household Consumer Expenditure during NSS 75th round (July 2017- June 2018). The Ministry has followed a rigorous procedure for vetting of data and reports which are produced through surveys. The results of this survey were examined and it was observed that there was a significant variation in the levels in the consumption pattern as well as in the direction of the change while comparing with other administrative data sources. The matter was also referred to a Committee of Experts which has recommended refining the survey methodology and improving the data quality aspects on a concurrent basis and it was decided that the results of HCES 2017-2018 would not be released.

The latest data on Consumer Expenditure Survey published by this Ministry is the report on Consumer Expenditure Survey (NSS 68th Round: July, 2011-June, 2012). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation which prevailed during 2020 & 2021, the period was considered to be an abnormal one and hence Consumer Expenditure Survey was not taken up.
