

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2554
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022

HOUSEHOLD CONSUMER EXPENDITURE SURVEYS

2554. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

Will the Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons Government has not released any new household Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) reports for the last 10 years;
- (b) whether there is no official data after 2011-12 for estimating poverty lines and ratios, based on consumption;
- (c) the “data quality issues” in the 2017-18 survey that stopped the release of entire data; and
- (d) the difficulties in undertaking a CES every year instead of having it every five years and currently in the 10th or 11th year?

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): The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation conducted the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) in its 75th round of the NSS during the period of July, 2017 to June, 2018. However, due to data quality issues, the survey results have not been published. The latest report on Household Consumer Expenditure is available for the year 2011-12 based on the survey conducted in NSS 68th round (July 2011 – June 2012).

(b): The erstwhile Planning Commission was the nodal agency in the Government for estimation of the poverty in the country. For determination of the methodology to estimate poverty line erstwhile Planning Commission constituted a Task Force from time to time. The last Expert Group whose recommendations were accepted by the Government in 2011 was chaired by Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar. Based on the data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12 the poverty lines and poverty ratio were estimated following the extant Tendulkar Committee methodology in 2011-12 and released through a Press Note issued on 22nd July 2013.

(c): The Ministry followed a rigorous procedure for vetting of data of Household Consumer Expenditure, undertaken in the 75th round of NSS during July 2017 to June 2018. The results of the aforementioned 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 Consumption Expenditure Survey 2017-2018 would not be released.

(d): The National Statistical Commission (NSC) in its 112th Meeting recommended for two back-to-back annual surveys on consumer expenditure to be undertaken during the period 2020-21 and 2021-22. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation prevailed during 2020 & 2021, the period was considered to be an abnormal one and hence Consumer Expenditure Survey was not taken up.
