GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 797
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

DATA ACCURACY AND TRANSPARENCY

797.   SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:

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

(a)   measure that Government has undertaken to address issues with the accuracy and transparency of official statistics, particularly in areas such as employment and economic growth;

(b)   the steps taken to standardise data collection methodologies and definitions across various Government agencies to ensure consistency and reliability of statistical data; and

(c)   whether Government has engaged with independent experts and stakeholders for the review and validation of official statistics, to ensure credibility and public trust in Government data, if so, the details thereof?

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 CULTURE [RAO INDERJIT SINGH]

(a):   National Statistics Office (NSO) under MoSPI is committed to ensuring accurate and reliable data from the target population while minimizing non-sampling errors. To achieve this, robust and well-defined mechanisms are employed in different statistical products which undergo periodic improvements based on evolving needs, feedback, and advancements in methodologies to enhance their effectiveness. The primary data collection is being done in digital platform using Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) or web-based application with in-built validation mechanism to ensure consistency at the stage of data collection. The accuracy of the data is ensured by multi-level data scrutiny and validation checks. A robust training mechanism is followed to address the conceptual queries and monitoring the data quality. MoSPI places a strong emphasis on transparency and public accountability. To ensure the same, the e-Sankhyiki portal of MoSPI provides a comprehensive system for managing and sharing data, facilitating the easy dissemination of official statistics across the country, with an aim to provide timely and valuable data inputs for policymakers, researchers and the general public.

(b)   MoSPI being nodal agency for planned development of the statistical system in the country is also responsible for maintaining the highest standards of data quality which adhere to basic guidelines of International Agencies. NSO, MoSPI lays down and maintains norms and standards in the field of statistics, involving concepts and definitions, methodology of data collection, processing of data and dissemination of results. In this sequence, MoSPI has circulated its publication namely Data Dissemination: National Metadata Structure (NMDS) prepared after due consultation with the stakeholders of the National Statistical System (NSS)

with an aim to promote harmonised quality reporting across NSS, and, thus, to facilitate cross-comparisons of processes and outputs. This publication applies to all the stakeholders of NSS and others in their roles as producers, compilers and disseminators of Indian official statistics. The concerned line Ministry/department are also deliberated from time to time in order to ensure that the definitions used by these line Ministries/ departments are uniformly adopted to the extent possible.

(c):   For the purpose of reviewing and validating official statistics, MoSPI has constituted Committees/Working Groups (WG) which consist of expert members from various spheres such as Central Ministries/Departments, State/UTs, academia, research, economics, finance, etc. Further, these Committees/WGs may also enlist the assistance of subject matter experts within and/ or outside the Government and may co-opt them as members in order to meet specific requirements. Regular dialogues with data users/stakeholders are also conducted in order to incorporate their feedback and enhance their understanding about the data being published by MoSPI.

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