

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 452
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2025**

DIFFICULTIES IN DATA COLLECTION IN TAMIL NADU

***452. DR. D RAVI KUMAR:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is facing difficulties in collecting data from higher-income groups particularly in gated communities in urban areas of Tamil Nadu to assess ground realities and if so, the details of specific challenges being faced;**
- (b) the details of the data collection exercises or surveys in Tamil Nadu that have been impacted due to difficulties in gathering information from higher-income households;**
- (c) the manner in which these challenges affect or have affected the accuracy and representativeness of national and State-level data sets particularly in Tamil Nadu; and**
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure comprehensive data collection across all socio-economic groups in Tamil Nadu including higher-income sections?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 452 FOR REPLY ON 02.04.2025 REGARDING DIFFICULTIES IN DATA COLLECTION IN TAMIL NADU ASKED BY DR. D RAVI KUMAR

(a) to (d): Sample surveys being conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) are vital for collecting data that informs public policy across various sectors like health, education, and economic planning, etc. These surveys cover the entire country including Tamil Nadu except some villages in Andaman & Nicobar Islands which remain inaccessible. These sample surveys follow scientific sampling designs for selection of sample households in order to ensure representativeness of sample using area frame consisting of villages and blocks available respectively from the Population Census for rural areas and Urban Frame Survey for urban areas.

The large-scale sample surveys often face practical challenges, with non-response being a significant issue particularly from high-income groups, gated communities, and high-rise housing societies. This occurs when selected samples fail to provide requested information or submit unusable data, contributing to non-sampling errors. Non-response among high-income groups and gated societies presents particular challenges, as these respondents have unique motivations and barriers to participation.

MoSPI aims to enhance collaboration, build trust and improve data accuracy and comprehensiveness since addressing the non-response is crucial for obtaining representative data that accurately reflects societal trends and needs.

In case of non-cooperation from any of the selected households, the field officials engaged in primary data collection make viable efforts to address the issue and to encourage participation of the households such as persuading the informant with necessary information and documents, liaising with local police station/public representatives/RWA of the area at the Regional level to gather support and cooperation for conducting the survey smoothly, undertaking various awareness activities at local level to describe about the survey objective and usefulness of survey, assurance about confidentiality of data, etc. However, if the selected household could not be surveyed due to some reason or the other, the selected

household is substituted with another household within the same sample.

Recently, with an objective to promote the awareness of data privacy practices and importance of survey participation for evidence-based policymaking, MoSPI organized a brainstorming session in September 2024 to address the issue of non-response in Sample Surveys which brought together key stakeholders, including policymakers, urban economists, survey agencies, Regulatory bodies and service agencies of the real estate sector, representatives from Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs) and gated Societies, representatives from housing societies from different parts of the country, representatives from multilateral organizations like the World Bank and ILO, as well as officials from State statistical agencies. The brainstorming session featured presentations on recent trends in non-response, their effects on data quality, and discussions on leveraging technology and customized strategies to enhance survey participation among high-income groups. Discussions were held on various facets of issue of non-response in high income groups to develop strategies to contribute valuable data and build trust among the non-responding target population by educating them on the importance of data and privacy policies.
