

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3860

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2015

Sample Surveys

Mahajan Smt. Poonam

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are wide variations and overlapping in the results of sample surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and various State Governments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to put an end to such variations?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION,  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS [GENERAL (Dr.) V.K. SINGH (Retd.)]

(a) and (b): National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducts socio-economic surveys on various subjects on all-India basis. Based on the sample canvassed by the NSSO (Central Sample), the results of each survey are published in the form of reports. The State Governments also participate in these surveys on a matching sample basis (State Sample), using the same survey instruments (i.e. schedules and concepts & definitions). The data collected by State Governments, through the state samples, are processed by them as per the data processing protocols and a common tabulation plan developed by NSSO. Due to difference in set of samples, data collection and processing, there may be some difference in the results published by NSSO and the State Governments.

The purpose of participation of State Governments in the above surveys is to have adequate sample size to facilitate generation of sub-state/district level estimates by State Governments by pooling Central & State sample data.

(c): The State Government officials involved in conducting the sample surveys are imparted training using the same concepts & definitions and through a common training conference, so that the agency bias is minimized. The data processing methodology is also shared with the State Government officials through data processing conference and data processing software developed by NSSO, which is distributed to the states for their use.

NSSO has also developed a uniform methodology and software for use by the State Governments to bring out sub-state level estimates by pooling the data of Central and State samples. The pooling methodology and software are shared with the State Governments and training on the same to the State Government officers is organized by the NSSO on regular intervals.

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