

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2068
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

CONCERN OVER QUALITY OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

2068 SHRI A. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether members of the PM's Economic Advisory Council have expressed concern about the quality of official statistics available with Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether policy making is getting affected due to this worsening of data quality;
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government and proposed remedial measures;
- (e) whether there is a need to have a statutory body to improve upon the data quality;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) 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 g) Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) is an independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government specifically to the Prime Minister. EAC-PM has not submitted any formal report on the quality of official statistics available with the Government. However, Members of the EAC, in their individual capacities, have expressed a need to improve delivery and content of official statistics through working papers and articles in newspaper columns. The key suggestions include timely reporting of data, using cutting edge research in methodology and data structure, finetuning of sample surveys, administrative data, avoiding user bias and so on. Some of the papers such as "Assessing the

National Surveys for its Representativeness”, “Reversing the Gaze”, “Why India Does Poorly on Global Perception Indices” are in the public domain.

Over the years there is significant improvement in data collation and its application for policy formulation with use of advance technology, digital identities and thrust on real time data collection. Improving data quality and governance structure for data is a continuous process in the Government.
