

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 160
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

SIGNIFICANT TRENDS IN BIHAR'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

160. DR. BHIM SINGH:

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

- (a) whether any significant trends have been observed in recent years in Bihar's socio-economic indicators such as population growth, literacy, health, nutrition, and unemployment;
- (b) whether any specific initiatives have been undertaken to update District-level statistical data of the State of Bihar and to make such data accessible to all for improving the effectiveness of State-level schemes; and
- (c) whether Government is working on a long-term strategy to strengthen data collection and survey mechanisms for monitoring schemes related to infrastructure development, human development, women empowerment, and employment generation in the State of Bihar?

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): From the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSS) under the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) during July 2021 - June 2022 to July 2023- June 2024, the estimates of Literacy Rates (in percent) among persons of age groups 7 years and above and Unemployment Rate in usual status (ps+ss) for persons of all ages in the State of Bihar are given below in Table 1:

Table (1): Unemployment Rate (UR) (in per cent) according to usual status (ps+ss) for persons of all ages and Literacy rate (in per cent) among persons of age group 7 years and above in the State of Bihar during 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24		
Survey period	UR (in %) in usual status (ps+ss) for persons of all ages	Literacy rate (in %) among persons of age 7 years and above
PLFS, 2021-22	6.0	74.0
PLFS, 2022-23	3.9	74.6
PLFS, 2023-24	3.0	74.3
<i>Note: 2023-24 refers to the period July 2023 – June 2024 and likewise for 2022-23 and 2021-22</i>		
<i>Source: Annual Report, PLFS,2021-22,Annual Report, PLFS,2022-23 and Annual Report, PLFS,2023-24</i>		

Further, two back-to-back surveys on Household Consumption Expenditure (HCES) were conducted during August, 2022 - July, 2023 and August, 2023 - July, 2024. From the results of these two surveys, the estimated Average per capita per day intake of calorie, protein and fat for the State of Bihar separately for rural and urban sectors has been given below in Table 2:

Table 2: Average calorie, protein and fat intake per capita per day during 2022-23 & 2023-24-Bihar				
Characteristics	Average intake per capita per day			
	Rural		Urban	
	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24
Calorie (Kcal)	2432	2461	2326	2453
Protein (gm)	68.7	69.8	66.2	70.5
Fat (gm)	61.8	70.5	60.7	72.2

Source: NSS Report no. 594: Nutritional Intake in India

The survey on health to generate basic quantitative information on the health sector was last conducted during July 2017 - June 2018. To update these insights, survey on Household Social Consumption – Health, has been launched in January 2025 for a survey period of one year. The trends in population growth are not estimated in surveys of MoSPI.

(b): NSS, MoSPI conducts a wide range of socio-economic surveys across the country, including Bihar. These surveys provide vital statistical estimates at the national and State/UT levels. However, due to sample size limitations, generating reliable estimates at the district level is not feasible from the NSS central sample data. To overcome this limitation and enable data-driven planning at more granular levels, States and UTs are being encouraged to participate in NSS surveys. In almost all surveys, sampling design has been modified from the month of January 2025 with a provision for generating district level estimates with district as a basic stratum. MoSPI also provides support to the States/UTs in the form of CAPI implementation, cloud servers, trainings and financial assistance under the SSS scheme for the purchase of tablets.

(c): NSS, MoSPI conducts a wide range of surveys across the country including targeted thematic surveys scheduled at strategic intervals considering the survey requests from various Ministries. These surveys cover various socio-economic indicators such as employment and unemployment, health, education, household consumption expenditure, disability, domestic tourism, etc. Each survey yields vital insights that inform development monitoring and guide policy decisions across various sectors. Modern IT tools are being adopted for improved data capturing and processing. As a part of this, all the NSS surveys are being conducted in digital platform using Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) with in-built validation mechanism to ensure consistency at the stage of data collection and facilitating simultaneous data processing.
