

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2553
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026

NCO CODES ACROSS DATASETS

2553. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) rationale for not using NCO (National Classification of Occupations) codes in ASUSE and ASI surveys, leading to confusion for researchers;
- (b) whether Government is considering to update the said NCO codes to ensure that new jobs can be captured adequately; and
- (c) whether there are plans to update the PLFS (Periodic Labor Force Survey) codes from 3 digit codes to the 8 digit codes?

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): In the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) and the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE), conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), information is collected at the establishment-level and each establishment is classified according to its economic activity using the National Industrial Classification (NIC). Since these surveys are not designed to collect information on the individual characteristics of workers employed in the establishments, such as their occupations, the National Classification of Occupations (NCO) is not used.

(b): The Directorate General of Employment (DGE) under the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) is responsible for revising and maintaining the NCO on the lines of International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) of the ILO. These codes are used by various organisations like Registrar General of India (RGI), MoSPI, NITI Aayog, State Governments, Academic Institutions etc. These codes are revised by DGE from time to time to capture the changes in occupational patterns and structural changes in the economy. The corresponding series were NCO-1958, NCO-1968, NCO-2004. The current series is NCO-2015 aligned with ISCO-2008.

(c): In PLFS, the NCO codes are captured at 3-digit level and there is currently no proposal under consideration of MoSPI to collect occupation details in PLFS at the 8-digit level.
