

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3100
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2023

‘REMOVAL OF DISABILITY COLUMN IN NFHS’

3100. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry of Health had removed the column of disability from National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 after consultation with this Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of evidences relied upon by the concerned Ministry to suggest removal of column of disability from the above survey; and
- (d) whether the disability column in National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) survey doesn't cover all 21 disabilities enlisted in the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD) and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

(a) to (c) : The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had informed that the selection of questions to be included in NFHS-6 questionnaire is based on recommendations of a Technical Advisory Committee and other high-level Committees comprising of representatives from concerned Central Ministries such as M/o Social Justice and Empowerment, M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation, M/o Women and Child Development, NITI Aayog etc., development partners and domain knowledge experts, constituted for smooth functioning of the survey. After detailed discussions and deliberations, the Committees decided for non-inclusion of disability-related questions in NFHS-6 on the following grounds:

(i) Most of the data related to disability are already available in the survey report of National Sample Survey (NSS) 76th round namely “Survey of Persons with Disabilities”, which was a dedicated survey conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) during July-December 2018 to collect detailed information on this specific aspect.

(ii) The primary focus of NFHS is maternal and child health and other associated questions. The dedicated survey of NSS, gives a better coverage of disability prevalence, having wider indicators on disability as compared to NFHS-5. As per NFHS-5 report, the disability prevalence was only 1.0 percent for rural areas and 0.9 percent for urban areas while, NSS estimated 2.3 per cent for rural areas and 2 per cent for urban areas. Therefore, based on data collection for a few parameters on disability in NFHS, it is not possible to adequately capture the all-India extent of disability and will significantly underestimate the prevalence of disability.

(iii) Further, types of disability have several medical terminologies, which may result in inappropriate responses as the respondents might not be aware of the specific disabilities.

(d): National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted the Survey of Persons with Disabilities during NSS 76th Round Survey (July – December 2018) which included the categories of disabilities mentioned in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.
