

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1521  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024**

**METHODOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DIFFERENT LABOUR  
SURVEYS**

**1521. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:**

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

- (a) whether it is true that there are differences in the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) as reported by the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) and International Labour Organization (ILO);**
- (b) if so, the details of the main methodological differences among PLFS, CMIE and ILO surveys in defining and estimating LFPR and UR;**
- (c) the rationale for the Government's chosen methodology in PLFS; and**
- (d) whether any measures are being considered to harmonise it with other agencies to improve comparability of labour market data, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF  
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF  
STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE [RAO INDERJIT  
SINGH]**

**(a) to (d): The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been conducting Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) since 2017 to estimate various indicators related to employment and unemployment situation in the country. PLFS gives estimates of key employment and unemployment Indicators like the Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR), etc. The ILO cites PLFS as the source of**

**employment unemployment statistics in respect of India on its ILOSTAT database. However, the comparability of PLFS estimates with those of private agencies such as CMIE is not maintained in MoSPI.**

**Considering the importance of availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals, on the recommendation of the National Statistical Commission (NSC), MoSPI constituted a Committee on PLFS under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Amitabh Kundu, the then Member, NSC to develop the survey methodology including the sample design for generating monthly/quarterly labour market data. Subsequently, as a follow-up action on the recommendation made by the NSC, a Standing Committee on Labour Force Statistics (SCLFS) was constituted by MoSPI on 12.11.2014 under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. P. Mukherjee, Emeritus Professor, University of Calcutta. The SCLFS decided that the PLFS would also be used to collect data on some aspects of the quinquennial employment and unemployment survey covering both rural and urban areas, besides retaining the feature of PLFS to generate quarterly estimates of level and change parameters for only urban areas. Accordingly, SCLFS made recommendations with respect to the structure of the Schedule of Enquiry, Sampling Design, etc., which were adopted for PLFS.**

**The concepts and definitions in the surveys of MoSPI are formulated conforming to various standards. Further, various facets of internationally accepted standards on labour statistics are studied in MoSPI to assess their applicability and relevance in the country context.**