

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 360  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024**

**CHALLENGES IN DATA COLLECTION FROM HIGHER INCOME  
SECTIONS OF SOCIETY**

**360. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is facing challenges in gathering data from higher-income sections of society, particularly those living in gated societies in urban areas;**
- (b) if so, the details of the specific data collection exercises or surveys which are getting affected by this issue;**
- (c) the extent to which these challenges impact the representativeness and accuracy of national data sets;**
- (d) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure that all sections of society, including higher-income groups, are adequately covered in data collection exercises; and**
- (e) whether the Government is considering any legislative measures to ensure ease and accuracy of the data collection process, if so, the details thereof?**

**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 (e): Sample surveys being conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) are vital for collecting data that informs public policy across various sectors like health, education, and economic planning, etc. These surveys cover the entire country except some villages of Andaman & Nicobar Islands which remain inaccessible. The large-scale sample surveys often face**

**practical challenges, with non-response being a significant issue. This occurs when selected samples fail to provide requested information or submit unusable data, contributing to non-sampling errors. Non-response among high-income groups and gated societies presents particular challenges, as these respondents have unique motivations and barriers to participation. Addressing the non-response is crucial for obtaining representative data that accurately reflects societal trends and needs.**

**These sample surveys follow scientific sampling designs for selection of sample households in order to ensure representativeness of sample using area frame consisting of villages and blocks available respectively from the Population Census for rural areas and Urban Frame Survey for urban areas. These lists contain information related to all households belonging to all sections of the society. With a view to ensure appropriate representation of all sections of the society in the surveys, all households of a selected village or urban block are considered for preparation of an exhaustive list as far as possible and from this list, a number of households, following a scientific method, are chosen for detailed canvassing of the survey questionnaire. Further, in some surveys, consistent with the objective, the households of the village/block are classified into a number of homogeneous groups and from these groups appropriate number of households are selected for the survey.**

**Further, in case of non-cooperation from any of the selected households, field officials make efforts to address the issue by persuading the informant with necessary information and documents. Liaisoning with local police station/public representatives/RWA of the area is also done at the Regional level to gather support and cooperation for conducting the survey smoothly. Further, various awareness activities are undertaken by field offices at local level to describe about the survey objective, usefulness of survey and assurance about confidentiality of data to encourage participation of the households.**

**Recently, MoSPI organized a brainstorming session in September 2024 which brought together key stakeholders, including policymakers, urban economists, survey agencies, and representatives from multilateral organizations like the World Bank and ILO, as well as officials from state statistical agencies and Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs) with an objective to develop strategies to contribute valuable data and build trust among the non-responding target population by educating them on the importance of data and privacy policies.**