GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 663
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025

PUBLIC ACCESS TO NSSO

663. SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN:

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

(a)   the details of the new initiatives that have been introduced to enhance public access to National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) unit-level survey data for research purposes;

(b)   the manner in which the Government is ensuring data security and privacy while facilitating public access to microdata;

(c)   whether the Government has introduced a capacity-building programme for state statistical personnel in advanced data analytics and if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   the details of steps being taken by the Government to improve the response rate and data quality of the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)?

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):   Unit-level data of surveys conducted by National Sample Survey (NSS), MoSPI along with metadata are disseminated through MoSPI's website which is freely accessible. While disseminating unit level data from the surveys, detailed guidelines are provided on how to use the unit level data for generation of indicators by the users. However, to make the data download easier while disseminating unit level data a data extraction tool is provided which is helpful to convert the unit level data in usable format facilitating users for easier data handling, analysis, and accessibility to researchers and analysts by offering data in a more flexible and widely used format. Data Users Conferences are organized after release of survey reports to enhance

the understanding of the survey data and address any concerns related to data access and methodology for the stakeholders.

(b): To safeguard confidentiality and privacy while facilitating access, strict protocols are being followed including anonymization of microdata or unit-level data to avoid disclosure risks. In NSS surveys, the Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) software employed for data collection ensures that all data transmission occurs in encrypted mode, thereby protecting sensitive information during field operations in a secure cloud-based digital platform.

(c): MoSPI conducts comprehensive training programs for State statistical personnel related to NSS surveys for the State sample which cover survey conduct, use of CAPI software, and management of cloud-based digital platform that align with central data collection protocols. Post-survey tabulation workshops are also held to enhance competency of the State officials and necessary technical supports are being provided to participating States as and when required. In addition to this, MoSPI is providing financial assistance to improve/ strengthen the statistical capacity and operations of State statistical systems for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics through 'Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS)' sub-scheme under CD Scheme. A total amount of Rs. 364.69 crore has been released to States/UTs since 2010 to till 27th November 2025 [Rs. 42.01 crore during EFC 2021-26 (till 27-11-2025)] including a component 'capacity building' out of the total 9 components.

(d): In order to ensure data quality in Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), the data is collected through user friendly ASI web portal rather than paper schedules which has built in validation checks for controlling data errors during data compilation stage along with macro and micro level data checks at the time of data processing in ASI. Round Table Conferences on ASI are organized by MoSPI regularly for representatives from various business/ industry associations with an aim to sensitize them about the importance of this survey and to improve their cooperation, thereby improving the response rate. In order to ensure data quality, multilayer validation checks are carried out. ASI Camps are organized to sensitize the ASI units for self-compilation of ASI schedule. In addition to this, scrutiny, inspection and regular training is being carried out for further improvement of data quality.

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