

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1398
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2023**

SURVEY OF DISABILITIES

1398. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the grounds on which Government made its recent proposal of not including disabilities in the upcoming National Family Health Survey (NFHS);
- (b) whether Government has thought of an alternative survey to measure disabilities; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a): 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. 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) The multiple sources of information on one particular indicator creates confusion as the figures are often different.

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

(b) and (c): Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has conducted a Survey of Persons with Disabilities during July 2018 to December 2018 as part of NSS 76th round. Prior to this, survey on the same subject was carried out by MoSPI during NSS 58th round (July-December 2002). Information of disabled persons is also available in Census, 2011.
