

STATE-WISE DIFFERENCES IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMER EXPENDITURE IN RURAL AND URBAN INDIA

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1. The National Sample Survey (N.S.S.) has been collecting data on household consumer expenditure from the very first round which started in October, 1950. Beginning from the second round onward, estimates of the distribution of population and consumer expenditure in a fixed set of twelve classes of monthly per capita expenditure have been published in various reports of the N.S.S. Such estimates were published in respect of both the rural and urban areas for all-India and the six zones into which the country was divided. Statewise estimates of the distribution of consumer expenditure were published for the first time in draft report No. 80 in June, 1961 on the basis of the data collected in the thirteenth round of the N.S.S.

2. Murti and Pillai¹ computed the concentration ratios for the data based on the distribution of consumer expenditure of the N.S.S. from 4th to 11th rounds (excluding the sixth) both for the all-India rural and urban areas. Murti, Narasimham and Chawla² studied the inequalities in the distribution of consumer expenditure based on the data collected in the eleventh round of the N.S.S. on the basis of five selected indices of inequality and grouped the six zones into three distinct classes viz. (i) those having less inequality than all-India, (ii) about same inequality as all-India; and (iii) more inequality than all-India. Gupta³ studied the inequalities in the distribution of consumer expenditure of agricultural labour households in rural India making use of the data collected in the eleventh and twelfth rounds of the N.S.S. with the help of concentration ratios and percentage share of consumer expenditure of different fractile groups. An attempt has been made in this paper to study the differences in the distribution of consumer expenditure in the rural and urban areas

* The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and not necessarily of the organisation where he is employed.

¹ Murti, V.N. and Pillai, K.N.C., 'Distribution of Population by Expenditure Classes', *Monthly Abstract of Statistics*, September, 1960.

² Murti, V.N., Narasimham, G.V.L. and Chawla, A.S. 'Regional Differences in the Distribution of Consumer Expenditure', Paper read at the Second Indian Econometric Conference, Waltair, June, 1961.

³ Gupta, T.R., 'Inequalities in the Distribution of Consumer Expenditure of Agricultural Labour Households in Rural India'. To be published shortly.