

A STUDY OF THE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE ON FOOD IN INDIA*

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CONSIDERABLE work in the field of consumer expenditure has been done in India by the workers in the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) on the basis of the data collected through the National Sample Survey (NSS).¹ The same data have been subjected to further analysis by other workers particularly by Verma.² The purpose of the present paper is to offer some further analysis of the same and compare the results with those obtained by earlier workers.

- The NSS data for consumption expenditure in India are collected for two sectors — Rural and Urban. For the rural sector there are six zones and for the urban sector, four urban classes. The details are given in Table 1. In what follows, we shall use the numbers 1 to 6 to identify the

Table 1: GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE OF EACH ZONE AND EACH URBAN CLASS IN THE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE STUDY.

| 1. Rural Zones | | 2. Urban Classes | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| North India | | I | Towns with population below 15,000 |
| 1 | U.P. | II | Towns with population 15,000–50,000 |
| East India | Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, | III | Towns with population over 50,000 |
| 2 | Assam, Tripura | IV | Big Cities — Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, and Madras |
| South India | Madras, Mysore, Travancore- | | |
| 3 | Cochin, Coorg | | |
| West India | Bombay, Saurashtra, | | |
| 4 | Kutch | | |
| Central India | Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, | | |
| 5 | Vindhya Pradesh | | |
| Northwest India | Rajasthan, PEPSU Ajmer, Delhi, | | |
| 6 | Punjab, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh | | |

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¹ *Studies in Consumption Expenditure in India*, edited by P. C. Mahalanobis.

² Verma, *Artha Vijnana*, Vol. 1, No. 4.