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# CENSUS OF INDIA, 1901.

*VOLUME XVIII.*

## BARODA.

PART I.

*REPORT*

BY

JAMSHEDJI ARDESHIR DALAL, M.A., LL.B.,

SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS OPERATIONS,

BARODA STATE.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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The present is the third systematic Census Report of the territories ruled over by His Highness the Maharaja Sir Sayaji Rao III.; the two previous Censuses also were taken during his enlightened rule. The periods covered by the Census of 1881 and 1891 were normal ones ; but it is to be regretted that the present Census has come in the very midst of a great and widespread calamity, the like of which has never been known to have fallen on the State, in the century just over. Had the calamity visited the State two or three years earlier or later, an account could have been presented of a uniform rise in population and a general progress in other matters depending upon it ; instead of that, there will be found now an abnormal falling-off everywhere, vitiating the expected calculation of steady growth.

2. It was on the night of the 1st March 1901, that a general enumeration was taken of the entire territories belonging to this *Raj*. The Census immediately preceding the present one was taken in the beginning of the past decade, or more accurately, on the night of 26th February, 1891; the interval being of 10 years and 3 days, or 10·0082 years. On both these occasions the same night was chosen on which the Census of the British territories in India generally was taken, with the object that the enumeration in this State may be synchronous with that of all India. The Census Office was opened on the 1st of May 1900. The villages and towns were divided into convenient blocks, each containing from 60 to 100 houses in charge of an enumerator, and into circles each containing from 10 to 13 such blocks under a supervisor. The Taluka Vahiwatdar (Revenue head of the Taluka) was the Charge Superintendent. All the necessary circulars and instructions were issued from this office for securing a correct enumeration. Special arrangements were made for the enumeration of boat, railway and military and other floating population. There did not exist any special circumstances or insurmountable difficulties to necessitate a day enumeration except in some of the *Rani* Mahals of the Navsari Division, where the forest tracts were enumerated on the 2nd of March in the morning, every care being bestowed to avoid double enumeration. The Revenue officers have principally borne the brunt of all the preliminary operations. The house-numbering was begun about the 20th September at the earliest and finished by the 8th November 1900 at the latest.

3. The enumeration work was in the very nature of things divided into two stages, *viz.* :—the preliminary and the final. The preliminary enumeration was entrusted to the Revenue Talátis (village accountants) in the villages, and to Office Clerks and such others for the towns and the city. It consisted in writing up the entries of the persons found in the houses and the guests that were to stay over till the 1st March, with certain exceptions like Serais and Dharmasalas. The results of this enumeration were called for from every taluká to enable the Central Office to wire the first totals to the Census Commissioner in time, in case the finals were not received within the expected time. This work was begun in most of the talukas on and after the 15th of January 1901. In the City it was commenced on the 1st of February and finished before the 15th idem. The last of the first totals was received in this office on the 22nd of February. What had then remained to be done on the Census night was to bring up the record up to date, marking the new comers and newly-born and striking off the entries of those who had left or died. For the final enumeration, clerks from all other offices were indented upon to work as enumerators; and thus the necessity for engaging extra hands on a large scale for that work was obviated. Only a few persons had to be engaged in the City and in the Rani Mahals. On the 2nd of March the enumerators assembled at the head-quarters of their respective circles, where the block abstracts and the circle summaries were compiled and sent on to the Charge Superintendent, who got the charge summary prepared from them. Those summaries began to arrive from 3rd March and continued to come in till 6th idem. The totals were telegraphed to the Census Commissioner on the same day, *i.e.*, on the 6th March, before the time fixed. It is a satisfaction to note that these totals were compiled with great accuracy; and the final totals differed only by 1,765 persons or '09 per cent. from the provisional figures.

**Abstraction by slips.**

4. The enumeration books were received from all the Talukas by 13th March and were then numbered per District; and the serial numbers in column 2 thereof were checked in my office. This being completed, posters in five groups, for the four Districts and the City, were asked to post, on the slips supplied to them, the entries in accordance with the instructions issued for their guidance. The slips were of two sorts,—the coloured and the white ones. From the white slips (B) Imperial Tables X (Language), XI (Birth-place), XV (Occupation), and XVI (Occupation by Selected Castes) were made; and all the other Tables were composed from the coloured slips. So on the white or uncoloured slips were entered Language, Birth-place, Caste and Occupation; and on the coloured slips were entered Caste, Age, Literacy and Infirmary, if any.

5. The other details were obtainable in both cases from the form of the slips. The sexes were denoted by the difference in the lengths of the slips; the male slips were longer by an inch than the female slips; or the female slips were  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the length of the male ones; the latter being  $4 \times 2$  and the former  $3 \times 2$  inches. The coloured slips denoted religions and were of 6 colours:—red, yellow, green, grey, blue, and salmon to represent the Hindu, Parsi, Musalman, Christian and others, Jain and Animistic Religions, respectively. In the beginning, I had an idea of making the sub-colours of a principal colour to represent the selected sects of the religion indicated by the principal colour; but I had to drop that idea when it was at last decided to record all the sects returned. This was done by adding entry “sects” on the coloured slips. For denoting civil condition entire (uncut) slips represented the married of both sexes; the slips with their right hand upper corner cut off (or say one corner cut off) the unmarried; and those with both their right hand (or two) corners cut off, the widowed of both sexes. The particulars that were required to be posted on the slips were printed on one side, and opposite each the poster was ordered to write down the requisite information from the enumeration books given to him. The posting of the slips was done in copying pencil and was begun on March 22nd and finished on 10th May. As soon as the posting of a book was completed the book with the bundle of the slips posted was sent to the record office. When the entries in all the books had been posted on both sorts of slips each slip was checked separately. The work of checking was begun on 15th April and finished on 24th May. The posters and checkers were given monthly stipends; the system of fines and rewards was introduced.

6. The first sorting of the A slips was into different colours; **Tabulation.** these at once gave the numbers of the different Religions, and the results were tabulated for Tables V (Towns arranged territorially by Religion) and VI (Religion). A village was taken as the unit of Tabulation for Table VI. These tables did not take more than a week for any District. A cheap wooden box of 36 compartments or pigeon-holes, 6 in a row, was used for sorting generally. Table VI, by villages, gave the data for the preparation of the first four tables. Much difficulty was experienced in preparing Table XIII, Caste, Tribe and Race. The sorting of A slips for Table XIII, (Caste, Tribe and Race) and that of B slips for XVI (Occupation by Castes) was taken up simultaneously. Following the Madras system, the sorters were asked to sort the slips alphabetically according to the first letter of the caste name just as given in the schedule books and then to re-arrange the slips by bringing under one head such names as had been given in different forms, though referring to one and the same caste; e.g. Brahman Anávala slip



was first sorted into the pigeon-hole for the initial letter B, while another slip for the same caste worded Anávala Brahman was sorted in that for A. At the last sorting for castes the slips containing infirmities were ordered to be kept separate below all other slips, from which Table XII and XII-A were prepared in two or three days. So also were Tables XVII and XVIII finished from the Christian slips in one day, as the number of the Christians was very small. The next work from A slips was the sorting for Tables VIII (Education) and IX (Education by Selected Castes). 24 compartments of the pigeon-hole box were utilized for this purpose, using only four rows. The vertical columns were used for the languages known ; the first for English-knowing persons, the second for those literate in Gujarati, the third for those in Marathi, the fourth for those in Gujarati and Marathi both, the fifth for those in other languages and the sixth for the illiterate ; and the slips were put in higher or lower horizontal rows, according to the four age-periods ;—the first age-period occupying the lowest row, the second the one higher and so forth.

The information was obtained for each caste and thus both Tables VIII and IX were obtained in one sorting. A similar device was adopted for Tables XIV (Civil Condition by Age for Selected Castes) and VII (Age, Sex and Civil Condition) in one sorting. Each age-period group in the previous sorting (Table VIII) was further subdivided into the new age-periods as required, for Tables VII and XIV. At the same time, the slips were classified for the three Civil Conditions also, by using the first three vertical rows of the pigeon-holes for them ; the horizontal rows represented the age-periods. Thus when the slips were sorted they were arranged in the following order :— the first vertical row represented the unmarried, the second the married, and the third the widowed, of the respective age-periods in the horizontal row. During the whole process of sorting for all the tables, male and female slips were kept separate. Table X (Language), XI (Birth place), XV (Occupation) and XVI (Occupation by Selected Castes) were prepared independently of each other from the B slips. Excepting Tables XII, XII-A, XVII and XVIII which took the least time, of about a day or two, and Tables XIII and XVI which required about a month and a half to finish, all other Tables took from 8 to 12 days for composing. The unit of slip-sorting and tabulation was generally a Taluka ; so when all the slips were sorted, we had Imperial Tables for the Talukas ready. To compile them for the Districts all these Tables had to be simply added and the results placed in a new table for a District. When the District totals were thus ready they were summed up, column by column, and the results were placed in the Imperial Table for the State. This part of the work was easy because it required

nothing more than ordinary care in the totals of the different numbers for different Tables. From these observations, it will be readily perceived that the slip system is superior to the tick system of former Censuses, as it leaves smaller room for inaccuracies to creep in, and affords many facilities for detecting errors. It has also the advantage of turning out the work more rapidly and cheaply.

7. My acknowledgments are due to the District officers who did the work satisfactorily and without a hitch. The Vahiwatdars (local heads of Talukas) who worked as Superintendents did their own work carefully and in time, and also looked efficiently over the work of their subordinates. Only rarely had a very few of them to be blamed for indifference or delay. The much-abused enumerators, who are made to bear the blame for all sorts of mistakes, have shown an amount of intelligence which is creditable to them.

These had to do with the enumeration only, in the beginning. But before laying down the pen, I have to acknowledge with pleasure some more stronger claims for recognition. The man who bore with me the brunt of hard work for a year and a half deserves to be prominently mentioned,—my Assistant Mr. Manirae Trikamrae Joshipara, B.A., LL.B. On him fell the duty of preparing all the tables, and the maps and diagrams after consultation. I am indebted to him for much interesting matter on religions, sects, castes and ethnography. He has done all he could to contribute to the success of the undertaking and has tried his best to carry out all instructions faithfully. His services deserve to be recognised. Mr. Krishnarao Gajanan Palkar proved a capital Head Clerk, Magan Dalsukhram Parikh a splendid copyist, and Messrs. Dwarkadas Lalloobhai Patel and Maganlal Tulsi Patel excellent Abstraction Superintendents. Mr. Palkar is highly commended for his patient and laborious work.

I was fortunate in selecting the *Times of India* Press for printing the Report. The coloured diagrams and maps have fairly surpassed my expectation, and the examining of the final proofsheets was a labour of love.

JAMSHEDJEE A. DALAL,  
*Superintendent of Census Operations,*  
*Baroda.*

31st July 1902