

CENSUS OF INDIA, 1931.

VOLUME XXVI

AJMER-MERWARA

REPORT AND TABLES.

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ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA.

Report.

- Page 12. In the last marginal statement, under Ajmer City—1921—Males, for '537' read '337'.
- Page 17. In column 14 of Subsidiary Table 2, for '514,761' read '514,751'.
- Page 25. In columns 1 and 10 of Subsidiary Table 9, for 'Under year' and '24'092' respectively read 'Under 1 year' and '240'92'.
In the heading of column 13 of Subsidiary Table 10, for 'populatoin' read 'population'.
- Page 26. In the first marginal Table in para 3, under 1931, against 'Sind', 'Central Provinces' and 'Madras', for '783', '999' and '1,021' respectively read '782', '1,000' and '1,022'.
- Page 30. In columns 2 and 4 of Subsidiary Table 4, against the years 1930 and 1922, for '9,134' and '14,988' respectively read '9,135' and '14,998'.
- Page 31. In column 17 of Subsidiary Table 5, against ages 1—5 for '1,884' read '1,384'.
- Page 34. In 6th. line from the top, for 'namley' read 'namely'.
- Page 37. In column 14 of Subsidiary Table 1, 4th. and 5th. lines from the top, for '91' and '34' respectively read '19' and '43'.
- Page 41. In column 10 of Subsidiary Table 4, against Muslim, for '900' read '903'.
- Page 44. In column 30 of Subsidiary Table 2, against age 15-20, for '604' read '601'.
- Page 49. In the 5th. line from the bottom, for 'increases' read 'increase'.
- Page 52. In the first column of the Table in para 11, for 'Road' read 'Roads'.
- Page 79. In the marginal statement in para 8, under Females against Merats, for '12,206' read '12,026'.

Tables.

- Page 2. In column 19 of Table II against Ajmer Tehsil, Kekri Sub-division, for '163,522' read '165,322'.
- Page 8. In column 13 of Table VII against All Religions, Age-period 50-55 for '2,660' read '5,660'.

Report and Tables.

For the words 'Ajmer Tehsil' wherever they occur read 'Ajmer Sub-division.'



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REPORT AND TABLES

BY
Lieut. Colonel B. L. COLE
of the Indian Army.

1932

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

IMPERIAL SERIES—VOLUME XXVI.

	PAGE.
<i>REPORT.</i>	
INTRODUCTION.	iii
CHAPTER.	
I. Distribution and Movement of the Population.	1
Appendix to Chapter I.	7
II. Population of Cities, Towns and Villages.	9
III. Birthplace and Migration.	12
IV. Age.	19
V. Sex.	26
VI. Civil Condition.	33
VII. Infirmities.	43
VIII. Occupation.	47
IX. Literacy.	63
X. Language.	69
Appendix to Chapter X.	71
XI. Religion.	72
Appendix to Chapter XI.	75
XII. Race, Tribe and Caste.	77

MAPS AND DIAGRAMS.

Ajmer-Merwara Social Map.	Faces page 1
Diagram showing the population by quinquennial Age groups per 10,000 of each sex.	Faces page 19
Diagram showing the number of Females per 1,000 Males by main Age-periods, 1931.	27
Diagram showing the proportion of Unmarried, Married and Widowed persons per 1,000 of each age-group.	Faces page 33
Diagram showing the distribution of 1,000 of each sex in certain castes by Civil Condition.	35
Diagrams showing the number of Blind and Deaf-mutes per 100,000 persons of each age-period.	Face page 43
Diagram showing the progress of literacy during the past decade.	Faces page 63
Ajmer-Merwara Linguistic Map.	Faces page 69
Diagram showing the Tribes and Castes of Ajmer-Merwara per mille of the total population.	Faces page 77

IMPERIAL TABLES.

TABLE.	PAGE.
I. Area, Houses and Population	1
II. Variation in Population since 1881	1
III. Towns and Villages classified by population	3
IV. Towns classified by Population with variation since 1881	3
V. Towns arranged territorially with Population by Religion	3
VI. Birthplace	6
VII. Age, Sex and Civil Condition:—	
Part I.—Provincial Summary	8
Part II.—By Cities	12
VIII. Civil Condition by Age for Selected Castes	13
IX. Infirmities.—Distribution by Age	14
X. Occupation or means of livelihood	15
XI. Occupation by Caste, Tribe or Race ...	26
XII. Educated Unemployment:—	
Part I.—By Class	28
Part II.—By Degrees	28
XIII. Education by Religion and Age:—	
Part I.—Provincial Summary ...	30
Part II.—All Religions.—Ajmer City	31
XIV. Education by Selected Castes, Tribes or Races	32
XV. Language	33
XVI. Religion	35
XVII. Race, Tribe or Caste	38
XVIII. Variation of Population of Selected Castes	41
XIX. European and Allied Races and Anglo-Indians by Race and Age (Parts A and B)	42

PROVINCIAL TABLES.

I. Area, Houses and Population by Administrative Units	43
II. Population of Tehsils, etc. by Religion and Literacy	43

INTRODUCTION.

1. This Report deals with the Census which was taken on the night of the 26th. February, 1931. (It was the ninth of a series which dates back to 1865. The first one held, in that year, was a rough sort of a count for which details are not available. The next Census taken in 1872 was considered quite

1865	426,268
1872	816,590
1876	896,881
1881	460,722
1891	542,358
1901	476,912
1911	601,895
1921	495,271
1931	660,292

unreliable and a fresh one was held in 1876, the figures for which are quoted in the Report for 1881. Decennial Censuses have since been regular.) The figures in the margin show that the present population is the highest ever recorded—though not much in excess of that enumerated in 1891 when the population all over this part of India was very high owing to a series of prosperous years and a marked absence of epidemics.)

2. (There were no changes in area since 1921 and the method of enumeration was practically the same.) For a proper understanding of what is involved by a Census, it is necessary to describe briefly the various stages that finally lead up to a publication of the figures. The first step is the preparation of a General Village Register for each Tehsil, in which is shown the names of villages and dependent hamlets and the number of houses in each. The District authorities were addressed in this matter on 26th. February, 1930 but little progress was made till I was appointed on 1st. April, 1930 and the District Census Officer nominated on 19th. April, 1930. The smallest Census Unit is a Block consisting of from 30 to 50 Houses in charge of an Enumerator. The next link in the chain is a Circle which is a compact group of 10 to 15 Blocks under a Supervisor and finally a Charge corresponding to the Tehsil comprising all the Circles is under the care of a Charge Superintendent who was usually the Tehsildar himself. These principles applied *mutatis mutandis* to Ajmer City and the other Towns in the Province. There were thus in the whole Province 16 Charges, 473 Circles and 3,692 Blocks. There was an average of 33 Houses to each Block, 8 Blocks to each Circle and 30 Circles to each Charge. Circles were purposely kept small on account of the difficulty of finding sufficiently educated men as Enumerators—thereby throwing much of the work on the Supervisors. Maps were prepared for each charge clearly demarcating the Circles, within each of which was shown the number of Blocks. The next step is to number each house and to prepare house lists. With a preliminary issue of Schedules for training purposes, the instruction of the staff is undertaken, followed by a final distribution of all necessary forms.

3. The actual Census was taken in the traditional manner. There was a preliminary enumeration which started early in January. During this period particulars of the bulk of the resident population are entered on the Schedules and are subjected to the scrutiny of Supervisors and Charge Superintendents. The final count was taken between sunset and midnight on the 26th. February, the record of the preliminary enumeration being checked and new entries made as required.

4. Special arrangements were made for the enumeration of passengers at Railway Stations and in trains. The latter were stopped at convenient wayside stations early on the morning of 27th. February. As regards Ajmer City, the Railway area which included the residential portion, workshops and Railway station was formed into a separate charge under a selected Railway Officer. In other parts of the Province, each Railway Station constituted a Circle in the adjacent civil charge. By these means, the Railway Census Staff have the same advantages for training as their civilian confrères.

5. (Luckily for the Census staff, there were no fairs or similar large gatherings as in 1921 when the annual Urs Khwaja Sahib's Fair coincided with the date of the Census and considerably added to the difficulties of the staff.)

6. As soon as possible after the count had been taken Enumerators were required to enter their totals and repair with them to their Supervisors, who in their turn communicated the figures to their Charge Superintendents. The totals

for the Province so obtained were telegraphed to the Census Commissioner for India at 11-10 A. M. on the 28th. February. These totals known as provisional totals only differed from the finally checked totals, as obtained in the Abstraction office, by 284, a variation of '05 per cent.

7. (The public are now thoroughly acquainted with the features of a Census and in every way co-operated with the staff. A hostile demonstration on the part of the Congress party was expected in Ajmer City on Census night, but beyond a procession of noisy youths, nothing untoward occurred.)

8. The post enumeration stages of a Census fall into three heads— (1) copying details from the schedules on to a Slip for each individual. These slips were of different colours for the various Religions and had easily recognised symbols to denote sex and civil condition; (2) Tabulation, or successive sortings of these slips in order to obtain materials for the various Imperial Tables; (3) Compilation or the posting and addition of the results of the several sortings. An innovation as regards slip-copying was tried at this Census with a considerable measure of success, as regards efficiency and saving of time. It was that the Patwaris in rural *Khalsa* areas copied the slips from their own enumeration books before they were sent to the Tabulation office. The principal advantage was that they could do the bulk of the work during the preliminary enumeration and their writing was neater than that of copyists specially engaged on payment per 100 slips copied. The number of slips so copied was 225,333. The Tabulation Office at Ajmer opened on 1st. March, and finally closed on 31st. August, 1931. The staff consisted of 1 Deputy Superintendent, 1 Record-keeper, 1 Accounts Clerk and 3 Supervisors. For slip-copying a temporary staff which varied from 68 to 79 in numbers was engaged. For sorting and compilation a small staff of 24 men was necessary. This office also compiled the results for the small Abu District of the Rajputana Agency.

9. It is difficult to assess the cost of the Census in this Province alone. I was also Superintendent of the operations in the Rajputana Agency and my immediate office staff dealt with all matters concerning the Agency and this Province without any attempt being made to separate the work. The joint Administrative Volume will, however, show the total cost and from this can be calculated the expenditure per head of the 11,786,004 persons enumerated in the Agency and this Province combined.

10. It is a matter for gratification that the Government of India sanctioned the preparation of a separate Report for this Province—thereby reviving a practice that had existed up to 1911. In 1911 and 1921. combined Reports for Rajputana and Ajmer-Merwara were prepared with the result that the District authorities and others interested in this Province had to wade through a host of figures and matter concerning the Indian States of the Agency, to extract information concerning Ajmer-Merwara.

11. Acknowledgments are due to all the District officials. To such the enumeration preparations are a troublesome addition to an already full day's work. Especially are thanks due to Captain I. W. Galbraith, M. C., Acting Commissioner, and Sardar Kartar Singh, District Census Officer. Mr. S. F. Madden, C. I. E., O. B. E., Chairman of the Ajmer Municipal Committee and Rai Bahadur Pandit Triloki Nath, City Magistrate, ably dealt with the difficulties associated with the Census of a large city, while arrangements for the Railway charge were in the capable hands of Mr. W. E. Napper. The Tabulation Office was efficiently superintended by Pandit Chiranji Lal whose previous experience was most useful. Among my own staff, Babu Debi Dayal, Deputy Superintendent and Lala Lachman Das Gupta, Head Clerk did not spare themselves in the able discharge of their duties. The maps and diagrams which illustrate this Report were suitably prepared in the office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department. Finally, acknowledgments are due to the Commissioner, Mr. E. C. Gibson, who after his return from leave spared no pains to ensure the adequacy of the arrangements made. I owe him also a personal debt of thanks for his advice in the preparation of the various Chapters of this Report.