

## CONCEPTS FOR 1971 CENSUS OF INDIA PERTAINING TO ECONOMIC QUESTIONS— WORKERS AND NON-WORKERS

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FOR FORMULATING economic concepts for 1971 Census there are two-fold objectives. Firstly, the concepts should be realistic so that they help to make a correct assessment of social and economic conditions obtaining in the country. To achieve this, the concepts should, as far as possible, be supported by empirical data. The second objective of census which is no less important than the first one, is to evaluate correctly the changes in the social and economic conditions over the last decade. It implies that the data presented during the course of two censuses, which in the present context relates to 1961 and 1971, should be broadly comparable. There is also a third objective that, with the present level of education and technical knowledge of Indian enumerators that run into a vast army of personnel, and that of the public to be enumerated, the concepts should, as far as possible, be simple and easily understandable. It goes without saying that there is some amount of inherent contradiction and conflict among the objectives mentioned above. For example, it might not be desirable to portray an incorrect picture of socio-economic conditions obtaining at a point of time for the sake of comparability with previous censuses and to repeat the obvious mistakes of the last census. If that were so, there would not have been much justification to effect radical changes in the conceptual design of 1961 Census as compared to 1951 Census. International comparability is also another factor to be taken into cognizance, but the concepts for 1961 Census of India should be basically in tune with and fit into Indian conditions, especially because international concepts worked out by the U.N. bodies are generally suitable for developed

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