



CENSUS OF INDIA 1951

VOLUME VI

WEST BENGAL & SIKKIM

PART IC—REPORT

THE CENSUS PUBLICATIONS

THE CENSUS PUBLICATIONS for West Bengal, Sikkim and Chandernagore will consist of the following volumes. All volumes will be of uniform size, demy quarto $8\frac{3}{4}'' \times 11\frac{1}{4}''$:

Part IA—General Report by A. Mitra containing the first five chapters of the Report in addition to a Preface, an Introduction, and a bibliography. 587 Pages.

Part IB—Vital Statistics, West Bengal, 1941-50 by A. Mitra and P. G. Choudhury, containing a Preface, 60 tables, and several appendices. 75 Pages.

Part IC—General Report by A. Mitra (the present volume).

Part II—Union and State Census Tables of West Bengal, Sikkim and Chandernagore by A. Mitra. 535 Pages.

Part III—Report on Calcutta City by A. Mitra. About 550 Pages.

Part IV—Tables of the Calcutta Industrial Region by A. Mitra. About 450 Pages.

Part V—Administrative Report of the Census Operations of West Bengal, Sikkim, Chandernagore and Calcutta City: Enumeration: by A. Mitra. 96 Pages.

The Tribes and Castes of West Bengal—edited by A. Mitra, containing 1951 tables of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal. A monograph on the Origin of Caste by Sailendranath Sengupta, a monograph on several artisan castes and tribes by Sudhansu Kumar Ray, an article by Professor Kshitishprasad Chattopadhyay, an article on Dharmapuja by Sri Asutosh Bhattacharyya. Appendices of selections from old authorities like Sherring, Dalton, Risley, Gait and O'Malley. An Introduction. 414 Pages and eighteen plates.

An Account of Land Management in West Bengal, 1872-1952, by A. Mitra, containing extracts, accounts and statistics over the 80-year period and agricultural statistics compiled at the Census of 1951, with an Introduction. About 312 Pages.

Fairs and Festivals in West Bengal by A. Mitra, containing an account of fairs and festivals classified by villages, unions, thanas and districts. With a foreword and extracts from the laws on the regulation of fairs and festivals. 45 Pages.

District Handbooks for each West Bengal District by A. Mitra. Each volume contains an Introductory essay, bringing the old Gazetteer up to date, several important appendices, and about 82 tables, together with a list of ancient monuments in each district. Contains also a village directory where the J. L. No. of every village, its name, area, total population, number of houses, number of literates and population classified into eight livelihood classes are tabulated. The whole series is expected to be complete by 1954. Each volume will contain about 300 pages (14 volumes).

A catalogue of the better known ancient monuments of West Bengal by A. Mitra. Will contain brief descriptions of extant ancient monuments in each district of the State, dating up to 1800, with exact location and present state. Translations of all inscriptions found in West Bengal and an account of all invasions or conquests of Bengal mentioned in inscriptions. With many plates. About 600 Pages.

Any statement made or conclusion drawn in this Report is wholly the responsibility of the author alone in his personal capacity and does not necessarily represent the views of Government

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- P. 127. Dinajpur.
- P. 134. Faridpur.
- P. 147. Howrah.
- P. 150. Hugli.
- P. 159. Jessore.
- P. 164. Khulna.
- P. 169. Kuch-Bihar.
- P. 175. Maimensing.
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- P. 39—"This immense sum was exported (referring to Bengal goods on board of English ships to the value of above three million sterling) too at a time when the English were involved in a war with the Indian princes
- Their great revenues will and must infallibly decrease hereafter; for in the first place, the natives are too much oppressed; secondly: In a State of continual warfare and plundering agriculture is neglected; thirdly: Trade and manufactures decline; fourthly: the country is ruined by monopolies; fifthly: An immense quantity of specie has been drawn from it of late years; and at present much fewer rupees and pagodas are seen in circulation than formerly" (also see the French translation from the Italian of the same work with the observations of Anquetil du Ferron, J. R. FORSTER et Silvestre de Sacy. published from Paris in 1808).
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- P. 244—"On negocie aussi de Bengale à Surat, qui est presentement la Ville la plus florissante, la plus riche et la plus marchande de toutes celles des Indes: on porte en cette Ville de la soye cruë, torse, on autrement qu'on tire de cassembasard; on y porte aussi du sucre, des gonis, qu'il y ont des grosses toiles qui servent ordinairement à faire des emballages, du miel et de la cire, desquelles marchandises on en fait le retour en poivre, en canelle et en café, que les Vaisseaux Maures apportent de Môca." Thus the commercial goods of Bengal came to Surat for export to Arab and other Medeterrean countries. Note the barter system.
- P. 210 and 255.—Coins. Also about the bankers.
- P. 232.—The Armenian merchants.
- P. 234.—Names of cotton and silk stuffs of Cassimbazar.
- P. 245.—Cauris.
- P. 247.—"De Bengale on peut encore aller trafiquer à la Cote Coromandelle, où on y porte des armoisins; les rouges y font plus de vente" cf. aussi the voyages of Verthema.
- P. 256.—Encore—"des pieces d'or qu'on appelle coupans, qui valent dix-neuf roupies et il y a aussi des demi-coupans, qui ne valent que neuf et demi-roupies; ces pieces s'appellent coupans, parce qu'elles font longues et si plates qu'on pourroit couper et c'est par allusion à notre langue qu'on les appelle ainsi."
- P. 217.—Exchange. Charged by the local bankers.
- P. 238.—Interest at the rate of 12 per cent.
- P. 264.—Muslims of Bengal. Different names.
- Voyage dans l'Inde et au Bengale, fait dans les années 1789 et 1790; contenant la description des îles Séchelles et de Trinquemalay, des détails sur le caractère et les arts industriels des peuples de l'Inde, la description de quelques pratiques religieuses des habitans du Bengale. Par L. DE GRANDPRE, Paris. (See the English translation below.)
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- p. 5. "a convoy of artisans such as stone-cutters, carpenters, miners, battery-builders, fire-workers, water-carriers, (hut) builders, farriers, surgeons (bina dozan), barbers, and tailors, and provisions of grain, sheep, goats, ghee, etc., as well as cooked bread (nan, chapati), bread of fine flour (kalicha) and whey (ponir)".
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- p. 145. "The maritime activity of Persia, however, was not confined merely to the Western coast of the Indian peninsula: there was an important colony of Persian merchants in Bengala, the hononymous capital of the Province of Bengal."
- (also see Duarte Barbosa, and Ludovico Varthema,
- Also see, India in the 15th century (Hakluyt Society: R. H. Major).
- p. 143. "..... and many stuffs from the Kingdom of Cambay, Chaul, Dabul, and Bengala, which are called Sivabases, Chantars, Mamonas, Dugasas, Soranatis, which are kinds of stuffs of cotton very much valued which are made use of by the Arabs and Persians, and people of Cairo, Aden and Alexandri".
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- p. XLVI. "..... The English are coming into the south sea..... have captured on this coast (i.e., Goa) two of our ships that were going to Bengalla.....".
- p. LXXXVIII. "..... three or four ships that were going with money to Bengala.....".
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