Census of India, 1931

VOLUME XXIII

H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions
(HYDERABAD STATE)

PART I.—REPORT

BY

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1933
AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS
HYDERABAD-DECCAN

Price B.C. Rs. 6 or O.S. Rs. 7.
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Report

**Introduction** ........................................................... i—iii

**Chapter**

1. Distribution and Movement of the Population .................................. 1
2. The Population of Cities, Towns and Villages .................................. 48
3. Birthplace and Migration .................................................. 62
4. Age ............................................................................... 73
5. Sex ............................................................................... 88
6. Civil Condition .................................................................. 104
7. Infirmitics ....................................................................... 123
   - Notes on Leprosy in Hyderabad State by Dr. John Lowe (Formerly of Dichpalli) .................................................. 139
8. Occupation ........................................................................ 147
   - Note on the Disappearing Cottage Industries by the Department of Commerce and Industries ........................................ 180
9. Literacy .......................................................................... 194
   - Note on the Progress of Education in the State by Fazl Md. Khan, Esq. D. P. I ....................................................... 213
   - Note on the Osmania University by H. A. Ansari, Esq., Registrar ................................................................. 216
10. Language ......................................................................... 221
11. Religion .......................................................................... 281
12. Castes and Tribes ................................................................ 246
   - Note on the Depressed classes .................................................. 255
   - Note on the Chenchus by Census Commissioner ......................... 261
   - Note on the Chenchus by Dr. B. S. Guha .................................... 277
   - Note on the Telugu Brahmins and Komtis by Dr. B. S. Guha ............ 280
REPORT

on

THE CENSUS OF H.E.H. THE NIZAM'S DOMINIONS
(HYDERABAD STATE)

1931

INTRODUCTION.

The sixth Census of these Dominions was taken on the 26th February 1931 (24th Farward 1340 F.) the decennial series having begun in 1881. The dates of previous Census and the Commissioners are:

17th February 1881 Moulvi Syed Mohiuddin Ulvi.
26th February 1891 Mirza Mehdi Khan.
1st March 1901 Mirza Mehdi Khan.
10th March 1911 Mohd. Abdul Majid.
18th March 1921 Mohd. Rahmatulla.

The area now dealt with is the same as in the previous decade, namely 82,698 square miles.

2. The procedure adopted for taking the census was practically the same as in 1921 and is fully described in the administrative report; therefore a detailed account of it need not be given here. I was fortunate in having among the enumerators a very large number of persons both in the City of Hyderabad and the districts who had experience of similar work in 1921 and therefore training of persons on an elaborate scale was found unnecessary. Educated Indians, Europeans and Anglo-Indians and institutions were furnished with forms for enumerating themselves.

Census Divisions.—The first important step taken in the City of Hyderabad and the districts was to number all houses, which were thereafter made up into "blocks," containing 30 to 50 houses, each block in charge of an Enumerator. Ten to fifteen blocks constituted a "circle" under a Supervisor. A number of circles containing 10,000 to 15,000 houses made up a "charge" under a Charge Superintendent, two or three charges being comprised within a taluk under the control of a Tahsildar. Charges which completely embraced the area of a district were under the district Census Officer, the Talukdar (District Collector). The Municipal Commissioner was the District Census Officer for the City of Hyderabad. The Dominions were divided into 789 charges, 7,953 circles and 78,066 blocks. Charge Superintendents, Circle Officers and Supervisors were invariably Government employees. In villages the enumerator was the most intelligent literate man available, who was invariably the Patel or Patwari or a member of his family.

Staff.—There were 78,066 enumerators, 7,953 Supervisors, and 789 Charge Superintendents, besides Taluk (Tahsildar) and District (Talukdar) Census Officers, the warrants of appointment numbering 82,232. To one and all I express my sincere thanks for the conscientious manner in which they discharged their duties.

The Preliminary Census.—House-numbering commenced on the 6th October 1930 (1st Azur 1340 F.) and continued till the 15th November 1930 (11th Dai 1340 F.) The preliminary enumeration was made on the 13th Ifarwari in the districts and a little later in the City of Hyderabad, and continued till the 7th Farwardi. The information recorded in the schedule consisted of name, religion, sex, age, civil condition, caste, occupation, mother-tongue, birth place, literacy, literacy in Urdu, literacy in English and certain infirmities. These entries were verified between the 9th and
12th Farwardi in order to see that every numbered house was accounted for in the schedule and that the entries were correct in form and substance. In certain places checking continued until the day of the Census in order to ensure the correctness of the entries.

The Final Census.—The final enumeration was taken between 7 p.m. and midnight on the 26th February 1931 (24th Farwardi 1340 F.) Every enumerator visited the houses in his area and revised the entries by striking out those relating to persons who were no longer present and entering all necessary particulars of new arrivals. In the City an epidemic of plague had caused evacuation of certain mohallas but the Census staff went round the infected localities without hesitation. The employees of the Hyderabad Municipality, who were employed for enumeration within the Municipal limits, did their very best. They and the other Government office clerks deserve great credit for this piece of honorary work. The City Police was of considerable assistance and I am thankful to the Police Commissioner and the Municipal Commissioner for all the arrangements they made to help the Census staff during the night of the final operation.

The enumeration of travellers by rail and road was satisfactorily done and those not already enumerated were accounted for. For instance, when I paid a surprise visit to a suburban railway station at 4 a.m. on the 27th February and was informed that the Dewan of an important Indian State was a passenger by the Express on the Census night, it was ascertained that he had not been censused anywhere during his journey and his Private ticket was registered by the Express on the Census night.

Even the wild tract of Paloncha Samasthana in Warangal district, which in 1921 was treated as a non-synchronous area, was censused on the final night this time.

The Provisional totals.—The provisional totals were collected in the following manner. On the morning following the Census night, the enumerators of each circle met their Supervisors and added up their figures which, after being checked, were entered in the summary form for the whole circle. The Supervisors in turn met their Charge Superintendents, who prepared a charge summary and forwarded the same to the District Officers. Special post-haste messengers were employed to communicate charge results to the district headquarters. The District Officers after consolidating all the charge figures wired to me the total.

Special Inquiries.—Two special inquiries had been instituted, one related to local cottage industries and the other to unemployment of educated persons in accordance with the suggestion of the Census Commissioner for India. The former was satisfactorily conducted but the latter proved abortive, and no table was, therefore, compiled. The collection of unemployment statistics was left to the discretion of the Provinces and States by the Census Commissioner for India and not even a hundred people were returned as unemployed, although it is a matter of common knowledge that unemployment of educated men is becoming an acute problem.

Public Co-operation.—I may put it on record that the public were not merely well disposed, but wholeheartedly co-operated with the Census staff. During my extensive tours in the districts I was much impressed by the genuine enthusiasm displayed by the non-officials.

Tabulation.—On receipt of the schedules from all quarters, the initially employed staff of clerks commenced to scrutinize the totals and make corrections of glaringly erroneous entries. This resulted in saving of time and expense. On 9th April 1931 (4th Khurdu 1840 F.) the Tabulation Office was organised. Each person enumerated had a separate slip on to which copyists transferred the details from the schedule. The task of copying was made easy by the use of coloured slips for the different religions and symbols to indicate sex and civil condition. Abbreviations were also prescribed. The copied slips were then sorted into pigeon-holes according to the requirements of the tables. After sorting, the totals were put on the "sorters' ticket" and these totals were entered in special registers for each.
Sorting began as soon as copying was over. The Tabulation Office was disbanded at the end of 1840 Fasli (5th October 1921). The Imperial Tables, as prescribed by the Government of India, were then compiled by a small staff. A word of praise is due to the copying staff. At one time more than one thousand one hundred hands were employed. All worked practically under one roof and their conduct and discipline were exemplary.

The report.—The drafting of the report was taken in hand without loss of time, as soon as complete material became available for any one chapter. The first chapter drafted was VII on "Infirmities," and the last VIII on "Occupation."

In drafting the report, the temptation to write a monograph on particular aspects of the subject matter was overcome; care was taken to bring out only the salient points suggested by the figures, for a student of demography consults the tables for the figures and the report for the elucidation of certain ambiguous points only.

Acknowledgments.—I cannot too fully acknowledge the services of the large body of Government Officers, Officers of British Administered Areas and of the Railway who helped me to bring this strenuous work to a successful conclusion. The Census placed a heavy burden on all the district Talukdars and their subordinate staff and it would be invidious to single out any one of them for special thanks. They are all entitled to my gratitude.

I cannot praise too much the assistance I received from Moulvi Abu Muhammad, who bore the responsibilities of Deputy Census Commissioner as laid down in the Census Code. This is the second Census ordeal he has gone through and his past experience of controlling the large staff of copyists and compilers, of scrutinizing the maze of figures and of managing the office was fully utilised.

Mr. R. Thomas, my Assistant, gave me valuable help in writing and illustrating this report. This is the first time in the history of the Census of this State that the report has been compiled so early and illustrated, thanks to the diligence of the officers and staff. Sometimes they had to sit all night wading through a mass of figures for the compilation and verification of certain urgent tables.

I also wish to acknowledge the invariable helpfulness of Mr. R. V. Pillai, Bar-at-Law, Superintendent, Government Central Press. The Press was loaded up with printing work of very urgent nature and yet Mr. Pillai, conscious of the importance of the Census requirements, spared no pains to get the work through as expeditiously as he could under the circumstances.

Last but not least, I am indebted to Dr. J. H. Hutton, D.Sc., C.I.E., the Census Commissioner for India. Dr. Hutton is a distinguished anthropologist and his advice and suggestions on general Census matters and particularly with regard to a study of the life and conditions of the primitive tribe, the Chenchus, were extremely valuable. His criticisms on the Imperial Tables and draft chapters were also very helpful.

HYDERABAD-DECCAN,
27th Azur 1342 F.
1st November 1923.

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