

Census of India, 1941

VOLUME XXII

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

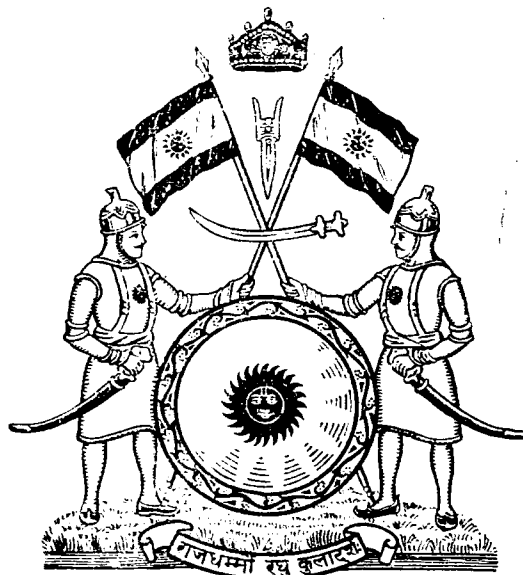
PARTS I & II

ESSAY AND TABLES

BY

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CENSUS COMMISSIONER, JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE



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ERRATA.

Page 3,	column 1,	line 11	<i>read</i> "known as Khuls".
„ 8,	„ 2,	„ 24	„ "stokers in the".
„ 9,	„ 1,	last line	„ "Sunni sect, viz, Wahabis".
„ 15,	„ 1,	line 30	„ "village proprietors with".
„ 17,	„ 2,	„ 5	„ "manure available is".
„ 23,	„ 2,	8 lines from end	<i>read</i> "Doyan Khul (canal)".
„ 28,	„ 1,	line 44	<i>read</i> "26¼ lacs".
„ 30,	„ 2,	„ 45	„ "has ever been".
„ 33,	„ 1,	„ 46	„ "35 per cent for the".
„ 37,	„ 2,	„ 24	„ "into the subject".
„ 38,	„ 1,	„ 21	„ "Harijans, Sikhs and".
„ 39,	„ 1,	„ 7	„ "in 1924 ; for figures".
„ 39,	„ 2,	lines 23, 24	<i>read</i> "future students in schools will"
„ 39,	„ 2,	line 25	„ "at their option".
„ 39,	„ 2,	„ 26	„ "one script, i. e. Persian".
„ 40,	„ 2,	„ 2	„ "easily realised".
„ 43,	„ 1,	„ 1	„ "cured more frequently".
„ 253,	Para 5,	line 2	<i>for</i> the word "numbers" <i>read</i> "number".
„ 254,	„ 9(v),	last line	<i>for</i> the word "Wih" „ "with".
„ 302,	„ 9(b),	<i>for</i> the word	"includes" <i>read</i> "include".
„ 302,	„ 10(b),	<i>for</i> „ „	"besed" „ "based".

Page 333, under Inner Sub-branch against Central Group *for* the word "Rajastnani" *read* the word "Rajasthan".

Page 342, 3rd line, *for* the words "ndian christians" *read* the words "Indian Christians".

Page 350, in column 8 against "Jammu and Kashmir State" *for* the figures "12875" *read* the figures "13875".

Page 354, in the third line of paragraph 11 *for* the word "is" *read* the word "are".

Page 356, in the last but one line under column 1, *for* the brackets and words "(Leased Area)" *read* the brackets and words "(Leased Area)".

Page 357, in column 10 under Chuhra against Jammu *for* the sign and figure “-8” *read* the sign and figures “-89”.

Page 369, under column 35 against Srinagar city *insert* the figure “4”.

Page 376, in the heading of column 12 *for* the figures “1941 i” *read* the figures “1941”.

FOREWORD

In past years the Census Report was so to speak tied on to the tables of which to a large extent it was a translation in words. With the developments in departmental administration and specialist provision which are a feature of all governments, it is no longer necessary for Census Superintendents to attempt a separate dissertation on every table. Nor is it desirable.

The principle should rather be that the tables are produced for the use of departments concerned and of the public as a whole. The departmental specialists will deal with this specific aspect and what the Census Superintendent should aim at is a synoptic survey which will take and keep the whole province or state in view throughout and try to represent it as an organic and developing whole.

The essay form has been adopted as far as possible in order to produce the utmost degree of continuity and interest. Tables have been reduced to a minimum in order to enhance its readability and the theory is that the essay should be capable of being read quite separately by a stranger who from it alone without other assistance would gain a definite idea of what the province or state stands for, what its main conditions and problems are and in what direction it is developing.

The essay is not a gazetteer and deliberately omits ordinary standard detail which can be obtained in departmental publications. Readers are therefore referred to these publications for such matter.

NEW DELHI :

February 27th 1942.

M. W. W. M. YEATTS,

CENSUS COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

INTRODUCTION

The Report.—The 1941 Census Report is in four parts. Part I takes the form of an essay. It describes the boundaries of the Jammu and Kashmir State, its physical features, the system of administration, the constitutional changes made during the decade, the distribution and composition of the population, departmental activities and the bearing they have on the well-being of the people, the more important aspects of the facts recorded by the Census and the ability of the country to support an increasing population.

Part II gives the results of the Census in tabular form; it contains Imperial Tables, State tables and Subsidiary tables. Each Imperial table is preceded by brief explanatory notes and followed by subsidiary tables. At previous Censuses the subsidiary tables were published in Part I at the end of the chapter discussing the table to which they pertained.

Part III consists of Village Tables and Housing Statistics. The former show the population, chief communities, literate persons by sexes in each village, number of occupied houses and the population at the previous Census. The villages are grouped by districts, tehsils, charges and circles; figures are given separately for the two cities of Jammu and Srinagar. Notes precede the tables of each district. The Housing Statistics represent an attempt to tabulate the information regarding housing conditions recorded in the House Lists; they leave much to be desired but constitute a new feature. At the next Census it may be possible to obtain more accurate data in this respect. Part III is of purely local interest and the distribution of copies has been restricted to officials, representatives of the press and others in the State.

Part IV discusses the Census operations and administrative matters. It is primarily intended for the information of His Highness' Government and those conducting operations in the State at the next Census. It is being printed for local issue only.

Parts I and II are produced together in one volume. In previous reports each Imperial Table was discussed at great length chapter by chapter; on this occasion there is no such detailed

discussion. There are no graphs or diagrams. An endeavour has been made to give the general reader an accurate picture of conditions in the State relating to those questions with which the Census is concerned without the necessity of having to wade through a mass of technical detail. The essential facts are available in the tables; where it is thought that they are defective in any respect this has been plainly stated in the notes.

II. Census Operations.—The first attempt to take a Census in the Jammu and Kashmir State was made in 1873; it was little better than an estimate. In 1891 regular Census operations were carried out synchronously with the rest of India but they did not cover the Gilgit Agency. In 1901 the second regular Census was taken. The results of both the 1891 and the 1901 Censuses left much to be desired. The Census taken in 1911 was the first complete Census conducted in strict conformity with the principles and instructions emanating from the Census Commissioner for India. The Censuses conducted in 1921 and 1931 followed closely the methods of 1911.

The 1941 Census staff has benefitted by the experience gained during the last three decades and I acknowledge the debt owed to our predecessors. The operations have been carried out in accordance with the instructions issued by the Census Commissioner for India with such minor modifications as were necessary to meet local conditions. Zero hour was sunrise on March 1st 1941, to which date and time all births and deaths were related. There was no communal discord. The weather was satisfactory throughout the period of enumeration. A few complaints were received which were investigated immediately and disposed of without difficulty. All communities appear to have been satisfied with the results. The only question which gave rise to any irregularities, as far as is known, was that relating to 'Mothers tongue'. The Persian-Devanagri script controversy had its effect on the answers recorded in this connection. Clear instructions were issued to enumerators that 'Hindi' and 'Urdu' should both be recorded as 'Hindustani'. Even so it is feared the record for Mothers tongue has been vitiated in certain areas because those active in the script controversy carried on propaganda to

influence those of their persuasion to show Urdu or Hindi as their mother-tongue, irrespective of the facts.

The normal Census divisions, consisting of districts, tehsils, charges, circles and blocks were created. District Officers (Wazirs Wazarat) automatically became District Census Officers in addition to their usual duties. Similarly, Tehsildars became Tehsil Census Officers. Charges, circles and blocks varied in size according to local conditions. The average charge in non-city areas consisted of 6·5 circles with 2,888 occupied houses and a population of 14,934. The average circle in non-city areas consisted of 12 blocks with 445 occupied houses and a population of 2,304. In city areas the average block consisted of 46 houses with a population of 326. A 'house', as at previous Censuses, was deemed to consist of a single commensal unit. The Revenue Department furnished the bulk of the personnel but most departments supplied their quota for the smaller Census divisions. Many of the enumerators were non-officials. In all there were 258 Charge Superintendents, 1,706 Supervisors and 19,997 Enumerators.

In 1931 the actual Census was preceded by a preliminary enumeration. This record was subjected to a final check carried out between the hours of 7/00 P. M., and midnight on Census Day. The aim was to obtain the equivalent of an instantaneous photograph of the population. To subject the record of some weeks' laborious effort to a hectic five hour check did not necessarily produce a better record. On this occasion there was only one enumeration which was continuous over a period of one month. Our aim was to complete the record three days previous to Census Day so that supervisors might have time to check enumerators' work and get obvious errors corrected. The record thus obtained was subjected to a necessary minor revision on Census Day when births and deaths which had occurred during the period of enumeration were adjusted with relation to sunrise on March 1st. In the case of deaths up to zero hour the slips already written were cancelled under supervisors' initials; in the case of births a slip was filled in. The enumeration was based on normal place of residence. Temporary absences were ignored. The criterion in all doubtful cases was whether a person would be at his normal place of residence on March 1st.

It will be obvious to those having the slightest knowledge of the geography of the

State why some modifications had to be made in the enumeration time-table to meet local conditions. For example, many villages situated in the high mountainous areas of Ladakh, Astore, Gilgit and Karnah are usually cut off by snow in February of any year making movement very difficult and good enumeration practically impossible. The whole of these areas was enumerated non-synchronously, work commencing on December 1st and being completed by the end of that month. There are many villages in other districts where similar conditions obtain. These too were enumerated non-synchronously during the period mentioned. There is little movement in such areas during the winter. Special arrangements were also made to enumerate the population living in boats and those to be found in forest and road construction camps, hotels, wayside halting-places, jails, and hospitals. All these were enumerated where found on Census Day. At previous Censuses passengers on running-trains and other transport services were stopped and enumerated. Since the population was enumerated on this occasion on the basis of usual place of residence special measures for enumerating such short period travellers were dispensed with.

Arrangements were made in advance for the preparation of enumerators' abstracts, circle, charge and tehsil summaries, and for the collection and despatch of the record to headquarters. District officers were required to calculate provisional totals for their respective districts and to communicate these to the Direction Office as soon as possible by hand or telegram according to circumstances. Prompt communication of the totals was asked for but not undue haste. The work was carried out satisfactorily. The provisional totals for the whole State were communicated to the Census Commissioner for India well within the period fixed. These gave the population for the whole State as 4,021,658. Compilation of the record showed the correct figures to be 4,021,616—a difference of 42 persons or an error of just over one per hundred thousand.

III. Tabulation and Compilation.—It is not proposed to discuss the work of abstraction and compilation in detail here; this finds its place in Part IV of the report. In the past it has always been the practice to have two offices for tabulation—one located at Jammu and the other at Srinagar. At this Census the whole of the work was concentrated in one office at Srinagar. There are no linguistic difficulties to make it necessary to open offices in different localities. The record is not too large

to handle in one office. The advantages gained by having one central office are obvious; the most important are closer supervision, quicker issue of instructions and disposal of references and uniformity of treatment. The Tabulation Office was accommodated in a building within 300 yards of the Direction Office. As answers to questions at this Census were recorded direct on to the slips to be sorted for tabulation there was no necessity for slip-copying except in the case of a few special household schedules; the use of these was strictly limited and the number involved very small. The use of the original record for tabulation necessitated the close scrutiny of the slips forming the record, the correction of obvious errors and the removal of blank and cancelled slips. This proved a troublesome and laborious process but that is an administrative matter which is discussed in Part IV. Tabulation commences with the checking of the record received against district, tehsil, charge and circle summaries and the enumerators' abstracts; it was commenced on 26th March 1941 and completed on November 15th 1941; half the staff was dispensed with and the rest retained for compilation work for which we allowed a period of 3 months. The Compilation Office was closed on February 11th 1942. The checking of tables and the preparation of the remaining subsidiaries was carried on and completed in the Direction Office.

IV. Accuracy of the Record.—The ability and readiness of an unpaid Census agency, many of whom are unavoidably of a low standard of education, to record complete and correct answers to a long and, in some respects, difficult questionnaire is obviously subject to limitations. It may, however, be accepted as a fact that the great majority of the enumerators made an honest attempt to grapple with the onerous duties entrusted to them. It must be stated in clear terms that the answers to some questions were not accurate or complete. Consequently some tables do not represent a correct record of the real position. The tables relating to the actual population, its distribution, variations and communal composition may be accepted as correct subject to a very small margin of error; the same may be said of the tables relating to birthplace. Table VII, Age and Civil Condition, is subject to the defects inherent in all age tables prepared by the Census agency. Some people have a deep-rooted objection to giving their correct age on any document in any country. In India large numbers of the population do not know their real age and can only make a guess. Such guesses are frequently inaccurate. There is,

and always has been, a definite tendency to give a round figure such as 20, 30, 35 and 40. For any age over 50 the figures for the most part must be treated as approximate only. These defects are not peculiar to this State; they are common to the whole of India. But as they have always existed the age table at this Census is reliable for the purpose of comparison with the figures given at previous Censuses.

The answers to the questions on which Tables VIII and IX are based were incomplete and very unsatisfactory. These tables must therefore be considered defective and practically useless for statistical purposes. They indicate a general condition only. Table X gives a more accurate record of the real position than the same table for 1931 but unemployment under all heads may be assumed to be in excess of the figures given. This is due to the fact that some are diffident in admitting that they are unemployed. Table XI may be accepted as reasonably accurate and Table XII too, except to the extent that Hindustani has been shown as Mothertongue. The number of persons living in the State whose true Mothertongue is either Urdu or Hindi, both shown as Hindustani in the table, is very small. The remaining tables may be accepted as reasonably accurate.

V. Cost of the Census.—The total expenditure on Census operations, excluding some minor charges which at the time of writing have not been adjusted, comes to Rs. 1,48,000. It is anticipated that the minor charges referred to will be more than covered by receipts on account of the sale of furniture etc., when the department is closed. The exact figures will be given in the Administration section of the report—Part IV. On the basis of the figure given above the cost works out at Rs. 36·8 per thousand of the population. The cost in 1921 and 1931 was Rs. 1,46,332 and Rs. 1,49,508 and the rate per thousand of the population Rs. 44 and Rs. 41 respectively.

VI. Public Attitude.—The political atmosphere throughout the country was calm during the whole period of the Census operations. The public showed no hostility to the Census in any form; their attitude was either apathetic or they co-operated to the best of their ability. It is not easy to convince the public that the Census is their census and that full co-operation is likely to be advantageous to them as well as to the administration. There was no occasion to take proceedings under the

penal clauses of the Census Act. The press gave us their co-operation and were helpful in giving publicity to notices and communiques. The only Census questions which gave rise to hesitancy and reluctance were 7 and 8, relating to the number of children born to a married woman and her age at the birth of her first child. These questions were not correctly answered in many cases; in a large number they were not answered at all. The fertility tables prepared from them should not be regarded as accurate.

VII. Acknowledgements.—The All-India Census becomes more exacting and a greater strain on those responsible for its conduct every decade. The Government of India decided to restrict tabulation and to confine compilation to a few of the more important tables and to file the Census record for future reference. His Highness' Government decided to complete the work in every respect.

Before concluding these introductory notes I should like to acknowledge the assistance received from all quarters. To the thousands

of unpaid Census workers, both official and unofficial, I can only offer our very sincere thanks. We are grateful to Mr. M. W. W. M. Yeatts, C. I. E., I. C. S., Census Commissioner for India, for his guidance and advice. I am indebted to the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur Sir N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar Kt., C. S. I., C. I. E., Prime Minister, His Highness' Government, Jammu and Kashmir for his sympathetic understanding of our difficulties and problems and his prompt assistance to us in our efforts to overcome them. I acknowledge with pleasure the co-operation of all those officials and representatives of the public who kindly responded to our requests for notes on departmental activities and conditions of living. Finally, I must express my great appreciation of the loyal co-operation I have received throughout from my staff.

SRINAGAR:

June 30th 1942.

R. G. WREFORD,

CENSUS COMMISSIONER,

Jammu and Kashmir State.