



सत्यमेव जयते

CENSUS OF INDIA, 1951

VOLUME XV

MADHYA BHARAT & BHOPAL

PART I-A REPORT



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GWALIOR

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N O T E

The Statements made, views expressed and conclusions drawn in this Report are wholly the writer's responsibility in his personal capacity and do not represent the views of the Government concerned.

INTRODUCTION

This Report embodies the results of the Census of Madhya Bharat and Bhopal taken on the 1st, March, 1951. It forms a part of the XV of the All-India Series of Census Reports and consists of four separate parts of which this volume is the first. Part I-B contains Subsidiary Tables and Part II-A and II-B contain the Main Census Tables. In addition, two separate Reports have been prepared for departmental use, the first gives a detailed account of the method of enumeration and the second deals with the sorting, compilation and tabulation of the information collected by the Census.

The present Census was taken under the provisions of the Indian Census Act, 1948 (Act No. XXXVII of 1948). This Act is a permanent measure and it applies to all the States. No important change was made in the organisation for the collection of the required information but radical alterations were effected in the plan of the Census and the scope of the inquiry was considerably extended. The net result of these alterations and additions may be summarised as follows :—

- (1) The addition of an inquiry as to the head of the household and as to the relation of every individual in the household to the head of the household,
- (2) The substitution of Livelihood Classes for communities and castes for purposes of the presentation of statistics,
- (3) The additional requirement for every economically active individual to state whether he was a self-supporting person (that is whether his earnings were sufficient for his own maintenance),
- (4) The additional statement respecting all persons engaged in non-agricultural pursuits, distinguishing masters, those working for a master and those working on their own account without paid assistance, and
- (5) The use of the sample method for the presentation of statistics relating to household, age, civil condition and literacy by age.

A brief description may here be given of the manner in which the Census was taken. The actual work of the Census fell under two main heads :—

- (a) The collection of the data for which a large army of unpaid workers was improvised, and
- (b) The compilation and tabulation of results for which at temporary staff consisting of Sorters, Compiler-Checkers, Supervisors etc., was employed.

The carrying out of these extensive operations, the delimitation of the area to be covered by each enumerator, the selection and appointment of Enumerators and Supervisors for enumeration work, the arrangements for the training of the enumeration and

supervising staff, the printing and distribution of necessary forms, and the transformation of the raw material of the returns into the final tables involved considerable preparations and planning in advance. On this occasion preliminary arrangements for the taking of the Census were initiated by the Madhya Bharat Government in May, 1948.

The initial step was the preparation of a village or town register in which was shown a complete list of towns, villages and hamlets in each Tahsil, the number of houses and the number of workers available in each locality. On the basis of this register the whole area of the State was parcelled out into sub-divisions. In doing this the procedure followed at previous Censuses was adopted. The system was again built up on the "House" and the general method was to find a local man to enumerate his neighbours, and to train him to do so. The houses were first grouped into "Blocks," a block containing from 150 to 250 houses each, in charge of an "Enumerator". This was the real Census unit and the enumerator was the individual on whom fell the bulk and brunt of the enumeration work. He it was who came into contact with the general public and who by personal enquiry at each house prepared the Census record of each person residing within his block. Above the block came the "Circle" comprising from 6 to 12 blocks under a "Supervisor" who was responsible for the work of all the enumerators in his circle. Circles were then grouped, according to recognised administrative divisions, into "Charges" under "Charge Superintendents" who exercised general supervision over the operations and tested and checked the work of their subordinates. The Charge Superintendents whose charges completely cover the whole district area were directly under the District Census Officer. The district corresponded with the Revenue district and the charge was generally co-terminus with the Tahsil. The District Census Officer was the Collector of the District and the Charge Superintendents were, as a rule, Tahsildars. To this there were a few exceptions. First, the cities of Gwalior and Indore were treated as separate Census Districts; secondly, the towns of Ujjain, Ratlam and Mhow Cantonment were treated as separate charges and thirdly, the Census of Tahsils where settlement operations were in progress was entrusted to the Assistant Settlement Officers.

The whole area of the State having thus been accounted for in terms of circles and blocks, the next step was the finding of personnel for these sub-divisions. This was done by the Charge Superintendents with the aid of the General Village Register. In point of fact the Supervisors were appointed first and the Enumerators were selected later with their assistance. In rural tracts the Supervisors and the Enumerators were mostly village officials, school masters, etc. but in some places local men had to be roped in to assist. In towns the best possible use was made of the Government and Municipal Establishments, the educated public being called

upon to help only after these had been exhausted. After appointing the staff, but before finally allotting blocks to each Enumerator, every house in the State was marked with a number and entered up in a list. Special importance was attached to the preparation of these lists and district officials had to make very careful inspections to ensure that the work was properly carried out. These lists showed separately the residential and non-residential buildings and also gave the number of the normal residents of each residential house.

After the house-numbering had been completed, blocks were finally allotted to the Enumerators. In Madhya Bharat the total number of enumerators was 12,682 working under 2,040 Circle Supervisors.

Training of enumeration staff began in June, 1950 and was continued till the eve of enumeration. Throughout this period the bulk of instructional work was carried out by the Census Inspectors. In June, 1950, these officers gave oral instructions to Charge Superintendents in regard to the formation of Census subdivisions in the Charges, the preparation of the Charge Register and the procedure for enumeration. During the period from the 15th of August to the end of October training in house-numbering and the filling up of Census slips was given to Charge Superintendents and such Supervisors and Enumerators as could be got together at Tahsil headquarters. In the third round of their tour, which commenced immediately after house-numbering had been finished, the Inspectors checked house-numbering and held classes at Tahsil headquarters and other convenient centres for the instruction of Supervisors and Enumerators. After receiving training the Charge Superintendents opened classes at convenient centres in their Charges and imparted instructions to Supervisors who in their turn trained their Enumerators. In addition, District Census Officers and Deputy Census Commissioners held meetings at all important centres at which further instructions and practice was given to the enumeration staff. Great stress was laid on practice. Before undertaking instructional work the Charge Superintendents and Supervisors were required to fill up slips for a few families and to get them corrected by their immediate superior officers. The slips filled in by the Charge Superintendents were corrected by the Deputy Census Commissioner, Northern Division and then submitted to me. After perusal I returned them with further remarks. A list of typical and common errors that came to notice during the process was issued to Charge Superintendents for their guidance.

The Charge Superintendents were requested to arrange a programme of meetings for the training of the Supervisors and Enumerators. I and the Deputy Census Commissioners attended some of these meetings and satisfied ourselves that the work was proceeding on right lines.

Conferences were also held by the Charge Superintendents and Inspectors at Tahsil headquarters and other convenient centres where they explained to the people the significance of the Census questions and the manner in which these questions were to be answered.

Meticulous directions for the distribution of enumeration pads were issued early but the result, I fear, cannot be considered satisfactory. Fantastic demands for

additional supplies came in at the last moment and had to be met by getting 2 lakhs slips printed locally. This was largely due to lack of system and to some extent to hysterical demands by Supervisors in some Charges. The supply of forms was ample for every district but their distribution among the Charges was made without any attention to requirements. The same thing happened in the Charges. The result was that some Charges in the district and some Circles within the charge ran short while others were oversupplied. It is difficult to cope with local extravagances of the kind. Probably the only way to secure proper economy in this matter is to get the slips distributed as early as possible. At the same time it is necessary to check wastage of forms by supplying to each Charge a sufficient quantity of pads of 50 and 25 slips.

It was specially impressed upon the Charge Superintendents that they should review all the arrangements in their Charges during the last week of January, 1951, and satisfy themselves that all the preparations for enumeration had been duly made in their Charges and that all Supervisors and Enumerators were ready to carry out the work of enumeration expeditiously. The Charge Superintendents were also requested to issue directions to their Supervisors that the latter should see that all arrangements within their Circles were complete as long before hand as possible so that nothing remained unsettled or undecided on the 1st of February, 1951.

The training of the staff completed, house-numbering, block lists, etc. thoroughly checked and all other arrangements perfected, the Enumerators were once again collected by their Supervisors at a convenient centre and given final instructions specially for entries in columns 9 to 12. They were also given special instructions in regard to entries relating to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Class people and Displaced Persons.

The most fundamental changes in the method of enumeration were first the fixation of the period from the 9th February, 1951, to the sunrise in the morning of the 1st March, 1951, as the period of enumeration and secondly the enumeration of persons temporarily absent from their usual place of abode at their usual home.

Briefly the system followed was this :--

(1) In every block the enumeration was to be commenced and completed within the enumeration period. During this interval the Enumerator visited every house in his block and enumerated, according to the instructions given, every person whom he found there and also all those who normally lived in that house. When taking the census of a house the Enumerator specifically asked if any person normally living in the house was temporarily absent. Every such person was also enumerated unless he had left the house before the 9th February, 1951 and was not expected to return until after the 1st March, 1951. In all such cases the information necessary for filling up the Census slips was to be obtained from a member of the household or from some relative, friend or if necessary from a neighbour of the absent person. Visitors or guests temporarily staying with friends and relatives in a household were not counted if they had some other usual or permanent home and had left it on or after the 9th February, 1951

or if they expected to go back to it before sunrise on the 1st March, 1951. Such persons were enumerated at the place they were found only in case they had not been enumerated anywhere else or had been away from their homes throughout the enumeration period.

(2) Prisoners in jails and patients in hospitals, lunatic asylums or any similar institution in which persons remain for long periods of time were, as a rule, enumerated as unrelated members of "institutional households" in which they were found. Only those who had not remained in the institution throughout the enumeration period were not counted there.

(3) Members of the wandering tribes, Sadhus and tramps, etc., who have no permanent home or residence anywhere but who just "park" for a few hours in a locality and then move on, were treated as houseless population. These were counted wherever they were found during the night preceding the sunrise of the 1st March, 1951.

The enumeration went off smoothly in all places and was everywhere taken up and finished within the dates prescribed. In some villages of Sailana Tahsil of the Ratlam district there were instances of the Bhils leaving their villages and refusing to give information but these were satisfactorily dealt with by the local authorities.

From the commencement of the enumeration the closest supervision was exercised not only by the Charge Superintendents and Supervisors but by all inspecting and touring officers. The latter were specially requested to make enquiries when on tour, as to the progress of work, thus keeping the local Census Officers on the alert. The District Census Officers, the Deputy Census Commissioners and the Census Inspectors in the course of their tours inspected entries made by the Enumerators in all the localities on the route and necessary instructions were given on the spot. All District Officers were unanimous in thinking that on the whole the instructions issued were thoroughly understood.

In every Charge and Circle the work of checking proceeded simultaneously with the enumeration. As each pad was finished it was at once passed on to the Supervisor for checking the entries. The Supervisors carried out a 100 per cent check of slips of their Circles whereas the Charge Superintendents, checked as many as they could in each Circle in their Charge. The percentage of slips checked by the Charge Superintendents on the spot was necessarily small but their main job during the enumeration period was to see that the work of checking was being vigorously and systematically carried out by their subordinates.

The decisive hour of reckoning was the sunrise in the morning of the 1st March, 1951 and every Enumerator was required to bring his record up to that hour. For this purpose he revisited every house in his block and carried out a final check during the first three days of March. In the course of this process he cancelled the slips of persons who had died and prepared new slips for newly born children and such visitors as had not been enumerated anywhere during the enumeration period. The work was completed everywhere within the prescribed period of three days. The Charge Superin-

tendents and Supervisors moved about as much as possible while this check was going on.

The Census of railway areas and cantonments formed part of the general district operations. Large stations were formed into separate Circles of the local Charge and all wayside stations, level crossings, etc. were included in the Blocks of the local Circle. The instructions issued by the Railway Authorities to their staff were closely followed and the latter gave all practical assistance and cordially co-operated in the work. In some places there was some difficulty at first but once the Charge Superintendent got into touch with the liaison Railway Officer the work went ahead quite smoothly. The Census of the Mhow Cantonment and other military areas presented no difficulty. The Census arrangements made by the Executive Officer, Mhow Cantonment, were most satisfactory and the out-turn of work in this Charge was distinctly better than that of other urban Charges.

The attitude of the people was most exemplary throughout. Being fully accustomed to the object of the Census from past enumerations the public showed no objection to the operation and gave all the information asked for by the Enumerators most cheerfully and assisted the officers charged with the Census wholeheartedly.

It should be remarked that the taking of the Census up to the submission of the Provisional Totals was carried out in the Bhopal State by Shri A. Hassan. I am much indebted to him for the assistance he rendered me:

Immediately after the enumeration Charge Superintendents took up the work of the preparation of the National Register of Citizens. This task was completed everywhere by the end of March 1951. The enumeration pads were then despatched to the Tabulation Offices at Gwalior and Indore which started functioning on the 16th April 1951.

The Gwalior Tabulation Office was placed under Shri Daya Ram Gupta, Deputy Superintendent of Census, Northern Division and the Indore Office under Shri Surendra Nath Dubey, M. A., Deputy Superintendent of Census, Southern Division. The Gwalior Tabulation Office dealt with 9 districts of Madhya Bharat namely, (1) Bhind, (2) Gird, (3) Morena, (4) Shivpuri, (5) Goona, (6) Bhilsa, (7) Rajgarh, (8) Shajapur and (9) Ujjain and the Indore Office with the remaining seven districts of Madhya Bharat and the Bhopal State. Full details regarding the organization of Tabulation Offices and the manner in which sorting and tabulation was carried out there, will be found in the Administration Report, Part II.

Checking of the district tables prepared by the Tabulation Offices and the compilation of the final tables appearing in parts II-A and II-B and of the Subsidiary Tables appearing in Part I-B of this Report was done by a staff of a few clerks in the Office of the Census Commissioner. The most difficult part of Tabulation was the preparation of the Economic Tables appearing in Part II-B of this Report.

A few words may be added regarding the cost of the Census Operations. At the time of writing the ac-

counts have not been finally closed but the outstanding items (of which the most important is the cost of printing the Report) are few and can be estimated with reasonable accuracy. The expenditure (excluding the cost of the preparation of National Register of Citizens) incurred by the Government of India since 1st April 1950 will, when the last bill has been paid, amount to approximately Rs. 5,01,700/-. The receipts from the sale of furniture waste paper and the like will reduce cost to about Rs. 4,89,600/-. It may, therefore be said that the cost to the Government of India works out at Rs. 55/10/- per mille of the population.

It now remains to express my gratitude to all who have given assistance to me in the operations of the Census. In all parts of the Country, generous service has been given throughout the work by Census Officers of all classes who are too numerous to be mentioned by name. As always, the brunt of the work up to the actual Census fell on the Revenue Officers. I am indebted to them the more in view of the heavy extra work which they had to do in connection with the preparation of the first Electoral Rolls for the State's Legislature and the House of the People which in pursuance of the wishes of the Madhya Bharat Government were prepared in conjunction with the Census work. Particular acknowledgements are due to the Collectors and other district and Municipal Officers for their co-operation at all stages. But perhaps the first and the greatest debt of thanks is due to the rank and file of the Census officers, the Charge Superintendents, Supervisors and Enumerators who whether private persons or officials gave their services ungrudgingly and often at considerable inconvenience to themselves.

I must also express my deep obligations to my office staff. From start to finish they have worked with a devotion and enthusiasm which it would be difficult to surpass. Amongst senior officers I would mention first Shri Daya Ram Gupta, Deputy Census Superintendent, Northern Division, who from the commencement of the Census to its close rendered me invaluable assistance in every kind of work. With the experience of three previous Censuses at his back, gifted with an exceptionally quick intelligence, an appetite for hard work and the capacity to get through it with unusual rapidity, he found plenty of scope for the exercise of all these qualities at all

stages of the work. His work as the head of the Gwalior Tabulation Office deserves all praise. To Shri Surendra Nath Dube, M. A., Deputy Census Superintendent, Southern Division, I owe more than I can acknowledge. His was a difficult charge and the time he could spare for Census work was limited and yet by working at full pressure he carried through the Enumeration and Tabulation work of his Division most efficiently. I have also reason for special gratitude to Shri Pratap Chand Modi, Assistant Deputy Superintendent and Administrative Assistant, Indore Tabulation Office, who devoted much time and labour in constructing most of the Tables given in the body of the Report. He also gave me much assistance in the writing of the Report. Shri Modi has experience of two previous Censuses and has the capacity to handle statistical work of all kinds. I desire also to express my acknowledgements to Shri Shriram Dubey, my Office Superintendent. He and his colleagues were frequently called on to work overtime and forego the ordinary holidays but they always met these and other demands that were made on them with great cheerfulness and were constantly diligent in the performance of their duties.

I owe a personal debt of gratitude to Shri V. Vishwanathan, I. C. S., Shri K. B. Lall, I. C. S. and Shri K. Radhakrishnan, I. C. S., Chief Secretaries to the Madhya Bharat Government for their constant help and interest without which indeed I would have found it difficult to carry out my duties. Nor must I forget to mention my obligations to Shri V. S. Khode, and to Shri Nandlal Joshi, former Home Ministers, Madhya Bharat and to Shri S. N. Bamroo, M. A., LL. B., Secretary, Home Department, Madhya Bharat Government for their ready help in all the difficulties I had to face during the initial stages of the work.

I had much to do with the Central Government Press, Gwalior. The work to be done on this occasion was enormous and of a complicated nature and I owe a great deal to Shri G. C. Natarajan, Superintendent and his Assistant Shri M. Joshi for complying with my requirements and meeting some of my rather unreasonable demands.

Lastly, before closing this long introduction I must express my deep personal gratitude to Shri R. A. Gopalswami, I. C. S., Registrar General, India, for his ready help in all my difficulties.

GWALIOR,
The 30th September, 1951. }

RANG LAI.