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WEST BENGAL, SIKKIM
& CHANDERNAGORE

PART IC—REPORT

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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 8½"×11½":

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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.

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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

CONTENTS

CHAPTER VI	PAGE
SECTION 1—Preliminary Remarks	1
SECTION 2—Religion	2
SECTION 3—Territorial Distribution of House and Households: size and composition of family households	12
SECTION 4—Sex Ratios	12
SECTION 5—Marital Status Ratios	15
SECTION 6—Age Groups	16
SECTION 7—Literacy and Educational Qualifications	22
SECTION 8—Mother Tongue and Bilingualism	28
A Note on the Recording of Mother Tongues of Certain Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	36
A Note on the Maternity Data of Married Women in Rural Areas of West Bengal .	41
A Note on Vital Index for West Bengal	71
SUBSIDIARY TABLES	91
[See page xi for details].	
REPRINTS AND SPECIAL NOTES	
I Extract from Ain-i-Akbari of Abul Fazl—I—Allami—Bengal Subah	169
IA Extract from Ain-i-Akbari of Abul Fazl—I—Allami—A'IN V & VI	173
II Extract from Travels in the Mogul Empire—Francis Bernier	177
III Remarks on the Husbandry and Internal Commerce of Bengal—H. T. Colebrooke	180
IV Extract from An Account of the District or Zila of Dinajpur—By Francis Buchanan Hamilton on the population of the district and the causes which operate on its increase or diminution	232
V Extract from An Account of the District or Zila of Dinajpur—By Francis Buchanan Hamilton on the Land Tenures of Dinajpur	237
VI On recent changes in the Delta of the Ganges—James Fergusson	251
VII Progress of Electricity Supply in West Bengal—Manoranjan Datta	272
VIII Land Utilisation in West Bengal During the Last Thirty Years—Bimal Chandra Sinha	297
BRIEF ACCOUNTS OF SOME OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIES OF THE STATE (With Two Bibliographies)—Chanchalkumar Chatterjee and Kamal Majumdar	305

ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAPS

		PAGE
1	Sample male and female populations by quinquennial age groups (Ungraduated)	13
2	Sample male and female populations by quinquennial age groups (graduated by Tertiary Septenary method with mortality correction)	14
3	Diagrams in respect of districts Burdwan, Hooghly, Calcutta and 24-Parganas, showing the proportion of unmarried, married and widowed or divorced persons	17
4	Sex ratio of first child born	50
5	Number of children born at different ages of mothers (quinquennial periods)	51
6	Changes in Vital Index by quinquennial periods, 1901-50	90
7	Diagram section across the bed of a River (Fergusson)	255
8	Diagram illustrating the Secular Elevation of Delta (Fergusson)	255
9	Diagram illustrating the junction of tributary streams with main rivers (Fergusson)	255
10	Fergusson—Delta of the Ganges (3 diagrams)	facing page 256
11	Map of the Rivers of Bengal (Fergusson)	257
12	Electricity generations and sales in West Bengal (1941-51)	293
13	Electricity generation and sales, 1950	294
14	Production of electricity in K.W.H. per head of population, 1938 and 1947	294
15	Map of West Bengal showing existing and projected power stations	295
16	The South Calcutta Electrification Scheme	296
17	The Raniganj Coal Field Electrification Scheme	296
18	Map Showing State Electrification Schemes in parts of West Bengal	facing page 296
19	The Mayurakhi Hydro-Electric Scheme: Route Diagram of H. T. Lines	" 296
20	The Mayurakhi Hydro-Electric Scheme: Diagrammatic Layout of Lines and Sub-station Equipment	" 296

SUBSIDIARY TABLES
CONTENTS

TABLES	PAGE
<i>Series I—General Population</i>	
I.1 } Area and Population, actual and Percentage by thana Density	92
I.1a }	97
I.2 } Variation and Density of General Population	98
I.3 } Mean Decennial Growth rates during three decades—General Population	101
I.4 } Immigration	102
I.5 } Emigration	103
I.6 } Migration between the State and other parts of India	103
I.7 } Variation in natural Population	103
I.8 } Livelihood pattern of general population	103
<i>Series II—Rural Population</i>	
II.1 } Distribution of Population between villages	104
II.2 } Variation and density of rural population	104
II.3 } Mean Decennial Growth rates during three decades—Rural population	105
II.4 } Livelihood pattern of rural population	106
<i>Series III—Urban Population</i>	
III.1 } Distribution of population between towns	107
III.1a }	108
III.2 } Variation and density of urban population	108
III.3 } Mean decennial Growth rates during three decades—Urban population	110
III.4 } Towns classified by population	110
III.5 } Cities—Chief figures	110
III.6 } Number per 1,000 of the General population and of each livelihood class who live in towns	110
III.7 } Livelihood pattern of Urban population	111
<i>Series IV—Agricultural Classes</i>	
IV.1 } Agricultural Classes per 1,000 persons of general population; number in each Class and Sub-class of 10,000 persons of All Agricultural Classes; and comparison with agricultural holdings by size	112
IV.1a }	114
IV.2 } Livelihood Class I (Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents)—Number per 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class I in each sub-class; secondary means of Livelihood of 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class I	114
IV.3 } Livelihood Class II (Cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependents)—Number per 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class II in each sub-class; Secondary Means of Livelihood of 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class II	115
IV.4 } Livelihood Class III (Cultivating labourers and their dependents)—Number per 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class III in each sub-class; Secondary Means of Livelihood of 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class III	116
IV.5 } Livelihood Class IV (Non-cultivating owners of land; agricultural rent receivers and their dependents)—Number per 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class IV in each sub-class; Secondary Means of Livelihood of 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class IV	117
IV.6 } Active and Semi-active workers in cultivation	118
IV.7 } Progress of cultivation during three decades	119
IV.8 } Components of cultivated area <i>per capita</i> during three decades	120
IV.9 } Land area <i>per capita</i> (1951); and trend of cultivation <i>per capita</i> during three decades	122
<i>Series V—Non-agricultural Classes</i>	
V.1 } Non-agricultural Classes per 1,000 persons of general population; number in each class and sub-class per 10,000 persons of All Non-Agricultural Classes; and number of employers, employees and independent workers per 10,000 Self-supporting persons of all Non-Agricultural Classes	123
V.1a } Non-Agricultural Classes per 1,000 persons of Rural Population; number in each class and sub-class per 10,000 persons of all Non-Agricultural Classes; and number of employers, employees and independent workers per 10,000 Self-supporting persons of all Non-Agricultural Classes	124
V.1b } Non-Agricultural Classes per 1,000 persons of Urban Population; number in each class and sub-class per 10,000 persons of all Non-Agricultural Classes; and number of employers, employees and independent workers per 10,000 Self-supporting persons of all Non-Agricultural Classes	124
V.2 } Livelihood Class V (Production other than cultivation)—Number per 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class V in each sub-class; Number per 10,000 Self-supporting persons of Livelihood Class V who are employers, employees and independent workers; Secondary means of Livelihood of 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class V	125

CONTENTS

TABLES	<i>Series V—Non-agricultural Classes—concl'd.</i>	PAGE
V.3	Livelihood Class VI (Commerce)—Number per 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class VI in each sub-class; Number per 10,000 Self-supporting persons of Livelihood Class VI who are employers, employees and independent workers; Secondary means of Livelihood of 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class VI	128
V.4	Livelihood Class VII (Transport)—Number per 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class VII in each sub-class; Number per 10,000 self-supporting persons of Livelihood Class VII who are employers, employees and independent workers; Secondary means of Livelihood of 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class VII	131
V.5	Livelihood Class VIII (Other services and miscellaneous sources)—Number per 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class VIII in each sub-class; Number per 10,000 self-supporting persons of Livelihood Class VIII who are employers, employees and independent workers; Secondary means of Livelihood of 10,000 persons of Livelihood Class VIII	134
V.6	Comparison of the Classification of the Population by Livelihood Classes at the 1951 and 1931 Censuses	137
V.7	Territorial Distribution of 10,000 Self-supporting persons of all Industries and Services in the State (by Divisions)	139
V.8	Territorial Distribution of 10,000 Self-supporting persons in the State, engaged in Primary Industries not elsewhere specified (By Sub-divisions)	140
V.9	Territorial Distribution of 10,000 Self-supporting persons in the State, engaged in Mining and Quarrying (By Sub-divisions)	141
V.10	Territorial Distribution of 10,000 Self-supporting persons in the State, engaged in Processing and Manufacture—Foodstuffs, Textiles, Leather and Products thereof (By Sub-divisions)	142
V.11	Territorial Distribution of 10,000 Self-supporting persons in the State, engaged in Processing and Manufacture—Metals, Chemicals and Products thereof (By Sub-divisions)	143
V.12	Territorial Distribution of 10,000 Self-supporting persons in the State, engaged in Processing and Manufacture—not elsewhere specified (By Sub-divisions)	144
V.13	Territorial Distribution of 10,000 Self-supporting persons in the State, engaged in Construction and Utilities (By Sub-divisions)	145
V.14	Territorial Distribution of 10,000 Self-supporting persons in the State, engaged in Commerce (By Sub-divisions)	146
V.15	Territorial Distribution of 10,000 Self-supporting persons in the State, engaged in Transport, Storage and Communications (By Sub-divisions)	147
V.16	Territorial Distribution of 10,000 Self-supporting persons in the State, engaged in Health, Education and Public Administration (By Sub-divisions)	148
V.17	Territorial Distribution of 10,000 Self-supporting persons in the State, engaged in Services not elsewhere specified (By Sub-divisions)	149
<i>Series VI—Families, Sexes and Principal Age Groups</i>		
VI.1	Persons per 1,000 Houses and Houses per 100 square miles and comparison with past Censuses	150
VI.2	Number of Households per 1,000 Houses and Distribution by size of 1,000 Sample Households of Rural and Urban Population	151
VI.3	Family Composition of 1,000 Households of the General Population	152
VI.4	Females per 1,000 males (General, Rural and Urban Population); and comparison with Previous Censuses	152
VI.5	Females per 1,000 males in Agricultural Classes and Sub-classes	153
VI.6	Females per 1,000 males in Non-Agricultural Classes and Sub-classes	154
VI.7	Marital Status of 1,000 persons of each Sex of General Population and comparison with Previous Censuses	155
VI.8	Age distribution of 1,000 married persons of each sex (and comparison with 1941 Census)	156
VI.9	Infants per 10,000 Persons	157
VI.10	Young Children (aged 1-4) per 10,000 persons	157
VI.11	Boys and Girls (aged 5-14) per 10,000 persons	158
VI.12	Young Men and Women (aged 15-34) per 10,000 persons	158
VI.13	Middle Aged Persons (aged 35-54) per 10,000 persons	159
VI.14	Elderly Persons (aged 55 and over) per 10,000 persons	159
<i>Series VII—Literacy and Education</i>		
VII.1	Progress of Literacy	160
VII.2	Literacy Standard of Livelihood Classes	161
VII.3	Educational Services and research	165

BIBLIOGRAPHY

XXIX

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- P. 117. Dacca.
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- P. 127. Dinajpur.
- P. 134. Faridpur.
- P. 147. Howrah.
- P. 150. Hugli.
- P. 159. Jessore.
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- 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 Perron, 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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- Also see, India in the 15th century (Haklyut 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. LXXXVIII. "..... three or four ships that were going with money to Bengala.....".
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