



CENSUS OF INDIA 1951

VOLUME VI

WEST BENGAL & SIKKIM

PART II—TABLES



CENSUS OF INDIA 1951

VOLUME VI

WEST BENGAL, SIKKIM
& CHANDERNAGORE

PART II—TABLES

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**Errata to Census of India, 1951—Vol. VI—West Bengal,
Chandernagore and Sikkim—Part II—Tables**

<i>Page No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Col. No.</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Read</i>
1	2	3	4	5
93	Uluberia—(Town)	22	1,220	1,226
124	West Bengal, Chandernagore & Sikkim (Total)	29	57.29	57.294
169	24—Parganas—(Urban)	6	299	209
237	Chandernagore—(Urban)	10	..	8
335	Age Group 15—24—(Total)	6	53.3	58.3

RAJESHWARI PRASAD,
Deputy Registrar General, India.

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 and an Introduction, and a bibliography. Over 600 pages. Ready by end of March 1953.

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. Published in December 1952.

Part IC—General Report by A. Mitra containing the Subsidiary tables of 1951 and the sixth chapter of the Report and a note on a Fertility Inquiry conducted in 1950. Several Appendices. A report on the natural resources, trades and industries of the State with a bibliography by Chanchal Kumar Chatterjee and Kamal Majumdar. About 450 pages. Ready in May 1953.

Part II—Union and State Census Tables of West Bengal, Sikkim and Chandernagore by A. Mitra (the present volume).

Parts III & IV—Report with Census Tables on Calcutta City and Calcutta Industrial Area by A. Mitra. About 250 pages. Ready in April 1953.

Part V—Administrative Report of the Census Operations of West Bengal, Sikkim, Chandernagore and Calcutta City : Enumeration : by A. Mitra. 96 pages. Published in November 1952.

The Castes and Tribes 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. About 250 pages. Ready in March 1953.

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 250 pages. Ready in June 1953.

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. About 75 pages. Ready in March 1953.

District Handbooks for each West Bengal District by A. Mitra. Each volume contains an Introductory essay, 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 Handbook for Hooghly was published in May 1952, those for Burdwan and Malda are ready for publication. 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.

I CANNOT ACKNOWLEDGE too fully the debt I owe the following gentlemen in the preparation of this Part of the Report :

Sri Khagendranath Mitra, Deputy Superintendent of Census Operations, Calcutta.

Sri P. N. Kaul, Central Tabulation Officer, New Delhi.

Sri Susilchandra Niyogi, Assistant Superintendent of Census Operations, Calcutta.

Sri Binaybhusan Sengupta, my Personal Assistant.

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NOTE

THE CENSUS OF 1951 WAS TAKEN between the 9th February and the 3rd March, 1951 (inclusive). The first twenty days from the 9th February were employed in taking a house to house count of every individual in the State and recording his return on a census slip. The slip was thereafter copied on the National Register of Citizens. The sunrise of the 1st March was the reference date for verification of this enumeration and three days from the 1st to the 3rd March were employed in verifying the record written up to the midnight of the 28th February. Births which were not recorded in the first round were now recorded, deaths which had occurred between the visit on the first round and sunrise of the 1st March were cancelled, and new arrivals between the date of the first round and the reference date were recorded provided it was ascertained that they had not been recorded to their knowledge elsewhere.

Simultaneously the National Register of Citizens containing the record of every individual was copied from the pad of slips. This was designed to act as a check to the work done by the enumerator.

The twentythree-day period of enumeration, devised primarily to lighten the burden of unpaid enumerators, was also calculated to neutralise the considerable volume of short-term migration which is a notable feature of the population of the State.

The following is a list of questions put to every individual in the country :—

- (1) Name and relationship to the head of the household.
- (2) What is your
 - (a) Nationality ?
 - (b) Religion ?
 - (c) Special Group ?
- (3) Are you unmarried, married, widowed or divorced ?
- (4) What is your age on last birthday ?
- (5) Were you born in this district ? If not, in what district and State ? State your father's or husband's name.
- (6) Are you a displaced person from Pakistan ? If so, when did you come to the Indian Union and from which district of Pakistan ?
- (7) What is your mother tongue ?
- (8) What other Indian language do you commonly use ?
- (9) Part I—Are you a selfsupporting person, a non-earning dependant, or an earning dependant ?
Part II—Are you ordinarily
 - (a) An employer ?
 - (b) An employee ?
 - (c) An independent worker ?
- (10) Principal means of livelihood.
- (11) Secondary or subsidiary means of livelihood.
- (12) Can you
 - (a) Read ?
 - (b) Write ?
 - (c) Read and write ?

(Give the highest form reached or examination passed.)
- (13) Do you cultivate land for which you pay rent ? If so,
 - (a) how much do you cultivate yourself and/or through hired labourers ?
 - and (b) how much do you cultivate through bargadars, bhagdars or adhiyars
- (14) Sex (whether male or female).

Answers were to be recorded with the use of contractions in the form of numerals in Q. 1 (relationship); Q. 3 (first letters like UM for unmarried, M for married, O for widowed, and X for divorced); Q. 5 (1 in the case of the person born in the district of enumeration); Q. 7 (1 in the case of a person's mother tongue being Bengali); Q. 9, pt. I (1 for a selfsupporting person, 2 for a non-earning dependant, and 3 for an earning dependant); Q. 9, pt. II (1 for an employer, 2 for an employee, 3 for an independent worker); and Q. 12 (X for 'unable to read or write', 1 for 'able to read only' and 2 for 'able both to read and write').

Fuller tabulation for answers to question 6 was made than has been presented in this volume. The results will be published in a separate volume.

Question 13 was not an all-India question, but devised by the Government of West Bengal. The tabulation of data on this question is available in a separate publication.

NOTE

The following is the facsimile of a Census enumeration slip.

Facsimile of a Census Slip
LOCATION CODE NUMBER OF CENSUS HOUSE

1.	
2a.	
b.	
c.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	

For facility of reference the following brief instructions issued to enumerators are reproduced :

Census Questions with Brief Instructions

(1) *Name and Relationship to head of household.*—After the name write 1 for the head of the household. For near relations, viz., wife, son, daughter, brother, sister, father, mother, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, write actual relationship in full. For other distant relatives like cousins, etc., write 2. For unrelated persons like guests or visitors or friends, or menials or domestic servants living in the household write “ O ”.

(2) *Nationality, Religion and Special Groups.*—Part (a)—*Nationality* : Write “ I ” for all Indian nationals. For others, write nationality in full.

Part (b)—*Religion* : Write “ H ” for a Hindu, “ M ” for a Muslim, “ C ” for a Christian, “ S ” for a Sikh, and “ J ” for a Jain. For others, write fully as actually returned.

Part (c)—*Special Groups* : Write “ A ” for an Anglo-Indian, write “ X ” for any person who says he is not a member of any caste or tribe. Write 1 for any person who is a member of one of the castes mentioned in the list of non-backward castes supplied to you and is printed on page (viii) of this Handbook. In all other cases, write the name of the caste or tribe as returned by the person enumerated.

(3) *Civil Condition.*—Write “ UM ” for unmarried, “ M ” for married, “ O ” for widowed ; if divorced, write “ X ”. Write “ M2 ” for person who was widowed or divorced and has married again.

(4) *Age.*—Write age last birth day ; i.e., the actual number of completed years. Write “ O ” for infants below one year of age.

(5) *Birth Place.*—Write 1 for every person born in your district. For others, write the name of the district, city or name of the country, where he was born according to the answer given. State name of father or husband.

(6) *Displaced Person from Pakistan.*—Apply the definition of a displaced person as given in the detailed instruction. If the person enumerated is not a displaced person, write “ X ” in both compartments. If he is a displaced person, write the date of arrival in India in the first compartment, and the district of origin in Pakistan in the second compartment.

(7) *Mother tongue.*—Write 1 for Bengali. For any other language write the mother tongue fully.

(8) *Bilingualism.*—If a person commonly speaks any Indian language other than his mother tongue, record it. For those who do not commonly speak any Indian language other than their own mother tongue, write “ X ”.

(9) *Economic Status.*—Part I—*Dependency* : Write 1 for a selfsupporting person, 2 for a non-earning dependant, and 3 for an earning dependant. Write the answer in the first compartment.

NOTE

Part II—*Employment* : If a selfsupporting person earns his principal means of livelihood as an employer, write 1 ; as an employee, write 2 ; as an independent worker, write 3. Write " X " in other cases, that is in the case of non-earning dependants and earning dependants, or in the case of those who earn their livelihood neither as an employer nor as an employee nor as an independent worker (e.g., those who live on the income of government promissory notes). Write the answer in the second compartment.

(10) *Principal Means of Livelihood*.—The answer to this question should be recorded on every slip. If the slip relates to a selfsupporting person, record his principal means of livelihood. If the slip relates to a dependant (whether earning or non-earning), record here the principal means of livelihood of the selfsupporting person on whom he is dependent. The means of livelihood which provides the largest income is the principal means of livelihood for a selfsupporting person who has more than one means of livelihood. In the case of other selfsupporting persons, it is the only means of livelihood.

Use the following contractions :

Write 1 for a person who cultivates land owned by him ; 2 for a person who cultivates land owned by another person ; 3 for a person who is employed as a labourer by another person, who cultivates land ; 4 for a person who receives rent in cash or kind in respect of lands which is cultivated by another person.

For all other means of livelihood, write fully and clearly what the person does in order to earn his livelihood and where he does it. Avoid vague and general terms. Do not merely write " service " or " labour ". If you are enumerating a trader, describe the articles in which he trades and state clearly whether he is a wholesale trader or a retail trader. If you are enumerating a factory worker, give the name of the factory in which he works, or the product he makes or helps in making, e.g., in coal mines, a coal digger, in jute/cotton mills, a jute weaver, a cotton weaver or cotton spinner, etc.

(11) *Secondary Means of Livelihood*.—For a selfsupporting person who has more than one means of livelihood, write the means of livelihood next in importance to his principal means of livelihood. For an earning dependant, write also the means of livelihood which provides the earning. Use numerals given in question 10 for the four agricultural classes.

For a selfsupporting person who has only one means of livelihood, write " X " in this question. In the case of non-earning dependant also, write " X " in this question, because only the principal means of livelihood on whom he is dependent needs to be recorded in question 10 in his case.

(12) *Literacy and Education*.—Write " X " for a person who can neither read nor write ; write 1 for a person who can read but cannot write ; write 2 for a person who can both read and write. If a person who can read and write, has also passed any examination in which a written test has to be passed, note the highest examination passed in full, instead of writing 2.

(13) *Cultivation of Land for which Rent is Paid*.—The full question is : Do you cultivate land for which you pay rent ? If so,

(a) How much do you cultivate yourself and/or through hired labourers ? and

(b) How much through bargadars, bhagdars or adhyars ?

Divide this line of question 13 in two compartments by drawing a short vertical line in the middle, e.g., as in question 6 or 9.

Write " X " in both compartments for persons to whom the question does not apply, i.e., who do not cultivate land for which they pay rent. For the person who cultivates all his lands for which he pays rent, himself or through hired labourers and gives none of his lands in " barga " or " bhag ", enter the area of the land in the first compartment and add " X " in the second compartment.

For the person who cultivates some of his land for which he pays rent himself or through hired labourers and gives the rest in " bhag " or " barga " to others, put the different areas in the two compartments.

(14) *Sex*.—Write " M " for a male and " F " for a female. Eunuchs and hermaphrodites should be treated as males.

The definition of a ' Displaced Person ' is as follows : " A ' displaced person ' means any person who has entered India having left or being compelled to leave his or her home in Western Pakistan on or after the 1st March, 1947 or his/her home in Eastern Pakistan on or after the 15th October, 1946 on account of civil disturbances or the fear of such disturbances or on account of the setting up of the two dominions of India and Pakistan ".

It will be seen that Union Tables C.II, C.III, C.IV and C.V have been prepared on a ' Sample population '. The Registrar General for India's instruction for taking the ' Sample ' was as follows :—

" Break each pad (of 100 enumeration slips) and stack the slips of the pad ; and ' cut ' the stack as in a card game. Place the lower portion above the upper portion and then deal the slips into the pigeonholes. You should deal the slips into pigeonholes in the order of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, S, 6, 7, 8 and 9 successively. All the time, you should watch the slips of ' Displaced persons '. If you come across any slip of a Displaced person deal it in the pigeonhole of ' Displaced persons '."

NOTE

Hence it will be seen that the sample is not a sample of the total population but of the latter excluding the 'Displaced population'.

Thus the sample value for each district and administrative Division varied and necessarily differed from that of the State. These values are reproduced below for general convenience and facility of calculation :—

Division and district	Total Population	Sample Population	Percentage of Sample Population to Total Population
WEST BENGAL	24,810,308	2,276,925	9.1773
Burdwan Division	11,102,530	1,084,786	9.7706
Burdwan	2,191,667	209,432	9.5558
Birbhum	1,066,889	105,406	9.8798
Bankura	1,319,259	131,906	9.9985
Midnapur	3,359,022	330,638	9.8433
Hooghly	1,554,320	151,344	9.7370
Howrah	1,611,373	156,060	9.6849
Presidency Division	13,707,778	1,192,139	8.6968
24-Parganas	4,609,309	412,004	8.9385
Calcutta	2,548,677	211,102	8.2828
Nadia	1,144,924	73,294	6.4016
Murshidabad	1,715,759	165,159	9.6260
Malda	937,580	87,834	9.3682
West Dinajpur	720,573	59,818	8.3014
Jalpaiguri	914,538	81,396	8.9002
Darjeeling	445,260	43,058	9.6703
Cooch Behar	671,158	58,474	8.7124
CHANDERNAGORE	49,909	4,373	8.7619
SIKKIM	137,725	13,680	9.9328

The Census of 1951 claims several unique features absent in previous Censuses of India. It will be of interest to mention them very briefly :—

- (i) Quite the most unique, and certainly the most stupendous and valuable, feature of the last Census was the preparation of an account of *every mauza* or residential village in India containing its Jurisdiction List number, its authorised name, its area in acres, the number of its occupied houses, its total population and number of literates divided into males and females, and its population divided into the eight main livelihood classes, four agricultural and four non-agricultural, each further subdivided into males and females. West Bengal gives an account of 39,151 villages. This account is published for each district separately.
- (ii) District Handbooks have been the second unique feature of the last Census. This Handbook series virtually brings the old District Gazetteers up-to-date in both parts : (a) general account and (b) statistics. The latter part is expanded a great deal for each district and contains much more Census and official statistics than were ever before presented.
- (iii) The third unique feature of the last Census was the preparation of a complete National Register of Citizens purporting to contain a full census record of every person counted at the Census of 1951. This was prepared for each village and now forms the basis of the Union's Electoral Rolls.
- (iv) The fourth unique feature of the Census of 1951 was the classification of the entire population according to its economic status into (a) dependency and (b) employment. Under (a) the population was divided into (i) selfsupporting persons, (ii) earning dependants and (iii) non-earning dependants, and under (b) into (i) employers, (ii) employees and (iii) independent workers.
- (v) The fifth new feature of the last Census was the preparation of an account of households and families and their composition (Union Table C.I).
- (vi) The sixth new feature was the tabulation by single year ages of a much larger sample population than in previous Censuses (Union Table C.V).
- (vii) The seventh new feature was that no smoothing formulae were applied to the age returns as furnished by the respondent. The actual ages returned have been shown in groups and single years.