



1951

CENSUS HANDBOOK

SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT

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P R E F A C E

The Government used to compile and publish District Manuals for each district prior to 1905. The manuals became obsolete within a few years of their publication, containing as they did not only matter of a more or less permanent character such as physical characteristics, history, religion and ethnography, but also statistical matters which soon became out of date. The Government decided to replace the District Manuals by another publication known as the District Gazetteer, consisting of two volumes, A and B. The A volume contained descriptive matter and such general figures, as might be necessary to explain the text, and the B volume contained detailed statistics. They also decided that the B volume should be brought out periodically, especially after each decennial census. Between 1905 and 1927 A volumes for thirteen districts were published. In 1927 they were discontinued. B volumes for all the districts were published between 1906 and 1915. They were continued to be published even after the 1931 census. They were not published after the 1941 census.

Village Statistics, containing the results of the census for every village in the State, were first compiled and published in 1872, at the instance of Mr. C. E. Gover, who was then the Census Officer in Madras. His successor, in 1882, considered that this publication led to needless expenditure and trouble in printing the tables villagewar, but the Government decided that the Village Statistics should continue to be published. The practice of issuing Village Statistics at every census was followed subsequently. The Village Statistics merely showed the number of occupied houses and population of each village and town by religions.

The idea of preparing the present volume, viz., the District Census Handbook for each district was put forward by Sri R. A. Gopaldaswami, I.C.S., Registrar-General, India, and ex-officio Census Commissioner of India, as part of a plan intended to secure an effective method of preserving the census records prepared for areas below the District level. He proposed that all the district census tables and census abstracts prepared during the process of sorting and compilation should be bound together in a single manuscript volume, called the District Census Handbook, and suggested to the State Governments that the handbook (with or without the addition of other useful information relating to the district) should be printed and published, at their own cost, in the same manner as the Village Statistics in the past. In accepting this suggestion, the Government of Madras decided to print and publish the more important portion of statistical data relating to the district and to preserve the rest of the records in a manuscript volume for any future use to which they may be put.

2. The statistical data embodied in the District Census Handbook have to be understood from the background of the changes introduced in the 1951 census. The most important and fundamental change introduced in the 1951 census consists in the substitution of an economic classification of the people for the classification based on Religion and Communities

adopted in the past. The people were divided into two broad livelihood categories, the Agricultural and Non-Agricultural. Four agricultural classes and four non-agricultural classes were prescribed as shown below :—

Agricultural Classes—

- I. Cultivators of land, wholly or mainly owned, and their dependants,
- II. Cultivators of land, wholly or mainly unowned, and their dependants.
- III. Cultivating labourers and their dependants.
- IV. Non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent-receivers and their dependants.

Non-Agricultural Classes—

Persons (including their dependants) who derive their principal means of livelihood from—

- V. Production other than cultivation,
- VI. Commerce,
- VII. Transport, and
- VIII. Other services and miscellaneous sources.

Each of the above eight livelihood classes were divided into three sub-classes with reference to their economic status as below :—

- (i) Self-supporting persons,
- (ii) Non-earning dependants, and
- (iii) Earning dependants.

These livelihood sub-classes have been defined in detail in the fly-leaf notes attached to Economic Table B-I included in this Handbook.

All non-earning dependants are economically passive, and all earning dependants are economically semi-active. All self-supporting persons are ordinarily economically active but the classes and groups specified below constitute an exception to this rule :—

- (1) Self-supporting persons of Agricultural Class IV,
- (2) Self-supporting persons of Livelihood Class VIII who derive their principal means of livelihood from any source other than through economic activity, viz.—
 - (a) Non-working owners of non-agricultural property,
 - (b) Pensioners and remittance holders,
 - (c) Persons living on charity and other persons with unproductive occupations,
 and
 - (d) Inmates of penal institutions and asylums.

Economically active persons engaged in cultivation are either cultivators or cultivating labourers. Economic Table B-I gives particulars of the population classified according to the eight livelihood classes and the three sub-classes mentioned above.

Economically active persons engaged in industries and services have been classified with reference to the nature of the commodity produced or service performed. They are further divided into three sections, viz., Employers, Employees and Independent Workers

Economic Table B-III gives particulars of the economically active persons classified under the divisions and subdivisions of industries and services of the Indian Census Economic Classification Scheme.

Table C-I, included in this Handbook covers the population of sample households and Tables C-II and C-IV cover a ten per cent sample population. The method adopted for extracting these samples has been described in detail in the fly-leaf notes attached to the relevant tables.

3. *Scheme of the Census Handbook*.—The Handbook has been divided into two parts; Part I consists of three sections, namely, Section (i) containing the general population tables (A series), the Economic Tables (B series), Summary figures for Taluks (Table E), Tables I, II and III relating to Small-scale Industrial establishments and Table L showing the incidence of leprosy; Section (ii) containing the Rural statistics, and Section (iii) containing the urban statistics, and Part II containing the Household (size) Table C-I, and Tables showing Livelihood classes and literacy by age groups (C-II and C-IV), the Social and Cultural Tables (D series) and an abstract of non-agricultural occupations in the district. Among the tables included in the Handbook, Table A-IV—Towns classified by population with variations since 1901, Economic Table B-II—Secondary means of livelihood under each livelihood class and Table C-II—Livelihood classes by age groups furnish information at the district level. The other population tables in the A-series, the summary figures for Taluks (Table E) and the infirmity Table L showing the incidence of leprosy furnish information for each taluk in the district with a district total. The rural statistics in Part I—Section (ii) furnish basic information in respect of every village and panchayat arranged according to census tracts. In addition to the total population of the villages, and its distribution among the eight livelihood classes, information regarding the number of literates, the cultivated area, the number of small-scale industrial establishments under categories, textile and non-textile and the number of leprosy cases and doubtful cases has been included.

The urban statistics in Part I Section (iii) furnish similar information except that relating to cultivated area in respect of every unit classified as city or census town in the district with ward-wise data.

All other tables included in the Handbook provide information for units called census tracts with totals for the district.

4. *Census Tracts*.—A distinctive feature of the census statistics is its rural urban break-up designed with a view to compare the conditions and characteristics of the rural and urban population. The rural areas of each district were therefore kept distinct from the urban areas. For facilitating tabulation these areas were divided into a number of rural and urban tracts. As far as possible, the rural area in each taluk was constituted into a single rural tract. In a few cases however where the taluks were small in size with reference to their population, the rural areas of more than one taluk were taken together as a single rural tract. The urban tracts have been formed out of areas declared as cities and census towns in each district. Every city was treated as a separate tract. Towns other than cities were grouped together to form non-city urban tracts. Wherever possible, the towns in each taluk were constituted into a single non-city urban tract. In cases where the towns in a taluk had a population of less than 50,000 the towns in more than one taluk were grouped

together to form a non-city urban tract. All the rural tracts in the State have been assigned numbers in one series, the non-city urban tracts in another series and the city tracts in a third series. In all the tables where the data have been furnished for tracts, the tracts have been denoted by numbers that have been assigned to them. A list of tracts into which the district has been divided and the areas comprised in each is furnished in the fly-leaf note to economic Table B-I relating to the district.

The districts, taluks and villages mentioned in the Tables and Abstracts have been shown along with the census location code numbers assigned to them for purposes of census operations.

The numbers given to the Tables in this publication correspond to those given in the State Census Report.

Elaborate notes explaining the scheme of each Table have been introduced in the fly-leaf attached to each with a view to enable the reader to get a precise idea of the data furnished in the Table.

5. *Tables relating to Small-scale Industries.*—In the year 1950 a census of Small-scale Industries was instituted under the orders of the Government. The object was to get some idea about small industries such as cottage and home industries, small establishments, workshops, etc., where articles were produced, repaired or otherwise treated for sale, use or disposal and small mines. The enquiry was confined to establishments to which the Factories Act was not applicable. Individuals who worked on their own and did not employ other people were left out of account. From the data collected three Tables were prepared and they have been included in the Handbook. Information giving village-wise and ward-wise information for Small-scale Industries have been incorporated in the rural and urban statistics. The details collected and embodied in the Tables are not to be considered accurate or exhaustive, as the enumeration staff employed had not been trained for the purpose and some cases of under enumeration were noticed. However, the figures given in the Tables may be sufficient to give an insight into the nature of the industries prevalent in the different parts of the district.

6. Opportunity has been taken to put in a short introductory note detailing the salient points connected with the district, such as the physical features, climate, rainfall, irrigation and drainage facilities, roads and other communications, crop statistics, education, industries and other matters of general interest. The information contained in the introductory note is based on the materials furnished by Collectors of districts and Departments of Government. The District Gazetteer was also freely referred to. The relevant paragraph of the 1951 Census Report discussing the growth of population in the district has also been incorporated in the proper place.

A district map showing taluk boundaries, physical features, important roads and places with a population exceeding 5,000 is also attached.

It is hoped that this Handbook will serve as a book of reference on matters relating to the district and that it will be found useful both by Departments of Government and the public.

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