



CENSUS OF INDIA 1951

VOLUME X

RAJASTHAN AND AJMER

PART I-A

REPORT



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PART I A

REPORT

By

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INTRODUCTION

1. This Report pertains to the eighth census held in the States of Rajasthan and Ajmer, simultaneously with the rest of India, in February and March 1951 with reference to the central point of time the sunrise of March 1, 1951.

2. Census has been known to us for the last several decades and was also not unknown to our ancestors for the last several centuries. We find accounts of that institution in books as old as the times of the Mughal Emperors and even the reign of Vikramaditya and Ashok. But its exact concept has not been uniform throughout the above period.

3. For the Census of 1951, it can correctly be said that it is not only the counting of heads, as some are inclined to think, nor is it a muster roll of all the inhabitants present in a particular locality at a particular point of time, as others believe it to be. It is, so to say, an attempt to take an exact photo of every aspect of the Nation's life so far as it can be done by the enumerators, by extracting replies from a vast majority of illiterate, and uninterested citizens and villagers, to the questionnaire drafted scientifically and prescribed by the Central Government. Within the focus of the cameras of these photographers came all those persons who were normal residents of the area concerned, irrespective of their presence or absence at the actual time of taking the photo. By normal residents we mean people who had actually lived in the locality concerned any time during the Census period (February 9, 1951 to sunrise of March 1, 1951). A snap-shot of houseless persons and tourists etc. who remained moving about throughout the above period was taken on March 1, at the places where they had slept on the previous night.

4. There are two ways of referring to the population of an area, one depending upon the actual location of the persons and the other upon their normal residence. The former is known as the present-in-area or "de facto" population, according to which people are counted at the place at which they are found on the date of the census, regardless of their usual residence. The latter is called the resident or "de jure" population in which people are assigned to their usual residence on the date of the census.

5. Upto the year 1931, the census of the population was taken on a purely *de facto* basis, which aimed at obtaining a photographic impression of the population as it stood, distributed all over the State on the census night. Although for purposes of international comparability, the *de facto* system of enumeration is recommended, it had to be modified to a certain extent to make the enumeration present a more 'normal' picture of the population i.e., to show it according to "place of usual residence". The 1941 procedure contemplated that every person was to be enumerated at his usual residence subject to a criterion for the enumeration of casual visitors and absentees. The criterion adopted for the enumeration of a person at a place other than his usual residence was the period of absence exceeding one month on the 1st of March from that residence. The simultaneous counting was confined to only the floating population consisting of beggars, vagrants, foreign tourists, etc. The actual count in 1941 was with reference to the central date, 1st March, but the work commenced from 22nd February in most of the places and even earlier in some places, according to the volume of the work with the enumerator and the condition of the area dealt with by him.

6. In 1951, the modified '*de facto*' system was based on a prescribed enumeration period of twenty days before the reference point of time, namely, the sunrise of 1st March 1951, followed by three days of final check-up of births and deaths and visitors, who might not have been enumerated at their normal places of residence, if they stayed there at any time during the enumeration period. They were to be enumerated elsewhere only if they were away from their normal places of residence throughout the period and also if they were houseless persons.)

7. Captain A.W.T. Webb, my predecessor, had rightly prophesied in his Administration Report of 1941 that "Ere he (his successor) enters upon that office, there will have been, it is certain, many political changes in India. Problems of 1951 Census. The Census, however, will probably not be seriously affected by them". His words came out to be literally true. (The most prominent of these changes were, (1) the Independence of India, (2) the transfer of administrative powers of the States from the rulers to the people, (3) the formation of the Indian Union, (4) the partition of the country and the consequent exchange of population, (5) the merger of former States of Rajputana to form a consolidated Rajasthan State, (6) the re-organisation of administrative units, that is to say, the demarcation of divisions, districts, sub-divisions and tehsils, whereby the territories of the former States were redistributed on the basis of geographical and other considerations, irrespective of the boundaries of former States and (7) the abolition of revenue and administrative powers of the Thikanas (Jagirs).) These changes created special administrative problems for me and increased the complicity and volume of my work. For the success of the operations, I had to rely upon the District Collectors, who had their own various burdensome and intricate problems to deal with, *e.g.* the famine, the procurement of grain, the locusts, the displaced persons, the election, the integration of services, and the general re-organisation of their districts on modern lines, which left to them very little time for census affairs. But I must confess, that inspite of all these handicaps, the District Officers played their part very enthusiastically in making the operation a success.

8. The question how far the enumeration is accurate is always at the tip of the tongue of every layman as well as people interested in demographical studies. Accuracy of Census Returns. The answer, so far as the correctness of the entries made in the census schedules is concerned, will be given in the course of the chapters which follow. Here it is only necessary to estimate how far it is complete. A synchronous census—that is to say, a simultaneous counting of all the people could only be absolutely complete if a universal parade were ordered and enforced for the purpose—the method probably followed by David and other early Census Superintendents. It cannot obviate omissions and double enumeration when every one is left free to go his own way and to follow his pursuits, and has to be run to ground by the enumerator wherever he may be and whatever he may be doing. (Such chances were reduced to a minimum by adopting the system of counting everybody at his normal place of residence irrespective of his presence at the time when the enumerator visits his residence.) (I believe that the present enumeration has been as complete as it is humanly possible to make it, because with the mass of previous experience which is now at his disposal and with an enumerating staff of which a large part is already familiar with the process of census taking, a Census Superintendent finds the method of overcoming old difficulties already tested and approved, and has plenty of time to deal with new difficulties as they arise. Moreover the system of checking and supervision has been perfected in previous censuses, and makes it hard for any one to escape the census net. The citizens are also beginning to realise the utility of census and are keener now than before to see that their names find place in the National Register. Human weakness, no doubt, has always existed and does exist everywhere. This consideration makes our results absolutely reliable for all practical purposes and for all comparative purposes. It will be hiding the truth if I do not mention here that from the time when the enumerator fills in the slips or National Register of Citizens, upto the presentation of figures in the form of published reports, various operations have to be undergone with the figures. These operations are performed by workers, whose number comes to thousands in a State, all of whom do not possess the same degree of intelligence, ability and sense of integrity. Mistakes on this account are but natural; but their dimension is so inconsiderable that it does not vitiate the utility of the figures for purposes for which they are meant.)

9. (It would be very satisfying, if some means could be contrived to procure absolutely correct figures, but since this is impossible, the utmost that can be done is to subject the returns to analysis and to investigate the probabilities of the case. In any such examination the greatest

assistance is forthcoming from the figures of previous census returns and from the fact that in Census Operations; given the application of similar methods, the percentage of error is likely to be a constant factor. It is the presence of this latter feature that permits of the safe employment of census figures as a measuring rod, whereby the growth of a people can be ascertained and the progress made in varying directions calculated. A census aims, as observed above, not only (1) at the counting of people and (2) at its classification into its component parts, but also (3) at the collection of statistics relating to the social conduct and the principal activities of the people. Speaking generally the highest percentage of accuracy is obtained in regard to point (1), above, and Rajasthan is no exception. In fact so far as the Census of 1951, in Rajasthan and Ajmer, is concerned it can be stated without hesitation that the numbers recorded represent an approach to absolute accuracy not inferior to the degree of exactitude previously attained.}

10. {To make assurance doubly sure, an attempt was made for the first time in the present census under instructions from the Registrar General, India, to test the accuracy of census returns by a thoroughly honest and independent agency, namely the Magistrates, on sample basis. The verification reports received from them disclose that the net result in Rajasthan is an under-enumeration of 78,364 persons in the whole of Rajasthan and 7,123 persons in Ajmer State a very negligible proportion indeed. }

11. Another attempt to scrutinize the transcribing errors was made by comparing the National Register of Citizens with the Primary Census Abstracts which were prepared by sorting the slips, to find out the extent of discrepancies between the slips and the National Register of Citizens. The report of the scrutiny has disclosed that in Rajasthan as a whole the difference is +0.035 per cent. and in Ajmer State —0.1 per cent. *i.e.* to say in Rajasthan three out of ten thousand persons escaped entry in the National Register, although their slips were prepared, while in Ajmer, one person out of a thousand escaped entries in the slips although they were entered in the National Register of Citizens. Fresh slips were, therefore, prepared in the Tabulation Office from the National Register of Citizens. They have been included in all tables prepared by sorting the slips. This is also not intolerable.

12. The only obstacle in the way of comparing the 1951 Census figures, with those of the past censuses published in previous reports, is the change in the formation of units during the inter census period. The past Census Reports supply figures for the individual States of Rajputana and Ajmer Merwara separately as they were composed then, and also details for each of the then existing States. In the present census, the formation of present Rajasthan is different from old Rajputana and the unit of abstraction is the district instead of the State. Therefore, a comparison is possible only in cases of such of the present districts which consist of a complete State or States of the past census *e.g.* Dungarpur, Banswara and Jaisalmer, or (such of the Natural Divisions as are composed of one or more complete former States. Districts which include parts of several former States do not permit such comparability. But figures pertaining to past censuses wherever published in any of the tables have been adjusted according to the Unit as composed on 1-3-1951. The figures of Ajmer State are no doubt comparable.)

13. The following publications have been compiled for Rajasthan and Ajmer:—
The Reports.

1. Report Part I-A Narrative (combined for Rajasthan and Ajmer).
2. Report Part I-B Subsidiary Tables and Index of Non-agricultural Occupations.
3. Report Part I-C Appendices.
4. Report Part II-A General Population Tables, Household and Age sample Tables, Social and Cultural Tables, Summary Table and Infirmity Table.

5. Report Part II-B Economic Tables.

6. District Census Hand- One for each district in Rajasthan and one for Ajmer State, books. containing District Tables, Primary Census Abstracts, and District Index of Non-agricultural Occupation, etc.

14. These States are a portion of India where the rains usually come late, and the rainfall varies from moderately good to scanty and deficient. There are, therefore, considerable contrasts as regards demography within the area now under consideration. Population density will be found usually to depend largely on the amount of timely rain that falls during the south-west monsoon. Unfortunately rainfall and other climatic statistics for the State are very inadequate and it is impossible, in consequence, to correlate in any satisfactory way the census statistics with climatic records. (Vital statistics similar to those prevailing in the adjoining parts of India have not been maintained in this State; there is, therefore, no means of knowing the natural increase in population over the last decade or any previous decade.) Until such statistics are maintained it will be impossible to compare the census population with the natural population or to use the census statistics relating to age, sex and civil condition for the purpose for which they are intended. (The study of the supreme problem of population and sustenance depends upon the statistics relating to land per capita, trend of cultivation per capita, the area under food crops and the yield during the past decades, as also figures of cultivable land, fallow land, land under forests and size and number of holdings. And it is here that we find this State the most lacking in statistics because ere now this portion consisted of a large number of States of every size composed partly of Khalsa and partly of Jagir areas where there was no system of keeping any kind of record. Similarly figures of exports, imports, wages and prices all of which have a close relation with the demographic conditions and which are essential for a proper study of the population problem are conspicuous by their absence.)

15. In the absence of such data the Census Reports relating to this State cannot be so informative as those relating to other parts of India where adequate statistics are maintained. (After the formation of the present Rajasthan, the Government has realized the necessity of such data and it is expected that active steps will be taken for their regular collection and compilation and it is to be hoped that before another Census occurs some improvement in this important branch of public information will have been made so that adequate comparison may be possible between the State and other parts of India.)

16. The object which I have kept continually before me in writing the report has been to confine attention to the statistics and to limit comment to what is necessary to explain the facts revealed by them and what may be reasonably held to be conclusions deducible from them. I have throughout resisted all temptations to use the Census Report for the purpose of general discussion on demographic, ethnological and sociological questions, except where it was absolutely necessary for a proper understanding of the census figures or for furnishing their background. (I have striven throughout to emphasize the correct way in which the census statistics should be used and the many pitfalls which exist if the census statistics are employed uncritically and unscientifically.) All readers of this report are, therefore, requested that the best way to study the results of the 1951 Census is first to read the report and then to study the figures in the State Tables and Subsidiary Tables. These tables have all been compiled with great trouble and difficulty to serve very specific purposes. These purposes cannot be fulfilled unless the report is studied with the statistics in the volumes of tables, and unless difficulties in the tables are checked against the commentary in the report. Special attention has been given to an elucidation of the occupational and economic statistics, which are the most voluminous of all the census figures and which are all the more important for a proper understanding of the economy of our country; and an attempt has been made in the report to bring out in a practical way the salient features which the figures reveal. The volumes

of Census Report have been provided with tables of contents to enable readers to trace without difficulty the numerous subjects treated in the discussion or in the statistical tables. A table of contents is of course not so satisfactory as a subject index. But it will be readily understood that a Census Office has continually to work at high pressure and is always fighting against time. The preparation of adequate indices to volumes of the size and complexity of the Census Report would be a task beyond the capacity of the small census staff. This is the only reason why indices have not been provided.

17. It is also well to state, in view of misapprehensions which have arisen on similar occasions in the past, and may arise again, that the statements made and conclusions drawn in this report are wholly the responsibility of the author alone in his personal capacity and do not necessarily represent the views of Government. It should also be emphasized at the beginning that the writer is a layman and not an expert statistician, and that he only claims for his conclusions the value which this remark implies. The reader (if any) may well ask "Since you are no expert, why attempt to draw any conclusions at all?" My excuse can only be—if I do not content myself with setting up precedent as a defence—that the qualified statisticians who pounce upon all census matter will find it easier to attack a propounded thesis than to deal merely with the uninterpreted figures.

18. But in spite of the above defects, I have some confidence that the remarks of Shri S.V. Mukerjee my colleague in Baroda in the 1941 Census will not apply to this Report, because the subject is now attracting the attention of the scholars as well as the administrators and the politicians, everywhere. He has observed that "My experience has been that a Census Report, although intended for the general benefit of students and officers, is rarely read. Officers and publicists like to get a complimentary copy for it is the thing to do so, look at its opening pages and then relegate it to their shelves, resorting to it most occasionally as an inducement to sleep, when all the "drowsy syrups" of the doctors have failed. What destiny is reserved for these humble pages, their author will be the last person to know".

19. Before closing the introduction I find it incumbent on me to express my keen sense of gratitude first of all, as it is fit, to the people of Rajasthan themselves whose good sense, good citizenship and general co-operation made the taking of the census possible; but most of all perhaps to that great body of some thirty thousand unpaid enumerators by whom the census was actually taken and without whom it could not have been taken, many of whom were out of pocket by the taking, and many of whom carried out their work under circumstances of opposition, interference and general unpopularity, some of whom had to stay away from their homes for days or even weeks crossing the desert on foot, and carrying all their equipment including drinking water on their backs. The greatest credit is due to them.

20. Acknowledgments are due likewise to the other links in the chain of census organisation. Supervisors, Inspectors, Charge Superintendents, Sub-Divisional Census Officers, District Census Officers and Divisional Commissioners, are all parts of the Census machinery and no whit less essential than the enumerator, and in their case the census came as an extra piece of gratuitous and troublesome overtime work, added to their usual duties, in many places already onerous and trying above the ordinary.

21. My warmest thanks are due to all Heads of Departments including Military and Railway Census Officers of the Rajasthan and Ajmer Governments, but for whose prompt and personal co-operation in the matter of sparing their staff for census work at my request even to the detriment of their own office work, this census would have been an impossibility; specially the Director of Education whose quota was the greatest and who was kind enough to close primary schools for the census period to enable the teachers to attend to census work. The Rajasthan and Ajmer Governments realised the whole responsibility; and their Secretaries specially

Shri Adige and Shri Surendra Singh took so keen an interest in the work that whenever I went to discuss my difficulties, they put aside all their table work and attended to my problems.

22. I should not forget my own office staff including Deputy Census Superintendents and the Assistant Census Superintendent, who worked day and night in the cause of this Department; not because they were paid for it; but because they thought it their duty to render this bit of service to the Nation. In fact they realised that just as employees of other departments were helping the census cause in the over time, so should they do in addition to what they were paid for, and they realised the truth of the motto of Socrates "The Proper Study of Mankind is Man." For the success of the operation in Ajmer, the credit goes solely to Shri D.D. Upadhyaya, Additional Assistant Commissioner and Ex-Officio Census Officer, State of Ajmer. Shri D. Natarajan, Assistant Census Commissioner and Shri P.N. Kaul, Central Tabulation Officer of the Office of the Registrar General, India, spared no pains in scrutinising my drafts and statistical tables and correcting them and in giving valuable instructions, without which the Report could not have been what it is. They, therefore, deserve my most cordial gratitude.

23. Shri R.A. Gopaldaswami the fountain head of all energy and enthusiasm in census work who infused life and spirit in the machinery by his untiring zeal, clear perception and vivid elucidation of all details and prompt action in solving our problems, is the one personality to whom the success of these operations is attributable and my pen is finding it beyond its power to transcribe in words the real feeling of gratitude which my heart alone is experiencing.

UDAIPUR,
March, 1953.

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