

**GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS**

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**SECOND REPORT  
ON THE POONA SCHEDULES OF  
THE NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY  
(1950-51)**

**By**

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## FOREWORD

The foreword to Publication No. 26 *Report on the Poona Schedules of the National Sample Survey* contains the following paragraph :

"The canvass of the Poona Schedules was based on a programme of four periodic visits to the selected households. The sudden discontinuance of the Poona Schedules after the first visit, therefore, detracts much from the value of the results, at least on items liable to considerable seasonal variation. For that reason we have not undertaken, in the present Report, any examination and analysis of the material presented. Another reason for not attempting an analysis of the data was the character of the survey. The National Sample Survey has been termed multi-purpose and it has no specific purpose beyond that of collection and presentation of data. Therefore, it was thought proper merely to present the data with full details of procedures regarding their collection and tabulation but without comment or interpretation which would necessarily involve addressing oneself to specific questions and adopting particular points of view. We also feel that before any useful analysis is attempted, a careful scrutiny and assessment of the material is necessary. This is now being undertaken and it is hoped to publish the results in a subsequent publication".

This publication embodies the results of the analysis of the material which was in hand at the time of the previous publication. The data collected with the help of the Poona Schedules during 1950-51 have been presented in it in significant groupings and with appropriate breakdowns. The data are presented as portraying, within certain limits, some broad features of the Indian economy, at the time the survey was undertaken. They relate in particular to certain elements which might be termed structural elements of the economy such as population composition, occupational structure, land utilization, volume of livestock and capital equipment such as implements and machinery. They also give details relating to transactions or operations during the year which may either represent comparatively stable features of the economy or may be closely related to characteristics of the annual season. Such are the data relating to employment, to livestock business, the commodity and other transactions recorded for part of the year covered by the period of the survey. The chief use of the publication is expected to be provision of classified data with a fairly wide coverage relating to some of the main structural characteristics of the economy of the country. There is a discussion at the end of the publication of the margin of error involved in various estimates that might be based on these N.S.S. data. It is clear from this discussion that even the estimates pertaining to large regions are in most directions liable to a margin of error that would seriously limit their use. This, however, is a

matter which relates to the design of the sample survey and the objectives at which it aims. Within the limitations imposed, the exposition in the publication is directed towards setting out the data in various directions and briefly indicating the main features which emerge on their examination.

We are grateful to Government for permitting us to bring out this publication. The present report is being published in the form it was submitted to Government of India. The views contained in the report are not necessarily those of the Government of India.

30th November 1954.

Gokhale Institute of Politics and  
Economics, Poona 4.

D. R. GADGIL.

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