



ESTIMATED POPULATION BY CASTES 1951

5. ASSAM

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CONTENTS

	PAGES
1. INTRODUCTION	I
2. Table I.—Population of Scheduled Castes	2—3
3. Table II.—Population of Scheduled Tribes	4—6
4. Table III.—Population of Backward Classes	
(i) Hindus	7—10
(ii) Muslims	
5. Table IV.—Population of Other Castes	
(i) Hindus	11—17
(ii) Muslims	
6. <i>Appendix</i> —Extracts from the previous Census Reports	18—24

INTRODUCTION

In pursuance of Government policy there was limited enumeration and tabulation of castes in 1951 census. Even in the case of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, the figures of each caste were not separately extracted; only the group totals were ascertained. The Backward Classes Commission require the figures of population of each individual caste. In order to assist them an estimate of population of each caste in 1951 has been made on the basis of the figures of the previous censuses.

2. In the case of Assam, however, the figures of population of individual castes in 1951 were separately sorted for Scheduled Tribes at the initiative of the State Government. These figures are reproduced in the tables included in this brochure.

3. The figures have been presented in four tables :-
(i) Scheduled Castes, Hindus only; (ii) Scheduled Tribes; (iii) Backward Classes (iv) Other Castes, Hindus and Muslims separately. The figures of Scheduled Tribes are reproduced from the figures of 1951 census as explained in paragraph 2 above. In the other tables the figures for 1951 have been estimated on the basis of the figures of previous censuses by applying the growth rate of the general population. Some minor adjustments have been made in the estimated figures of Scheduled Castes in order to make the total tally with the 1951 census total of this group.

4. No castewise figures are available for 1941 census. The tables of 1941 census give figures for only a few selected castes and these also for a few selected districts.

5. Extracts from previous census Reports explaining the causes for variations in the figures of individual castes have been given in an Appendix.

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Table 1 - Scheduled Castes

The figures given in this table relate to the territory of Assam as in 1951.

2. The table presents the figures of 15 Castes as specified in the President's Order, 1950. The population of each caste given in this table refers only to the population of Hindus.

3. Column 5 of the table gives the estimated population in 1951. This has been determined by applying the percentage increase of the general population of the State to the latest available Census figures of each Caste. The total of the estimated population in 1951 of these Castes shows a small decrease over the 1951 Census total of Scheduled Castes. The **estimated** population of each Caste has been adjusted in order to make the total tally with the enumerated total population of 1951.

TABLE I - POPULATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES (NOTIFIED UNDER PRESIDENT'S ORDER, 1950) IN THE CENSUSES OF 1911-1931 AND ESTIMATED POPULATION IN 1951.

A S S A M

Name of Caste	Population in			Estimated	M.E.A. R.S.
	1911	1921	1931	1951	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Bansphor	...	...	...	...
2. Dhunmali or Mali	9,012	10,499	11,002	19,836	
3. Brittial-Bania or Pania.	9,084	...	14,348	25,872	
4. Dhupi or Dhobi	10,708	11,355	10,295	18,535	
5. Dugla or Dholi	109	290	23	42	
6. Hira	16,351	14,646	16,628	29,983	
7. Jhalo or Malo	4,026	4,929	1,722	3,106	
8. Jai bartta or Jaliya	24,309	81,667	118,839	214,386	
9. Kalbegi	427	...	...	1,089	
10. Mahara	14	...	36	65	
11. Mchtar or Bhangi	449	...	1,876	3,383	
12. Muchi	9,072	13,979	4,079	7,355	
13. Manasudra	34,216	40,057	46,605	84,148	
14. Patni	39,801	1,362	8,930	16,103	
15. Sutradhar	2,792	7,785	62	111	

Notes:-

..*. Figures are not available.

The total estimated population of Scheduled Castes in 1951 according to the above table came to 335,219 while the enumerated population of the Scheduled Castes in 1951 is 424,044. The estimated population of each Caste has been adjusted in order to make the total population tally with the enumerated total population of 1951.



TABLE II.

SCHEDULED TRIBES.

The table presents figures of 28 Tribes
(as specified in the President's Order, 1950)
determined at the 1951 census.

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TABLE II : POPULATION OF SCHEDULED TRIBES
(NOTIFIED UNDER PRESIDENT'S ORDER, 1950)
IN THE CENSUSES OF 1911 - 1931 and 1951,

ASSAM

Name of Caste	Population in				Remarks.
	1911	1921	1931	1951	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Abor	856	11,928	14,042	341	
2. Aka	36	11	38	154	
3. Apatani	*	*	*	*	
4. Boro-Borok- achari	*	*	*	190,065	
5. Dafla	989	964	1,600	1,082	
6. Deori	*	*	*	12,503	
7. Dimasa (Kachari)	*	*	*	8,207	
8. Galong	*	*	*	44	
9. Garo	144,034	160,909	193,473	234,799	
10. Hajong	6,745	6,780	6,624	10,809	
11. Hojai	*	*	*	14	
12. Khasi & Jaintia	117,633	121,950	169,776	252,312	
13. Khampti	1,868	2,953	3,672	1,760	
14. Kachari	229,694	207,038	342,297	271,524	
15. Kuki Tribes	12,258	10,658	13,344	7,428	
16. Lakher	3,647	*	6,105	8,878	
17. Lalung	39,212	41,033	43,448	52,332	
18. Lushai(Mizo) Tribes	80,249	61,086	114,158	157,319	
19. Mech	94,596	80,508	9,216	474	
20. Mikir	104,949	111,325	129,797	152,537	
21. Miri	57,792	68,724	85,038	115,316	
22. Mishmi	271	822	2,234	75	

	1	2	3	4	5	6
23. Momba	*	*	*			49
24. Naga Tribes	153,618	154,731	187,490			164,130
25. Rabha	79,017	70,479	69,154			88,748
26. Singpho	454	1,626	2,908			141
27. Synteng	42,130	32,905	60,573			29,415
28. Sherdukpen	*	*	*			*

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Note :-

* Figures are not available.

∟the The total population of Scheduled Tribes in 1951 according to above table came to 1,760,456 while the group total of Scheduled Tribes in 1951 census is 1,735,245. The difference is due to the fact that certain castes going by the same name in Non-Scheduled areas have also been counted with the figures of Scheduled areas.

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Table III - Backward Classes

1. This table presents figures for 23 Castes which comprise the list of 'Backward Classes' prepared by the State Government. Out of these 23 Castes 21 are included under Hindus and 2 under Muslims.
2. The table has been presented in two parts - (i) Hindus (ii) Muslims.
3. The estimates of 1951 population in this table have been made in the same manner as in table 1. The total of the estimated population in 1951 of Backward Classes shows an excess over the 1951 Census total of Backward Classes. On account of wide variation in the two totals no attempt has been made to adjust the estimated figures.

TABLE III - POPULATION OF BACKWARD CLASSES IN THE
 * / OF CENSUSES 1911-1931 AND ESTIMATED POPULATION IN 1951 -
 (i) HINDUS

A. S. S. A. H.

S. No.	Name of the Caste	Population in			Estimated population,	Remarks
		1911	1921	1931	1951	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ahom	197,444	215,834	249,434	355,568	
2.	Baria (Bari)	51	...	...	103	
3.	Baroi (Barui)	2,835	1,680	...	2,853	
4.	Boz	...	...	...	...
5.	Chandra vaidya	...	...	...	...
6.	Chutiya	88,198	95,396	...	162,269	
7.	Ganok (In Cachar only)	15,865	9,409	...	16,005	
8.	Kumar (Kumhar)	15,752	20,078	...	34,153	
9.	Kupadhar	...	...	...	...
10.	Mahisya Das	...	38,361	...	65,762	
11.	Manipuri	...	...	46,929	66,897	
12.	Moran and Matakas	10,647	...	...	21,479	
13.	Nepali	26,154	...	...	52,763	
	(i) Thapa	31	...	...	...
	(ii) Gurung	2,081	...	4,381	...	
	(iii) Lama	40	...	...	...
	(iv) Magar	6,347	...	10,042	...	
	(v) Newar	1,742	...	...	...
	(vi) Bohar	10,639	12,564	...	...
	(vii) Damai	1,267	...	...	...
	(viii) Gaine	13	...	...	...
	(ix) Rai	32	...	5,307	...	
	(x) Chetri	...	...	36,834	...	
	(xi) Limbu	2,552	...	4,964	...	
	Others	1,810	...	54,460	...	
14.	Rajbanshi	133,037	91,337	...	155,398	
15.	Saloi	9,334	9,905	...	16,843	
16.	Sundra Das or Dey	2,304	3,746	...	6,372	
17.	Sut	...	21,393	...	36,389	
18.	Tanripal	...	...	...	...
19.	Tea Garden Tribes	311,714	411,335	1,110,808	1,533,457	

Table III - Contd.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
(i) Gonds		54,367	50,906	...		
(ii) Mundas		116,682	149,851	...		
(iii) Khons		753	...	...
(iv) Oraons		26,751	39,739	...		
(v) Santhals		54,253	78,786	...		
(vi) Sevaras		3,066	...	...
(vii) Pans		55,842	92,353	...		
20. Teli		10,396	13,020	14,149	20,169	
21. Yogi (Math) in Cachar only.		...	91,244	12,898	18,336	

Notes:-

... * Figures are not available.

The total estimated population of Backward Classes (Hindus & Muslims both) in 1951 according to the above table came to 2,614,999 while the enumerated population of the Backward Classes is 1,884,234. As there is wide variation between the two totals no attempt has been made to adjust the figures.

TABLE III - POPULATION OF DOWNWARD CLASSES IN THE CENSUSES OF 1911-1931 AND ESTIMATED POPULATION IN 1951 - (ii) MUSLIMS.

A_S_S_A_M

S. No.	Name of the Caste	Population in			Estimated population 1951	Remarks
		1911	1921	1931		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Manipuri	61	...	...	123	
2.	Kumhar	...	...	...	...

Note :-

... Figures are not available.

Please see note on page 9

Table IV - Other Castes

1. This table presents figures of 158 Castes. The list has been prepared with reference to the Castes given in 1911, 1921, and 1931 Censuses after eliminating the Castes given in Tables I, II and III. Out of these 158 Castes 129 are included under Hindus and 29 under Muslims.
2. The table has been presented in two parts - (i) Hindus (ii) Muslims.
3. The estimates of 1951 population in this table have been made in the same manner as in Table I. The total of the estimated population in 1951 of these Castes shows an excess over the 1951 Census total of these Castes. As there is wide variation in two totals, no attempt has been made to adjust the estimated figures.

TABLE IV - POPULATION OF OTHER CASTES IN THE CENSUSES OF 1911-1931 and ESTIMATED POPULATION IN 1951 - (1) HINDUS.

A_S_S_A_M.

S. No.	Name of the Caste	Population in			Estimate population 1951	M. L. S.
		1	2	3			4	5	6
1.	Kurwala	5,023	...	...	10,265	
2.	Kur (Goala Yadava Gopi)	34,978	41,249	37,386	53,294	
3.	Asur	378	...	...	763	
4.	Bagdi	6,801	6,269	...	10,664	
5.	Baidya	1,851	2,307	...	4,775	
6.	Baibhna (Bairagi)	3,630	3,413	...	5,314	
7.	Baiti (Chunari)	33	...	...	67	
8.	Banhi	706	...	...	1,424	
9.	Bauri	35,372	36,702	...	62,430	
10.	Bodiy	1,676	...	...	3,381	
11.	Behara	104	...	...	210	
12.	Beldar	255	...	...	535	
13.	Besya	95	...	...	192	
14.	Bhar	4,800	3,823	...	6,503	
15.	Bhat	180	...	...	363	
16.	Bhil	615	...	...	1,241	
17.	Bhogta	9,782	7,089	...	12,058	
18.	Bhuiya	59,006	49,020	...	83,383	
19.	Bhumij	34,638	42,330	...	72,003	
20.	Bind	1,395	...	...	2,814	
21.	Binjhia	259	...	...	1,733	
22.	Boria	21,499	1,379	...	2,346	
23.	Brahman	79,129	101,837	...	173,276	
24.	Chamar	31,506	30,413	...	51,733	
25.	Chasa	3,731	...	...	7,628	
26.	Chero	1,165	...	...	2,360	
27.	Dargi	447	...	...	902	

TABLE IV -
Contd. from p.12/

	1	2	3	4	5	6
28. Dhanuk		453	...	...		914
29. Dhimar		275	...	...		555
30. Dem		27,350	22,970	...		30,087
31. Dosadh		7,841	6,880	...		11,703
32. Gandapal		48	...	...		97
33. Gandha Banik		601	...	...		1,212
34. Gareri		1,435	...	...		2,895
35. Gaur		2,572	...	...		5,189
36. Gharti		255	...	...		514
37. Ghasi		13,751	19,226	...		32,703
38. Ghatwal		2,432	...	...		4,906
39. Gorait		3,161	...	...		6,377
40. Gosain		155	...	...		313
41. Guria		375	...	...		757
42. Halwai		1,194	...	...		2,409
43. Hari		4,655	...	...		9,391
44. Jaladha		6,709	...	...		13,535
45. Jat		132	...	...		266
46. Jhora		271	...	...		547
47. Jogi (Jugi)		89,952	...	...		181,469
48. Kahar		3,287	...	...		10,666
49. Kalita		21,819	234,893	...		399,558
50. Kalu		1,517	...	...		3,030
51. Kalwar		2,110	...	...		4,257
52. Kamar		31,532	39,919	...		67,902
53. Kani		1,264	...	...		2,550
54. Kandh		4,925	...	...		9,936
55. Mandu		1,063	...	...		2,155
56. Mansari		42	...	...		85
57. Maora		536	...	...		1,132
58. Napali		25	...	...		50
59. Napuria		114	...	...		230
60. Nayastha		26,244	35,464	50,343		71,764

TABLE IV -
Contd. from p.13/

	1	2	3	4	5	6
61. Kowat		94,070	99,024	...	168,440	
62. Khadal		2,726	...	...	5,499	
63. Khaira		756	...	...	1,525	
64. Khambu		3,018	...	...	6,039	
65. Khandaait		1,100	...	...	2,219	
66. Kharwar		6,680	...	...	13,476	
67. Khas		1,997	...	...	4,029	
68. Khatik		101	...	...	204	
69. Khawas		90	...	...	182	
70. Koch ✓		241,129	229,217	...	339,898	
71. Koiri		8,178	8,176	...	13,907	
72. Kora		3,143	...	...	6,341	
73. Kshattriya (Manipuri)	50,006		117,788	...	200,357	
74. Kurni		19,819	23,591	22,304	31,794	
75. Lodha		1,112	...	...	2,243	
76. Loi		...	...	...	...
77. Mahesri		916	...	...	1,848	
78. Mahli		8,158	...	...	16,452	
79. Mal		6,695	...	...	13,506	
80. Mallah		3,947	...	...	7,963	
81. Malpaharia		3,415	...	...	6,839	
82. Manjhi		2,227	...	...	4,493	
83. Marwari		208	...	...	420	
84. Mawlik (Maiya)		4,120	...	...	8,312	
85. Mukhi		2,718	2,785	...	4,739	
86. Nayra		1,015	...	...	2,048	
87. Nuriyari		1,027	...	...	2,072	
88. Murmi		1,293	...	...	2,608	
89. Musahar		10,338	7,329	...	13,317	
90. Nadiyal		68,330	18,415	...	31,324	
91. Nagesia		1,199	...	...	2,419	
92. Naik		250	...	...	504	
93. Napat (Nai, Hajjan)	13,699		12,479	12,873	18,350	

TABLE IV -
Contd. from p. 14

	1	2	3	4	5	6
94. Khat	4,257	5,121	...	...	8,711	
95. Khatiya	9,732	9,562	...	...	11,235	
96. Oriya (unspecified)	4,727	15,770	...	...	26,825	
97. Cowal	385	...	...	...	777	
98. Pasi	2,786	...	...	...	5,620	
99. Patial or Patikar	2,946	...	...	...	5,943	
100. Pator	1,003	...	...	...	2,023	
101. Patwa	1,223	...	...	...	2,457	
102. Rajbhar	1,837	...	...	...	3,307	
103. Rajput (Chattri)	24,538	32,102	4,094	...	1,836	
104. Rajwar	7,541	...	...	...	15,213	
105. Rantia	4,223	...	...	...	3,519	
106. Sadgop	695	...	...	...	1,402	
107. Sannyasi	503	...	...	...	1,015	
108. Saroagi	663	...	...	...	1,333	
109. Sarki	576	...	...	...	1,132	
110. Shaha	18,067	20,401	...	...	34,702	
111. Solanomia	121	...	...	...	244	
112. Sonar	3,716	...	...	...	7,497	
113. Sonwal	...	15,723	...	...	26,753	
114. Subarnabank	256	...	...	...	516	
115. Sunri	2,140	...	...	...	4,317	
116. Sunwar	269	...	...	...	543	
117. Surahiya	312	...	...	...	629	
118. Swarnakar	229	...	...	...	462	
119. Tatwa	250	...	...	...	504	
120. Tolinga	7,895	...	...	...	15,927	
121. Wharu	334	...	...	...	674	
122. Tipara	1,723	1,474	...	...	2,507	
123. Wiyor	497	...	...	...	1,003	
124. Tokar	942	...	...	...	1,900	
125. Turaha	779	...	...	...	1,572	

TABLE IV -
Contd. from p.15/

	1	2	3	4	5	6
126. Turung		541	...	...	1,091	
127. Vaisya		3,850	13,630	...	23,135	
128. Yakha		153	...	...	309	
129. Others		15,259	486,034	...	792,724	

Notes :-

..*. Figures are not available.

The total estimated population of Other Castes (Hindus and Muslims both) according to the above table came 4,671,823 while the enumerated population of Other Castes is, 4,999,129. As there is wide variation between the two totals, no attempt has been made to adjust the figures.

TABLE IV - POPULATION OF CERTAIN CASTES IN THE PROVINCE OF 1911-1931 AND ESTIMATED POPULATION IN 1951 - (ii) - MUSLIMS.

A S S A M.

S. No.	Name of the Caste	Population in			Estimated population 1951	REMARKS
		1911	1921	1931		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bediya	859	...	...	1,733	
2.	Bahara	165	...	...	333	
3.	Basatiya	623	...	...	1,257	
4.	Dai	29	...	...	59	
5.	Darsi	242	...	...	483	
6.	Datiya	937	...	...	1,874	
7.	Dhoba (Dhobi)	28	...	...	56	
8.	Dholi	...	...	...	...
9.	Dhunia (Dhunkar)	71	...	...	143	
10.	Fakir	65	...	...	131	
11.	Hajjam	639	...	...	1,278	
12.	Jolaha	4,205	...	...	8,410	
13.	Kasbi	57	...	...	115	
14.	Khawandikar	14	...	...	28	
15.	Kureshi	37	...	...	75	
16.	Mahimal	9,425	35	...	145	
17.	Mirshikari	53	...	...	107	
18.	Moghal	501	...	...	1,002	
19.	Moria	1,532	...	...	3,064	
20.	Musalman(Unspecified)	310(a)	74,292	...	625	
21.	Nagarchi	322	...	...	644	
22.	Nikari	28	...	...	56	
23.	Pathan	4,367	4,661	...	7,928	
24.	Rajput	2	...	...	4	
25.	Saiad (Syed)	5,512	5,873	...	9,993	
26.	Sheikh	490,713	670,973	...	1,141,328	
27.	Sonar	91	...	...	182	
28.	Sunni	83	...	...	166	
29.	Others	212	13,179	...	22,417	

Notes :- ... Figures are not available.

(a) 1921 figure includes some minor castes hence estimation is based upon 1911 figures.

Please see note on page ...16..

Extracts from the previous Census Reports of Assam for Censuses 1911, 1921 and 1931.

A-SCHEDULED CASTES

Bhuiyali:- They have nearly all adopted the designation of Koli, the tendency to which was noted in 1911. Hence the heavy fall in their numbers from 35,000.

- 1921 Assam Report page 143.

Kaibartta Jalias:- The drop from 45,000 in 1911 comes from the return by this group and the Patris either of Plain Kaibartta or of Bahiya, which latter name they had not thought of assuming at former censuses.

- 1921 Assam Report page 145.

Namasudras:- There is at the same time a remarkable increase of Namasudras from 77 to 4,365 in Nowong. Part of this may be due to immigration but it seems that some Miras must have returned Namasudras as their Caste.

- 1921 Assam Report page 147-148.

B-SCHEDULED TRIBES

Kacharis:- This tribe has followed different movements in different districts. The total number of Kacharis shown has decreased by 23,000. But this is not real. More than half the 28,000 in Lakhimpur returned themselves by the sub-caste name of Sonwal. In Goalpara, where there were no Kacharis in 1911, we find now nearly 11,000. This corresponds with a decrease in Mechos. In Kamrup there has been a substantial increase in the tribal number; this has been concurrent with a large number of conversions to Hinduism, which in this case has not induced abandonment of the old name. Nowong and Darrang have slight decreases, which may be attributed to new names: "Bhatariyas" appear increased

in both districts, and in Darrang, some new converts to Hinduism returned Mahalia and a few Solamut as caste names. In Jowgaing a section returned themselves as Saktas in the caste as well as in the religion column. Sibsa or lost some Kacharis by a transfer of territory to the Naga Hills. In North Cachar, practically all the Kacharis returned themselves as Kshattriyas. They were at first entered properly as Kacharis, with their language as Dinasa; but afterwards the entries were scored out by the enumerators under the influence of a few literate men, and the language was entered either as Haimbi or as Bengali, with the caste as Kshattriya.

The decrease in number of Kacharis is also due partly to conversion to Christianity; Christians are not shown in our race or caste table and the numbers are not traceable as some were entered merely as Indian Christians.

- 1921 Assam Report page 144.

Mech:- Meches in Assam are practically confined to Goalpara, where the number so returned has decreased by about 6,000. The number of Animist Meches is only about half that of 1911, while the number of Hindus is much the same. Some of the Hindus who wished to abandon the tribal name of Mech described themselves as Bara by caste and language and Brahma by religion. The fact is that there has been a real increase in the tribe in Goalpara - the language returns show about 20,000 more speakers of the tribal language but about 11,000 have described themselves as Kacharis for the first time. There is also a number of Mech Christians. Some of the growth of the tribe is due to immigration from Jalpaiguri.

- 1921 Assam Report page 146.

Balungs & Rabhas:- The Balungs have only increased by 6 percent, but it is possible that on conversion to Hinduism some of them returned a different caste name.

The same remark applies to the Rabhas who decreased from 79,000 in 1911 to 70,000 in 1921 and have now decreased still further to 68,000. This, as pointed out in the census report for 1921, is due to the return of a different caste name - probably Kshatriya.

- 1931 Assam Report page 204.

Rabha - The Rabhas have decreased some-what; this is probably owing to return of different names, since the loss is mainly among Hindu Rabhas, and we know that conversion to Hinduism has been going on.

- 1931 Assam Report page 148.

Thado Kukis:- Unfortunately in the case of many of the hill tribes it is difficult to make an exact comparison as the number of Christians belonging to these tribes was not recorded at previous censuses and in many cases members of various Kuki and Maja tribes were lumped together under the very wide term Kuki or Maja. Every effort was made at this census to keep down the number of unspecified Kukis and Majas with the result that we now have over 50,000 Thado Kukis against 30,000 in 1921, but the only conclusion we can draw from this is that many Thados in 1921 were simply recorded as Kuki. It is, however, clear that in Manipur state the Kuki Tribes as a whole have increased at a very satisfactory rate. In 1921 there were 62,000 Kukis belonging to all Kuki tribes (excluding Kuki Christians) in the state. There are now 72,000 non-Christian Kukis in the State plus 6,500 Christian Kukis. In the Lushai Hills, also, the various Lushai-Kuki clans who make up its indigenous population have increased at a considerable rate, and so have the Khasis and Syntengs.

- 1931 Assam Report page 204-205.

C-BACKWARD CLASSES

Mahisyas:- Mahisyas with Dases belong to Bengal and the Surma Valley. They obtained permission before the census...../-

census of 1911 to be tabulated as Mahisya by caste in place of their old name of Chasi Maibartas. The numbers tabulated for the caste have been swelled greatly, and our statistics have been much confused by the return of the same caste name by the Patnis and Jalia Maibartas.

- 1921 Assam Report page 145.

Rajbansis:- Rajbansis appear decreased by about 30 percent, owing to the use of the caste name Kshattriya in Goalpara.

- 1921 Assam Report page 146.

Sudras:- Sudras nearly all belong to Sylhet. In 1911 less than 119,000 were censused. The large increase is due apparently to many Patnis, Jalia Maibartas and others having assumed the name.

- 1921 Assam Report page 147.

D-OTHER CASTES

Dotias:- Dotias are now only 1,400 against 22,000 at the last census. The reason for this is that they have preferred to give the name Sub, under which over 21,000 have been tabulated.

- 1921 Assam Report page 148.

Brahmans:- Brahmans have increased by about 27 percent. This is due in part probably to growth but chiefly to the inclusion of more Karna Brahmans and Agradaris than in 1911. In particular a large accretion to the numbers seems to have come from the Mahants or priests of the Yogi (Jogi) community. These were chosen originally from within the caste, and used formerly to be returned with the Dotis but at this census a section of them broke from their fellows and decided to return themselves as Brahmans.

- 1921 Assam Report page 144.

Doms:- Doms have decreased from 31,000. This is because fewer of the indigenous Doms now return themselves as such. They were formerly shown with Mahayals and Patnis.

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At the last census, some entries were tested and it was found that over half the Doms in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur were Assamese. Most of these however have now given up Dom in favour of Nadiyal or Kallantla as a caste name, and the Doms censused are nearly foreigners, the tea garden caste table shows that 20,000 out of the total 25,000 were counted on gardens at this census, where as only about half the 1911 total were garden coolies.

- 1921 Assam Report page 144.

Kayasthas:- From 82,000 the number of Kayasthas has grown to 122,000. A great part of this increase is due to Paruis using the name. Some other castes must also have returned Kayastha, but it is not possible to determine them.

- 1921 Assam Report page 145.

Koches:- Their numbers have fluctuated since 1891, and this census shows a decrease of about 11,000. This used to be the caste into which converts from Animism were received in the Brahmaputra Valley. The present decrease, in face of large natural increases all over the valley points to the disuse of this practice in some districts. Some of the new converts, instead of becoming Saru Koches or Saranias, are keeping their old tribal names and some are describing themselves as Kshattriyas. In Goalpara where the largest drop in Koches occurs, and where there is also a great decrease in Rajbansis, there appear for the first time many thousands of Nacharis and Kshattriyas. In Darrang the decrease is due to omission of Mahalias, whose figures were included with Koches in 1911.

- 1921 Assam Report page 145.

Kshattriya:- Formerly the name of Kshattriya was practically synonymous with Manipuri in this province: outside Manipur, Cachar and Sylhet where there are old Manipuri settlements, only a few hundred Kshattriyas used to be counted. In the last few years the claim to an ancestry with epic associations has been adopted or revived by

leaders...../-

leaders or outsiders for other tribes in process of conversion to Hinduism or already converted. The result is a very large increase in the number of persons returning Kshatriya as their caste.

- 1921 Assam Report page 145.

Mahimals:- Mahimals have fallen to about 30 percent of their last census total. Their profession is fishing, but they have considered it more respectable to return the title of Sheikh than their traditional 'Mahi' even when they have not given up fishing or boat **plying**.

- 1921 Assam Report page 148.

Musalman unspecified.- The increase of this group from 300 in 1911 to 76,000 at this census arises from two causes. The first and the chief cause among Assamese Muhammadans has been the growing objection to admit the existence of any institution resembling the Hindu caste-system. When questioned as to their caste, race or tribe many answered either none or 'Musalman'; and we had no alternative but to tabulate them as unspecified. The second reason for **increase** in the group was the abandonment by many of their title of Sheikh as a protest against its assumption by Mahimals, Nagarchis and Jolahas.

- 1921 Assam Report page 148.

Nagarchis:- Nagarchis, Muhammadan drummers, numbered only 3,500 in 1911, and even less were returned at this census as many called themselves Sheikhs.

- 1921 Assam Report page 148.

Napits:- Napits have lost about 4,000. Most of this was in Sylhet, where it appears they suffered privation with the rest of the population.

- 1921 Assam Report page 146.

Saha:- Saha includes Sahas, Sunris, Sans, and Vaisya Sahas, but not those who returned themselves as Vaisya only. The group has decreased by some 7,000 owing to the movement of the Sylhet members of the Caste to use Das as their surname and Vaisya as their Caste-name.

- 1921 Assam Report page 146.

Sunris:- Sunris are few and have been classed under Saha. They were less than 3,000 at the last census.

- 1921 Assam Report page 147.

Sheikhs - Sheikhs have increased by well over a quarter of a million in the decade. The causes are (1) natural growth of the old population: it should be noted that the Sylhet Muhammadans, mainly Sheikhs have increased while their Hindu brothers of the district have stood still; (2) immigration to the Brahmaputra Valley from Eastern Bengal; (3) adoption of Sheikh as a name by Mahimals and others who did not claim it before.

- 1921 Assam Report page 143.

Vaisya:- The provincial number has increased more than six fold, mainly on account of the movement of the Sahas or Vaisya Sahas in the Surma Valley.

- 1921 Assam Report page 147.

Jogis:- Jogis were tabulated at the last census as Jogi(Jugi) and their numbers have fallen by nearly 8,000. The chief reason of the decline appears to have been the separation of many of ~~their~~ priests, who were formerly tabulated under the general caste name.

- 1921 Assam Report page 147.

Tiparas:- Tiparas of the Surma Valley have dropped in numbers from 10,000 to 5,000, numbers of them have gone across the border into Tripura state after the prohibition of Jhuming in Sylhet.

- 1921 Assam Report page 143.