



CENSUS OF INDIA

SERIES-23

WEST BENGAL

Paper I of 1981

PROVISIONAL POPULATION TOTALS

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of the Indian Administrative Service
DIRECTOR OF CENSUS OPERATIONS
WEST BENGAL

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FIGURES AT A GLANCE

Census of India 1981 ● Provisional Population Totals

A. POPULATION OF WEST BENGAL	Total	54,485,560
	Males	28,505,151
	Females	25,980,409
B. DECENNIAL POPULATION GROWTH 1971-81		
(1) Absolute		10,173,549
(2) Percentage		+ 22·96 per cent
C. DENSITY OF POPULATION		614 per Sq. Km.
D. SEX RATIO		911 Females per 1,000 males
E. LITERACY RATE	Total	40·88 per cent
	Males	50·49 per cent
	Females	30·33 per cent

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On successful completion of the Census Operation in the State and with the publishing of the present paper, we most gratefully acknowledge the invaluable services rendered by the Enumerators and Circle Supervisors and then, of course, by the respondents who co-operated with the former ungrudgingly. The Enumerators and Circle Supervisors, bulk of whom were not government employees or even employees of any organisation at all—maintained the best tradition of Indian Census and rendered honorary service with a rare sense of duty. Moving from door to door, they had to canvass the census questionnaire braving inclement weather, some rude refusals and some uncharitable remarks and of course the usual problems that go with such a task. We are indeed indebted to each one of them overwhelmingly.

It is often said that it takes two to undertake a census—one is the enumerator and the other is the respondent. If the enumerator has done his duty in the very best possible manner, the same homage is to be paid to the respondent also, majority of whom answered the Enumerators' barrage of questions patiently. The handful of them who at first refused to answer the questions of the Enumerators, did finally answer them after being persuaded to do so, and we are thankful to them also.

I am personally grateful to two persons : Sri P. Padmanabha, Registrar General, and the Census Commissioner of India and Sri A. K. Sen, Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, who not only guided me whenever necessary, but personally solved many of my apparently insurmountable problems without which we just could not finish the job of Census. My senior colleagues in the State Secretariat also helped me whenever I approached them with any problem concerning Census. Particularly, Sri R. N. Sen Gupta, Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Department of Home, Sri A. K. Banerjee, Special Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Department of Home and Sri D. Sanyal, Deputy Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Department of Home (C & E), were the ones who put up with hundred of my requests and demands and helped me in every possible way in our endeavour. I am indeed thankful to them for all that they did.

Finally, my friends and colleagues in the Districts and my colleagues in the Directorate Office, not only worked hard, but often inspired me by their skill, ingenuity, zeal and devotion to duty. I gratefully acknowledge their contribution to the successful completion of Census in West Bengal in 1981.

Calcutta
23 March 1981

S. N. Ghosh
Director of Census Operations
West Bengal

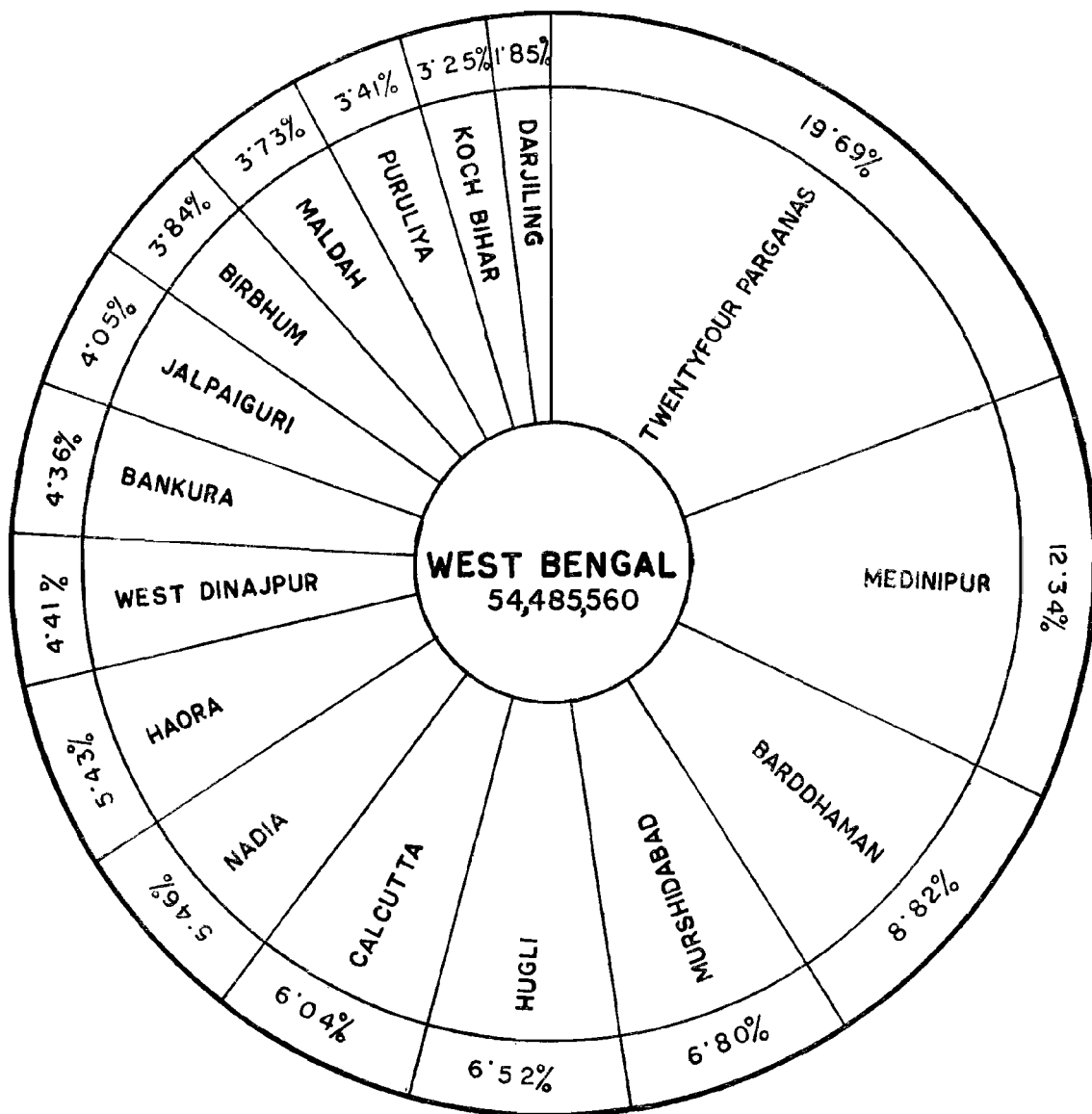
STATEMENT SHOWING A COMPARATIVE PICTURE OF THE POPULATION

1981 Census
(Provisional Figures)

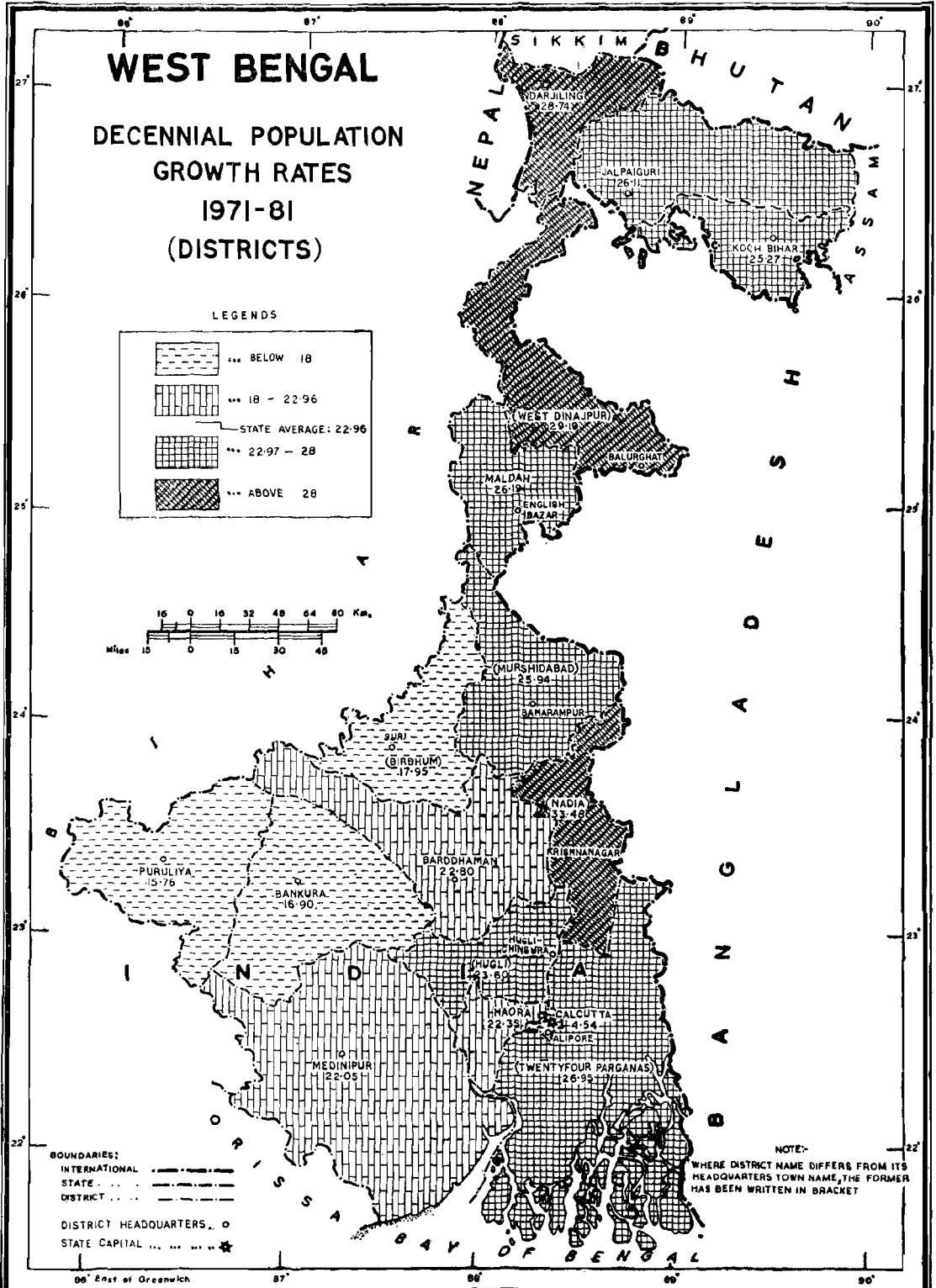
State/District 1	Total Population		Decennial growth rates (percentage)		Density of population 1981 (per km ²) 6
	Population in 1971 (and rank) 2	Population in 1981 (and rank) 3	1961-71 4	1971-81 5	
	WEST BENGAL	44,312,011	54,485,560	+26.87	
1. Koch Bihar	1,414,183 (15)	1,771,562 (15)	+38.67	+25.27	523
2. Jalpaiguri	1,750,159 (12)	2,207,087 (11)	+28.76	+26.11	353
3. Darjiling	781,777 (16)	1,006,434 (16)	+25.16	+28.74	327
4. West Dinajpur	1,859,887 (10)	2,402,763 (9)	+40.50	+29.19	462
5. Maldah	1,612,657 (13)	2,035,009 (13)	+31.98	+26.19	548
6. Murshidabad	2,946,563 (5)	3,702,869 (4)	+28.57	+25.94	693
7. Nadia	2,223,911 (8)	2,977,013 (7)	+29.91	+33.48	758
8. Twentyfour Parganas	8,449,482 (1)	10,726,751 (1)	+34.53	+26.95	759
9. Calcutta	3,148,746 (4)	3,291,655 (6)	+7.57	+4.54	31,651
10. Haora	2,417,286 (7)	2,957,464 (8)	+18.58	+22.35	2,006
11. Hugli	2,872,116 (6)	3,549,817 (5)	+28.72	+23.60	1,129
12. Medinipur	5,509,247 (2)	6,723,860 (2)	+26.89	+22.05	478
13. Bankura	2,031,039 (9)	2,374,205 (10)	+22.02	+16.90	345
14. Puruliya	1,602,875 (14)	1,855,429 (14)	+17.86	+15.76	296
15. Barddhaman	3,916,174 (3)	4,808,886 (3)	+27.04	+22.80	684
16. Birbhum	1,775,909 (11)	2,094,756 (12)	+22.80	+17.95	460

**MAPS
AND
CHARTS**

**CHART SHOWING THE COMPARATIVE POPULATION
SIZE OF THE DISTRICTS 1981**



MAP 1



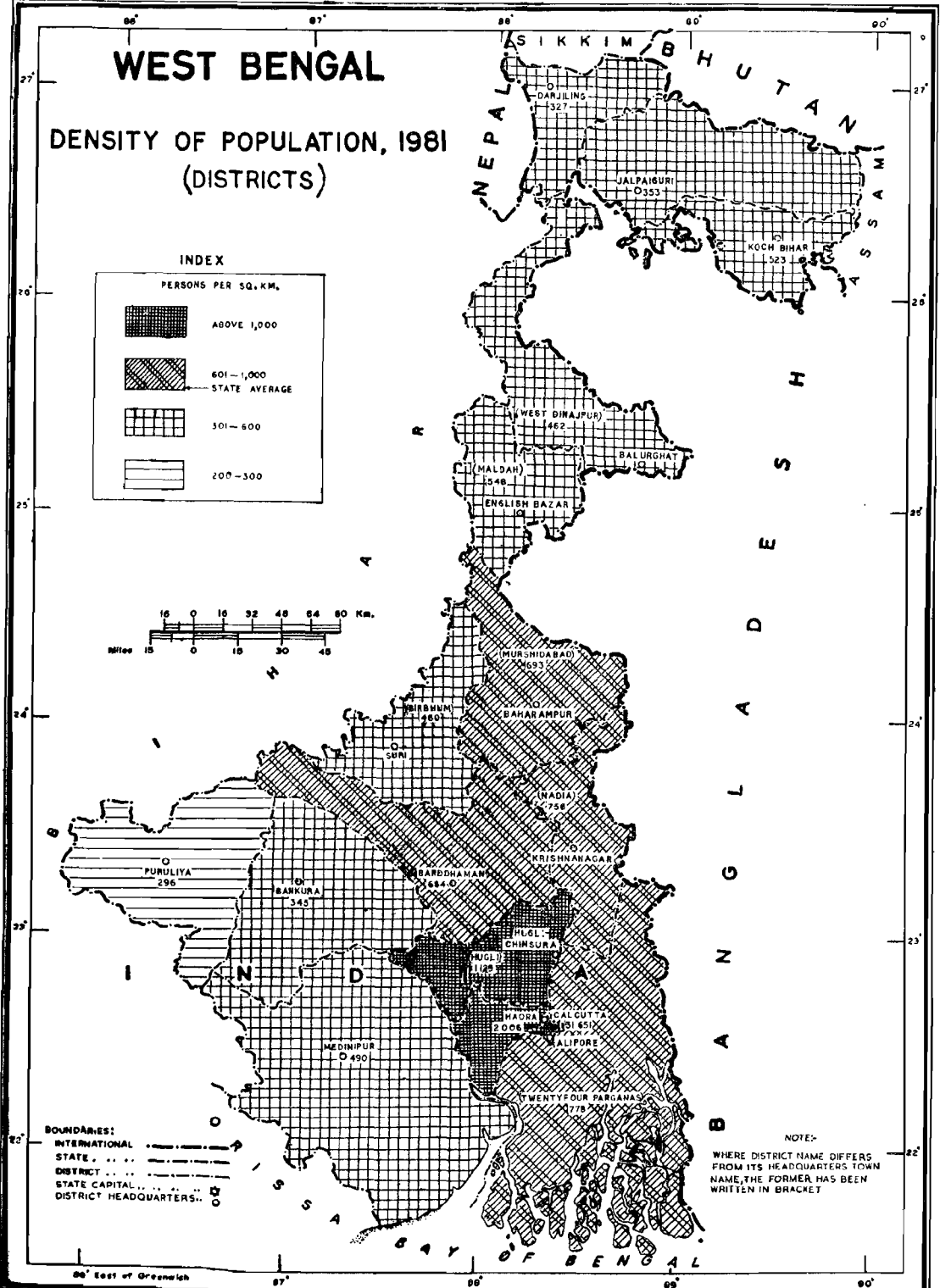
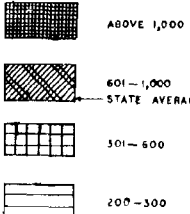
Based upon Survey of India map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India. The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

WEST BENGAL

DENSITY OF POPULATION, 1981 (DISTRICTS)

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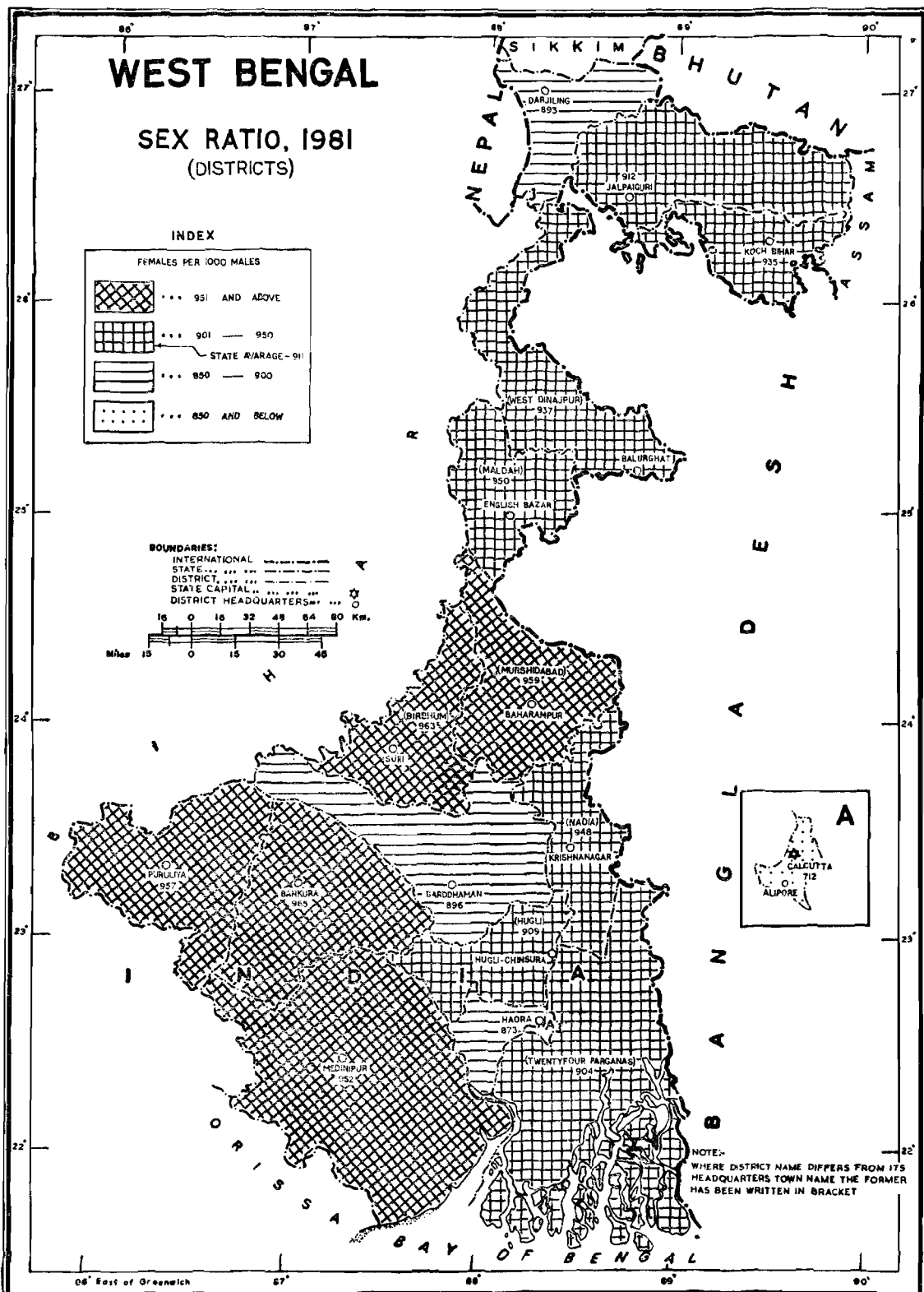
PERSONS PER SQ. KM.



BOUNDARIES:
 INTERNATIONAL
 STATE
 DISTRICT
 STATE CAPITAL
 DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS: ..

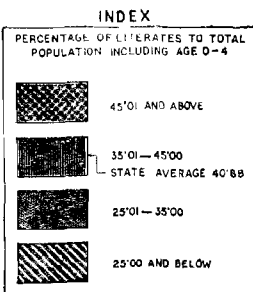
NOTE:-
 WHERE DISTRICT NAME DIFFERS FROM ITS HEADQUARTERS TOWN NAME, THE FORMER HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN BRACKET

Based upon Survey of India map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India. The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

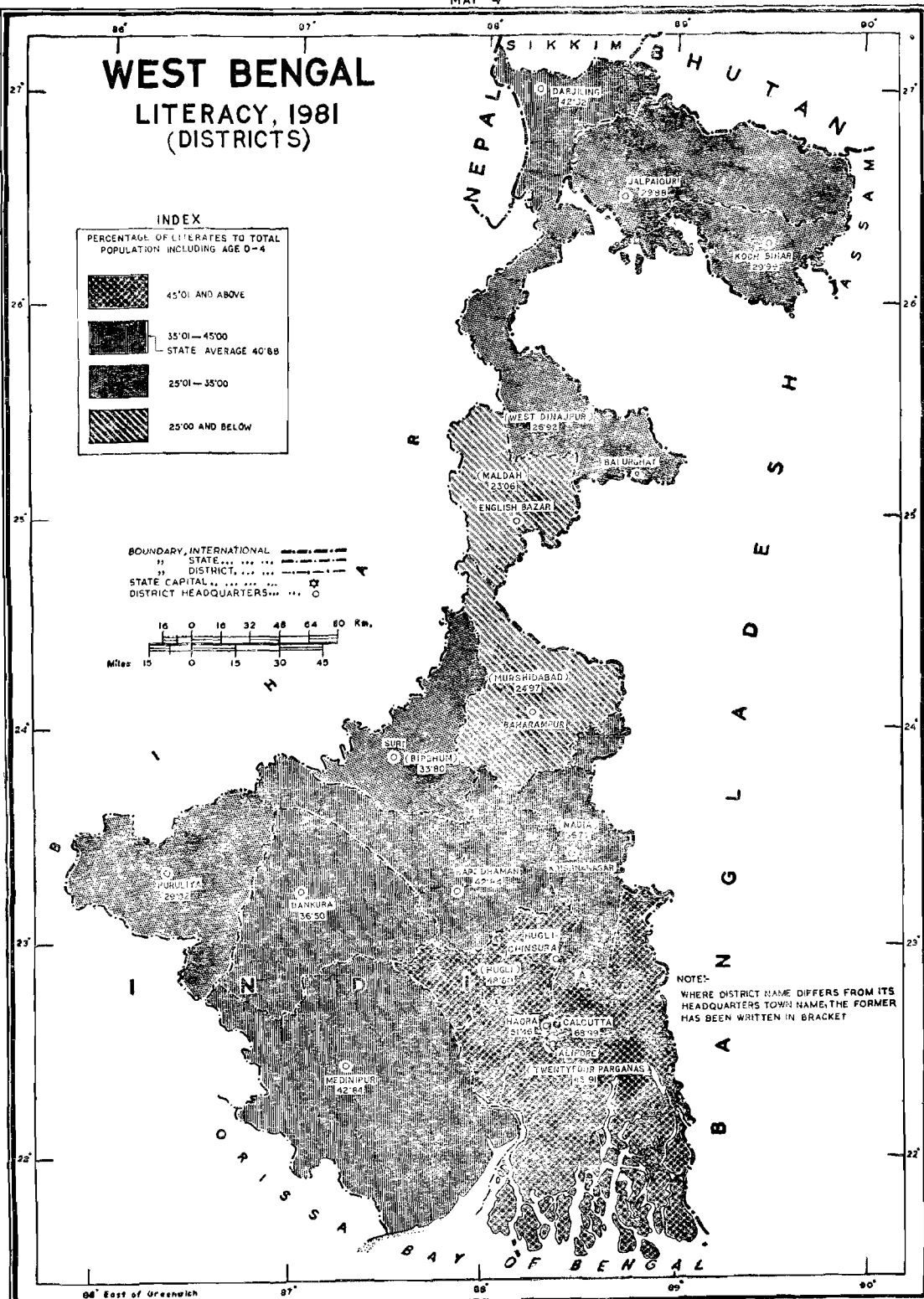


Based upon Survey of India map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India. The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

WEST BENGAL LITERACY, 1981 (DISTRICTS)



BOUNDARY, INTERNATIONAL ————
 " STATE ————
 " DISTRICT ————
 STATE CAPITAL ————
 DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS ————



NOTE:- WHERE DISTRICT NAME DIFFERS FROM ITS HEADQUARTERS TOWN NAME, THE FORMER HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN BRACKET

Based upon Survey of India map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India.
 The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

CENSUS 1981
BACKGROUND NOTE

WHAT PRECEDED THE 1981 CENSUS

I.

The present volume is the very first of the published documents on the results of 1981 Census. This volume supplies only the Provisional Totals in terms of crude results which have been chain-relayed from the lowest level of Census hierarchy and therefore, does not boast of either finality or comprehensive dealing with all that Census can generate. However, with the prospect of a good harvest in terms of tabulated results in due course of time, we may, for the moment look back to all that preceded the Census Operations of 1981.

Population Census by door to door canvassing method is both costly and difficult. But this is the method that we have followed in India for more than a century and with good results too. Most important of all, it is an administrative exercise of gigantic magnitude—perhaps the biggest civil administrative exercise in this Country—and barring China, probably in the World. Census Operations suffer in comparison to other administrative exercises insofar as it has no glamour at all and further the organisation which is built up for the conduct of the Operations consists of such persons over whom the Census Authorities have little direct control. By the very nature of the System evolved through the ages, the Census Authorities simply have to depend upon the devotion to duty of a huge body of masses who form the vital part of Census hierarchy. Still, the Operations have been staged successfully every 10 years, 1981 being no exception.

II

The preparation for each Census Operation has to start quite early—in fact, the preparation for 1981 Census started as long back as early part of 1978 when the First Data Users Conference was held in New Delhi in mid-February in that year. In this Conference, the principal users of Census Data coming from the Ministries of the Government of India, of the State Governments, the Universities, the Research Organisations, the Institutions dealing with applied side of Economics, Statistics and Anthropology, including such bodies as the Election Commission, the Planning Commission, the Reserve Bank of India etc. congregated to discuss the kind of data that were being asked for by the users and how the requirements of the different users can be met without overburdening the Enumerators who would, in the final analysis, be responsible for collection of Census data from the field. The Conference also discussed all the related aspects of Census like forms and methods of Tabulation, ancillary studies relating to Census apart from general strategy of 1981 Census. The ideas thrown up by this Conference was, thereafter, taken up by an Expert Body to form the Census questionnaires for 1981. On the basis of that, a Pilot Study was taken up in West Bengal—alongwith the rest of India—in 31 Blocks during the period from 12.6.78 to 21.6.78. The Pilot Study was, in many ways, an eye-opener for it revealed quite a few operational problems and defects in the original questionnaire which were, therefore, subjected to further scrutiny by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India.

Then followed the Pre-tests on the basis of the modified questionnaires. Two sets of Pre-tests were undertaken in West Bengal alongwith the rest of India. The First Pre-test was held within the period from 19.9.78 to 5.10.78 in 30 Blocks. This Pre-test, however, coincided with the great Lower Bengal flood of 1978, as a result of which it virtually had to be abandoned. The Second Pre-test on these questionnaires was taken up between 1.6.79 and 21.6.79 in 10 Blocks in different places in West Bengal. It was the last Pre-test which gave us some good idea about the workability of the questionnaires. It was the questionnaire which was finally adopted for canvassing in 1981 Census with some very minor changes.

III

The vastness of the organisation in the conduct of Census was apparent as soon as we started the work of finding out the exact jurisdiction of various administrative units in West Bengal. As everyone knows, the Land Records would normally be in a state of continuous flux. With new Police Stations coming up, the administrative jurisdiction of municipalities and such urban bodies changing over time, and with division and merger of Mauzas in the rural areas, the work of finding out the exact jurisdiction of these administrative units itself poses a challenge. Added to this would be the problem of verification of boundary lines of districts and—what is more important—of International boundary lines. Getting hold of the details of these jurisdictional limits took us quite a lot of time; but thanks to the kindness of the State Government we could finally get hold of all the details of jurisdictional changes that had taken place between 1971 and 1979. Further, by dint of an order from the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal, all further contemplated jurisdiction changes of these administrative units was brought to a halt till the Census Operations would be over in 1981. Since in rural areas Mauza would constitute the basic unit of Census taking we also had to get searches started in the District Collectorates as well as in the office of the Director of Land Records and Surveys of the State Government for locating Mauza maps.

IV

Simultaneously we had to identify the urban areas in this State. Since the census figures maintained traditionally the difference between Urban and Rural population, it was necessary to find out the Urban areas before census started. In this task, the norms of the previous Census are retained. All municipalities, and those areas which had been declared to be of equivalent status by the Government automatically came under this category. In addition the non-municipal towns all over the State were to be identified. In order to qualify as non-municipal towns, these areas were required to pass three tests namely:

- (i) A population of 5,000 or above;
- (ii) A density of 400 per sq. km. or above; and
- (iii) The requirement that at this 75% of the male working force to be engaged in non-agricultural pursuits.

Apart from these, there were Project Towns which had sprung up due to establishment of some industries or which had become a town because some government activity (for example: tourist report). Further, the 1971 concept of Urban Agglomeration was to be kept in tact and was to be applied this time also. Besides, a concept related to Urban Agglomeration, namely Urban Out-growth was introduced. While the Urban Agglomerations were meant to take care of growths with urban characteristics which are associated with already determined towns of various kinds (such as municipalities), the concept of Urban out growth was meant to cover such non-Urban Areas adjacent to a mother town and grown have actually Urban characteristics but have failed to satisfy the tests passing which would have qualified them to be non-municipal towns by their own right.

V

The essence of Census Organisation boils down to division of the entire State into artificially-created small census-jurisdictions, census-taking in which would be possible by the basic field level worker called Enumerator. Since some of the divisions and sub-divisions of the entire State are already available in terms of Districts, Police Stations, and Mauzas (in respect of rural areas) and Districts, Municipalities or Towns etc. (for Urban areas), we could accept these administrative jurisdictions

as already given and then go for further sub-divisions of the smallest units in these administrative jurisdictions. In Rural areas the Mauza was considered to be lowest administrative unit which if required, would further to be sub-divided for the purpose of Census into a number of enumeration blocks. In Rural Areas, the ideal population in an enumeration block would be 750. Therefore, if a Mauza consisted of 750 or less population, that Mauzas itself would become one enumeration block. On the other hand, if the population of the Mauza exceeded 750, then it might have been sub-divided into a number of enumeration blocks. In urban areas, the Municipalities, which form the biggest bulk of Urban areas in this State, we could work upon the concept of ward in each Municipality. The ideal population in an enumeration block in Urban areas was to be 600. Thus, a Ward in a Municipality was to be sub-divided into suitable number of enumeration blocks depending upon the Ward population and our requirement of 600 persons per enumeration block. In other kinds of Urban areas, (like towns, cantonments, project towns, non-municipal towns etc.) the same concepts were to be applied if they had divisions equivalent to Wards in a Municipality. If not, we were to go back to somewhat artificial Census concept of Circle.

As we go on creating Enumeration Blocks, creation of Census Circles would pose no problem because the simple rule to be followed was that there would be Census Circle, on an average, for every five Enumeration Blocks. In this manner the entire State had been divided into 98,063 Enumeration Blocks and 15,990 Circles in the initial stage. These Blocks and Circles could undergo modification at later stages before the final enumeration started. They in fact did undergo further changes and at the time of enumeration, the number of Enumeration Blocks (excepting those in Military Special Census Charges) went up the 99,913 and the number of Census Circles went up the 17,121.

VI

The lowest level Census worker is known as the Enumerator. The requirement of nearly a lakh Enumerators was met mostly by the Primary School Teachers in rural areas. In urban areas, young persons of respective localities, who were kind enough to shoulder the great burden for a scanty honorarium only, filled up these gaps. The same category of persons also worked, by and large, as Circle Supervisors in these urban areas. In rural areas, however officials in the Community Development Block offices, were available to take up the challenge. The Block Development Officers became, what is known as Census Charge Officers for their respective Block jurisdictions (excluding the urban areas, naturally). And for Municipalities, Towns etc., the Chairman/ Presidents/Executive Officers/Administrators were appointed as the Municipal or Town Census Officers. All of them worked under the leadership of the District Magistrates/Deputy Commissioners of the respective Districts. The latter were designated as the Principal Census Officer. He was assisted mainly by one Officer, who had been designated as the District Census Officer and was headquartered at the District H.Q. Further in each Sub-division, the Sub-divisional Officer acted as the Sub-divisional Census Officer. Thus the entire State (excepting Calcutta and Haora cities) was to be censused through the existing State Govt. administrative machinery. In Calcutta and Haora cities, we set up two offices with our own Deputy Directors to head those offices, for undertaking Census. Calcutta city had for quite a few past Censuses been the direct responsibility of the Directorate; to this, Haora city was added this time. Besides manning these two city offices directly, we also set up a number of small Regional Offices of Deputy Directors throughout the State to help the District authorities in the conduct of Census. Thus, the 1981 Census maintained the commendable traditions of the past and once again became one of the finest examples of Centre-State collaboration in achieving a common goal. The Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Registrar General of India on behalf of the latter extended all possible help to this Directorate as well as to the State Government to make the Census programme a success.

VII

The work of houselisting started in the State from 10.8.80. It was thought prudent to give a longish period of time for houselisting as this was a time when agricultural operations would be in full swing and there was apprehension of periodic floods, too. As a matter of fact, serious flood did take place in portions of Maldah and Murshidabad District and in these places the houselisting operation was disrupted because of floods. The houselisting work was finally over in the middle of November throughout the State, though the work was actually over before the Pujas in the rest of the State excepting the flood affected areas of Maldah and Murshidabad. In houselisting, which is a stage preliminary to actual census-taking, the Enumerators are expected to prepare a list of houses for their respective Enumeration Blocks and collect certain other basic information relating to these house and also prepare a sketch map for each Enumeration Block showing the location of the houses and the important land-marks. With houselisting, was tagged the work of preparation of Enterprise Lists, locating the Enterprise as would be found in each Enumeration Block and finding out the number of the blind, crippled and dumb in each household. This short description of the work has been given in just a few work however was indeed huge. Before any such operation, it was absolutely essential that the great number of Enumerators and Circle Supervisors be trained thoroughly in the concepts of houselisting and their application in the field. With four days of training planned for each Enumerator and Circle Supervisor, we had to tackle more than a lakh of Census workers who were assembled from various walks of life and who constituted a motley crowd. It took us more than two months' of time to discuss the concepts of houselisting again and again with the Enumerators and Circle Supervisors and trained them thoroughly.

VIII

As soon as houselisting was finally over in the State, we started the preliminaries for final enumeration which was to take place between the 9th of February and the 28th February 1981 simultaneously all over India. Now that the houselisting was over, it was possible to organise the Enumeration Blocks and Circles on a more realistic basis and the Census Charge Officers were asked to re-organise them immediately. While the work of re-organisation of the enumeration blocks etc., were still continuing; we started the training programme for final enumeration. Once again, the training took us more than two months of time. This time however, the training had to be imparted and undergone in much more details than earlier, and we imparted, in all, full five days of training to all the Enumerators and Circle Supervisors. There were in addition requests for repeat training course, which had to be accommodated. Actually with all these repeat courses and basic courses taken together, we spent about two and a half months of time acting as Trainers for almost each and every single day. We could complete all training programmes just in the nick of time when the 9th of February, which was the date of starting of enumeration, arrived.

IX

In a work of such colossal dimensions, a few errors are always possible. In fact, the commissions and omissions are of great importance to Census authorities themselves. To determine the extent of error, Post Enumeration Checks are being carried out. The point that deserves specific mention is that while our aim was to count every single person, the possible inadvertent omission of a few out of a total of nearly 5.45 millions in West Bengal does not invalidate the Census. We are confident that as and when the results of the Post Enumeration Checks would be available, this firm belief of ours would be reaffirmed.

APPENDIX-I

A—Names of Principal Census Officers and District Census Officers

Serial No.	Name of District	Name of Principal Census Officer	Name of District Census Officer
1	2	3	4
1.	Koch Bihar	Sri D. M. Kanwar } Sri A. Jain }	Sri S. Prodhan
2.	Jalpaiguri	Sri R. Srivastava } Sri S. K. Magon }	Shri P. K. Mitra } Sri S. A. Ahmed } Sri S. N. Kundu }
3.	Darjiling	Sri N. Chaturvedi } Sri A. K. Deb }	Sri S. K. Taneja
4.	West Dinajpur	Sri R. Sivasailam } Sri Amar Singh } Sri S. Barma }	Sri B. M. Roy
5.	Maldah	Sri R. K. Prasannan } Sri K. Bagchi }	Sri S. L. Bhakat
6.	Murshidabad	Sm. K. Gupta Menon	Sri S. K. Dutta
7.	Nadia	Sri H. P. Roy	Sri P. K. Goswami
8.	Twentyfour Parganas	Sri I. Chowdhury } Sri M. Gupta }	Sri N. N. Roy
10.	Haora	Sm. Lina Chakraborty } Sri R. K. Prasannan }	Sri R. N. Das } Sri S. K. Das }
11.	Hugli	Sri N. K. S. Jhala } Sri A. K. Patnaik }	Sri S. K. Dasgupta
12.	Medinipur	Sri A. Sinha	Sri S. Deb } Sri S. K. Chakraborty }
13.	Bankura	Sri S. Chakraborty } Sri A. C. Kol }	Sri S. K. Majumder
14.	Puruliya	Sri R. K. Tripathi	Sri S. K. Das
15.	Bardhaman	Sri J. V. R. Prasad Rao } Sri T. K. Das }	Sri A. Roy } Sri S. Chakraborty }
16.	Birbhum	Sri T. K. Das } Sri S. N. Menon }	Sri B. P. Shyam Rai } Sri B. B. Chakraborty }

B—Names of Deputy and Assistant Directors at the Headquarters

1.	Sri S. Sinha,	Deputy Director
2.	Dr. K. S. Dey,	Deputy Director
3.	Sri R. Mukhopadhyay,	Deputy Director
4.	Sri J. Roy,	Deputy Director
5.	Sri D. P. Chatterjee,	Assistant Director
6.	Sri M. N. Sarkar,	Assistant Director

APPENDIX-I—contd.

C—Names of Regional Deputy Directors

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|--|
| 1. | Sri A. K. Das | Darjiling-Jalpaiguri-Koch Bihar-West Dinajpur-Maldah |
| 2. | Sri K. L. Biswas | Murshidabad-Nadia |
| 3. | Sri S. Sarkar | Twentyfour Parganas |
| 4. | Sri S. Ghosh | Haora-Hugli |
| 5. | Sri B. N. Chakraborty | Bardhaman-Birbhum |
| 6. | Sri P. Dasgupta | Medinipur-Puruliya-Bankura |

D—Names of Deputy and Assistant Directors, Regional Census Officers and Zonal Census Officers, Calcutta City Census Operations

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Sri A. K. Mukhopadhyay | Deputy Director |
| 2. | Sri A. Sengupta | Deputy Director |
| 3. | Sri S. K. Majumder | Assistant Director |
| 4. | Sri L. N. Chatterjee | Assistant Director |
| 5. | Sri A. K. Ghosh | Investigator |
| 6. | Sri T. K. Ghosal
Sri S. Raye | Regional Census Officer |
| 7. | Sri D. K. Sen | Regional Census Officer |
| 8. | Sri P. R. Halder | Regional Census Officer |
| 9. | Smt. Lakshmi Saha | Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. I |
| 10. | Sri Nirmal Mitra | Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. II |
| 11. | Sri M. L. Chandra | Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. III |
| 12. | Sri Debdas Paul | Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. IV |
| 13. | Smt. Parul Barman | Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. V |
| 14. | Sri Samir Chandra | Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. VI |
| 15. | Sri Sitangshu Bhattacharya | Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. VII |
| 16. | Smt. Kiran Biswas | Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. VIII |

E—Names of Deputy and Assistant Directors and Zonal Census Officers, Haora City Census Operations

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| 1. | The Regional Deputy Director, Haora-Hugli headed the office of Census Operations in Haora City | |
| 2. | Sri N. C. Sarkar | Assistant Director |
| 3. | Sri A. K. Roy | Tabulation Officer |
| 4. | Sri T. K. Ghosal | Tabulation Officer |
| 5. | Sri Afzaluddin Ahmed | Computer |
| 6. | Sri Kamalesh Dhani | Computer |
| 7. | Sri Somenath Roy | Computer |
| 8. | Sri Ajit Kumar Mondal | Computer |
| 9. | Sri Dwijendra Lal Nandi | Computer |
| 10. | Sri Bimal Kumar Majumder | Computer |
| 11. | Sri Mihir Kumar Sengupta | Computer |
| 12. | Sri Gouri Sankar Das | Computer |
| 13. | Sri Joy Kumar Paul | Computer |
| 14. | Sri Manas Kumar Mitra | Computer |

APPENDIX-II

Officials who worked in the “Provisional Population Totals—1981 Census Project”

GENERAL SUPERVISION :	Dr. K. S. Dey, Deputy Director
COMPILATION :	(1) Sri M. N. Sarkar, Assistant Director (2) Sri S. K. Guha, Investigator
MAPPING :	(1) Sri Bimalesh Das, Sr. Draftsman (2) Sri J. B. Dasgupta, Artist (3) Sri H. R. Banerjee, Draftsman (4) Sri B. Majumdar, Draftsman (5) Sri S. Chatterjee, Draftsman
PRINTING :	(1) Sri Dipankar Sen, Investigator (2) Sri Himangshu Saha Chowdhury, Proof Reader (3) Sri Nikhil Bagchi, Computor

**ANALYSIS
OF
RESULTS**

A SHORT DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The provisional total population of West Bengal, as on the sunrise of the 1st March, 1981, stood at 54,485,560, comprising of 28,505,151 males and 25,980,409 females. In absolute terms, the population of West Bengal went up by 1,01,73,549 over the period 1971-81, thereby registering a decennial growth rate of 22.96%. There has thus been a perceptible fall in growth rate, though the fall is not as markedly high as it was during the period 1961-71. To go back a little into the past, this State registered a very high rate of 32.80% during 1951-61, which, when compared to the decennial growth rate of 13.22% for the period 1941-51, would clearly indicate that there was something more than purely indigenous population growth. As a matter of fact, large scale shift of population into West Bengal from beyond did take place in that decade. The 1961-71 growth indicated an incremental rate of 26.87%, which was still higher than the all-India growth rate of 24.80%. Although the available data are still too scanty to form any definitive opinion, it is perhaps possible to advance it as tentative findings that the 1971-81 decadal growth rate of 22.96% represents a normal indigenous growth. The provisional all-India growth rate in 1971-81 is 24.75% as compared to the 1961-71 growth rate of 24.80%.

GROWTH RATE :

West Bengal has ranked quite high in the immediate past in the all-India arena in the matter of sheer bulk of population. In 1971, this State ranked 4th in India, with Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra taking the first three places. Population of West Bengal formed 8.08% of the entire population of India. This time, West Bengal continues to hold the same position, accounting for 7.97% of the total population of our country. Ahead of West Bengal are the same States this time also, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra. It is of interest to note that the growth rate of population—as per provisional figures—has fallen everywhere in 1981 except in 8 States (*i.e.*, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh) and 2 Union Territories (*i.e.*, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Pondicherry). In simple comparative terms, the first few States/Union Territories registering high growth rate, are : Chandigarh (74.95%), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (63.51%), Delhi (52.41%), Sikkim (50.44%), Nagaland (49.73%) and Dadra & Nagar Haveli (39.78%). On the other hand, the first few States/U.Ts registering low growth rate are : Tamil Nadu (17.23%), Kerala (19.00%), Orissa (19.72%), Himachal Pradesh (22.46%), Andhra Pradesh (22.76%) and West Bengal (22.96%).

A look at the 1981 population figures of the constituent districts of West Bengal will show that the rate of growth of population has fallen everywhere except in the districts of Darjiling, Nadia and Haora. These districts have respectively registered growth rates of 28.74%, 33.48% and 22.35% during 1971-81, against their earlier respective rates of 25.16%, 29.91% and 18.58% during 1961-71. Looked at from a slightly different angle, the districts which have a growth rate higher than the State average of 22.96% are : Koch Bihar (25.27%), Jalpaiguri (26.11%), Darjiling (28.74%), West Dinajpur (29.19%), Maldah (26.19%), Murshidabad (25.94%), Nadia (33.48%), Twentyfour Parganas (26.95%) and Hugli (23.60%). Of them, Jalpaiguri and Darjiling districts are somewhat different—they are not predominantly agriculture-based riverine plains, as the rest of the members of this group are. So, if we leave them out of this group it would appear that riverine areas which are agriculturally relatively prosperous have also a relatively high growth rate. But, of course, it would not be quite proper to treat the districts of Twentyfour Parganas and Hugli as predominantly agricultural, since large tracts of both these districts form parts of Calcutta Urban Agglomeration. And further, the district of Bardhaman is a somewhat extra-ordinary case, too, for it has a very

important and sizeable industrial base simultaneously being very advanced agriculturally also. This district has registered a growth rate of 22.80% which is just marginally lower than the State average.

The tentative suggestion outlined above finds an indirect support from the relatively low growth rate of those districts which are agriculturally relatively backward. These are the districts of Medinipur, Birbhum, Bankura and Puruliya, all of which are usually taken as an extension of the Chhota Nagpur plateau. Of them, Medinipur's growth rate of 22.05% is quite near the State average. This is perhaps explained by the fact that a sizeable part of this district consisting of Sadar (South), Ghatal, Tamluk and a big chunk of Contai Sub-divisions are agriculturally quite flourishing and do not really form a part of the relatively barren plateau. But, quite obviously, Birbhum (17.95%), Bankura (16.90%), and Puruliya (15.76%) indicate presence of those demographic and economic factors which do not favour a flourishing population.

The district of Calcutta has always been a special case. Calcutta, with parts of the districts of Twentyfour Parganas, Haora and Hugli (and a small area of Nadia) from the Calcutta Urban Agglomeration. The growth rate of Calcutta City for the decade 1971-81, is 4.54% only. Thus, from 1951-61 onwards, this city has been experiencing a clearly discernible decreasing rate of growth. From 8.48% in 1951-61, it fell to 7.57% in 1961-71 and has now marked a further fall which is relatively sharp in nature. From this trend, it may be held out tentatively that the popular belief that Calcutta City is demographically drawing closer and closer to a saturation point, is perhaps correct. On the other hand, the growth rate of the Urban Agglomeration of Calcutta tends to lend credence to another popular belief that the Urban Agglomeration is very much alive and still a drawer of crowds. How much of the growth of the Urban Agglomeration however is due to outmigration from the Calcutta City and immigration from beyond the Urban Agglomeration itself is difficult to judge in the absence of migration tables.

The Urban Agglomeration of Calcutta has 144 Units within it. 107 of them are towns by their own rights, (31 municipalities, 70 non-municipal towns, 1 Cantonment, 3 municipal corporation and 2 Notified Areas) while 37 are Urban Out Growths. In 1971, this Urban Agglomeration had 74 units, which were at that time divided into Municipal and Non-Municipal categories only (the concept of Out Growth coming up only in 1981 in West Bengal). Thus, the Urban Agglomeration of Calcutta of 1971 and that of 1981 are not the same area geographically, the latter being larger than the former. This time, the Urban Agglomeration of Calcutta covers, apart from Calcutta Municipal Corporation itself (which is coterminus with Calcutta district), 3 units in Nadia, 76 units in Twentyfour Parganas, 38 units in Haora and 26 units in Hugli district. The provisional total population of this Urban Agglomeration in 1981 has come to 9,165,650, against the 1971 figure of 7,031,382 thus registering a 30.35% increase. Calcutta Urban Agglomeration's corresponding growth rate during 1961-71 was 22.57%.

Though it is usually the district of Calcutta and the Urban Agglomeration of Calcutta that evince great interest, it will perhaps be of equal interest to know that the extent of urbanization in West Bengal has increased significantly over the decade 1971-81. Taking all classes of urban areas together, there have been found 32 Urban Agglomerations in West Bengal in 1981, involving, in all, 272 constituent units. This presents a somewhat sharp increase over 1971, when there were 11 Urban Agglomerations in all, involving a total of 97 constituent units.

DENSITY:

In the decade under consideration, density of population—another important demographic consideration—has also gone up considerably. In 1971, density of population per sq. km. was 499;

the same in 1981 stands at 614. Once again, the district of Calcutta, as usual, heads the list, with 31,651 persons per sq.km. In 1971, this figure for Calcutta read 30,276. Haora district retains its second position within West Bengal with 2,006 persons per sq. km. against the 1971 figure of 1,640. Similarly, the third place is retained by Hugli district with 1,129 persons per sq.km., its 1971 density of population being 913. It will be noted that density of population has increased in every district from 1971. The pattern has followed the rate of increase of population, *i.e.*, in the agriculturally backward areas of western region comprising of part of Medinipur, Bankura, Puruliya and Birbhum districts, density of population is relatively low compared to the riverine districts where agriculture usually flourishes, *i.e.*, Koch Bihar, West Dinajpur, Maldah, Murshidabad, Nadia, part of Twentyfour Parganas and part of Hugli. Same is true of that part of Barddhaman district which is agriculturally advanced.

SEX RATIO:

In respect of sex-ratio (number of females per 1,000 males), the all-India figure is 935 as against the 1971 figure of 930. The increase in number of females per 1,000 males seems to be a noteworthy fact in 1981 all over India. Only in 9 States/U.Ts., the sex-ratio is on the decline. They are : Andhra Pradesh (975 in 1981 and 977 in 1971), Bihar (947 in 1981 and 954 in 1971), Manipur (972 in 1981 and 980 in 1971), Nagaland (867 in 1981 and 871 in 1971), Orissa (982 in 1981 and 988 in 1971), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (974 in 1981 and 1,007 in 1971), Goa, Daman and Diu (981 in 1981 and 989 in 1971), Lakshadweep (876 in 1981 and 978 in 1971) and Pondicherry (985 in 1981 and 989 in 1971). In the States of Tamil Nadu (978) and Madhya Pradesh (941) the figures have remained constant. The general trend of gain in sex ratio is a significant item which will be of great interest to demographers. Against this background, in West Bengal also, the sex-ratio has marked an increase to 911 in 1981 as compared to 891 in 1971. When the individual districts are considered, we find a rising trend everywhere except in Nadia where the ratio has remained stationary, at 948, Birbhum where it has further declined to 963 from 968 in 1971, and Puruliya where again the ratio has declined to 957 from the 1971 mark of 963. It would appear that the sizeable gains in sex-ratio noted in the districts of Koch Bihar, Jalpaiguri, Darjiling and West Dinajpur have suddenly dwindled in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad where the gains are only marginal and then coming to Nadia, the ratio has not changed at all. In another region, while the gains in Calcutta district has been quite high, Haora district has also registered a slightly lower but still considerable increase in the number of females, and a still lower but sizeable increase has been registered in the districts of Twentyfour Parganas, Barddhaman and Hugli. In the Western region, while Medinipur and Bankura have marked some increase, Puruliya and Birbhum continue to suffer further drops in the sex ratio.

LITERACY:

When we consider literacy, we find that the percentage of literates to total population has gone up in West Bengal from 33.20% in 1971 to 40.88% in 1981 thereby registering an increase of 7.68%. In the previous decade, it rose from 29.28% in 1961 to 33.20% in 1971. The percentage of literate males to total population and that of literate females to total population have gone up almost in a parallel. These percentages in West Bengal are now respectively 50.49% and 30.33%. This means that male literacy has increased by 7.68% while female literacy has gone up in this State by 7.91%. Looking at the districts, we find that Twentyfour Parganas district has maintained its lead registering 12.46% increase in literacy, followed by Haora (10.87%), Bankura (10.20%), Hugli (9.98%), Medinipur (9.97%) and Darjiling (9.45%). It would be obvious from a look at Table-III that all the districts have registered increases, the lowest being in West Dinajpur (4.80%). What is

of further interest is that female literacy has been going up steadily over the last decade in West Bengal. The percentage increase in female literacy among different districts have been of the following order : Haora (12.17%), Hugli (10.58%), Medinipur (10.31%), Darjiling (9.15%), Barddhaman (9.05%), Calcutta (8.67%), Bankura (8.64%), Twentyfour Parganas (8.27%), Koch Bihar (7.37%), Birbhum (6.81%), Nadia (5.79%), Jalpaiguri (5.40%), Puruliya (5.09%), Murshidabad (5.02%), Maldah (4.87%) and West Dinajpur (4.71).

The overall literacy picture, when put against the all-India background will not compare too unfavourably, since percentage of literates to total population in West Bengal is 40.88% against the all-India figure of 36.17%. But it should provoke some thought also, for in the meantime, other States have gone further ahead. While with 33.20% of literacy to total population West Bengal ranked 13th in 1971 among all States and Union Territories taken together, (as per final figures inclusive of Mizoram which came into existence after 1971) this State had to concede further places to others and as per provisional figures of 1981, now stands 15th only. Ahead of West Bengal are : Kerala (69.17%), Chandigarh (64.68%), Delhi (61.06%), Mizoram (59.50%), Goa, Daman and Diu (55.86%), Lakshadweep (54.72%), Pondicherry (54.23%), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (51.27%), Maharashtra (47.37%), Tamil Nadu (45.78%), Gujarat (43.75%), Manipur and Nagaland (both 41.99%), Himachal Pradesh (41.94%) and Tripura (41.58%).

[In the computation of provisional literacy figures of 1981, Assam and Jammu & Kashmir have not been considered.]

CONCLUSION :

At this moment, the available facts and figures are too scanty to allow any valid conclusion of the demographic front. Neither perhaps we should attempt one, as the figures given in this paper are all provisional figures only which may very well undergo some changes in the final shape. Yet, one or two trends are vaguely discernible. For one thing, while the overall population growth rate for the country as a whole has shown a tendency to fall—albeit marginally—some of the States including West Bengal are—showing perceptibly dwindling growth rate—which one hopes will be borne out after the final figures are arrived at. Another point is that, the number of females per 1,000 males is likely to register an increase—in India as well as in West Bengal. And finally the literacy rate has gone up—both in India and West Bengal, which becomes a more welcome fact when considered in conjunction with the encouraging upward trend in female literacy. From these three sets of basic premises, one can perhaps conclude that the overall demographic trends are encouraging than ever before and if the trends are confirmed by the final figures of 1981 Census and the trend continues, we as a Nation shall be better off in future.

PROVISIONAL
POPULATION TABLES

TABLE-I
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, SEX RATIO, GROWTH RATE AND DENSITY OF POPULATION
BY DISTRICTS

State/District	1981 Census (Provisional Figures)								
	Population 1981			Sex Ratio Females per 1000 males		Density of Population per Sq. Km ² .		Decennial Growth rate of Population	
	Persons	Males	Females	1971	1981	1971	1981	1961-71	1971-81
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
WEST BENGAL	54,485,560	28,505,151	25,980,409	891	911	499	614	+26.87	+22.96
Koch Bihar	1,771,562	915,401	856,161	916	935	418	523	+38.67	+25.27
Jalpaiguri	2,207,087	1,154,611	1,052,476	887	912	280	353	+28.76	+26.11
Darjiling	1,006,434	531,655	474,779	882	893	254	327	+25.16	+28.74
West Dinajpur	2,402,763	1,240,353	1,162,410	921	937	357	462	+40.50	+29.19
Maldah	2,035,009	1,043,634	991,375	948	950	434	548	+31.98	+26.19
Murshidabad	3,702,869	1,889,785	1,813,084	956	959	552	693	+28.57	+25.94
Nadia	2,977,013	1,528,626	1,448,387	948	948	566	758	+29.91	+33.48
Twentyfour Parganas	10,726,751	5,634,777	5,091,974	882	904	598	759	+34.53	+26.95
Calcutta	3,291,655	1,922,632	1,369,023	636	712	30,276	31,651	+ 7.57	+ 4.54
Haora	2,957,464	1,578,964	1,378,500	833	873	1,640	2,006	+18.58	+22.35
Hugli	3,549,817	1,859,790	1,690,027	896	909	913	1,129	+28.72	+23.60
Medinipur	6,723,860	3,444,561	3,279,299	945	952	391	478	+26.89	+22.05
Bankura	2,374,205	1,208,424	1,165,781	958	965	295	345	+22.02	+16.90
Puruliya	1,855,429	948,211	907,218	963	957	256	296	+17.86	+15.76
Bardhaman	4,808,886	2,536,405	2,272,481	886	896	557	634	+27.04	+22.80
Birbhum	2,094,756	1,067,322	1,027,434	968	963	390	460	+22.80	+17.95

TABLE-II
DECADAL VARIATION IN POPULATION SINCE 1901

1981 Census
(Provisional Figures)

State/District	Percentage Decadal variation in Population							
	1901-11	1911-21	1921-31	1931-41	1941-51	1951-61	1961-71	1971-81
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
WEST BENGAL	+ 6.25	— 2.91	+ 8.14	+22.93	+13.22	+32.80	+26.87	+22.96
1. Koch Bihar	+ 4.58	— 0.07	— 0.26	+ 8.43	+ 4.74	+52.45	+38.67	+25.27
2. Jalpaiguri	+21.30	+ 4.93	+ 6.47	+14.42	+ 8.13	+48.27	+28.76	+26.11
3. Darjiling	+ 5.31	+ 5.12	+12.85	+17.72	+17.58	+35.90	+25.16	+28.74
4. West Dinajpur	+ 6.78	—12.13	+ 7.23	+11.92	+17.03	+35.51	+40.50	+29.19
5. Maldah	+15.72	— 1.77	+ 4.99	+17.19	+11.05	+30.33	+31.98	+26.19
6. Murshidabad	+ 1.71	— 8.99	+11.96	+19.69	+ 4.61	+33.46	+28.57	+25.94
7. Nadia	+ 0.36	— 8.26	+ 1.48	+16.42	+36.15	+49.81	+29.91	+33.48
8. Twentyfour Parganas	+14.78	+ 6.31	+ 9.53	+26.07	+23.50	+40.84	+34.53	+26.95
9. Calcutta	+ 8.86	+ 3.63	+10.63	+86.00	+24.50	+ 8.48	+ 7.57	+ 4.54
10. Haora	+10.93	+ 5.71	+10.17	+35.62	+ 8.12	+26.51	+18.58	+22.35
11. Hugli	+ 3.67	— 0.90	+ 3.22	+24.04	+13.35	+39.02	+28.72	+23.60
12. Medinipur	+ 1.15	— 5.48	+ 4.97	+13.99	+ 5.28	+29.26	+26.89	+22.05
13. Bankura	+ 1.99	—10.43	+ 9.00	+16.00	+ 2.30	+26.17	+22.02	+16.90
14. Puruliya	+13.70	— 5.98	+16.91	+11.95	+ 7.43	+16.33	+17.86	+15.76
15. Barddhaman	+ 0.37	— 6.46	+ 9.82	+19.99	+15.92	+40.65	+27.04	+22.80
16. Birbhum	+ 3.67	— 9.41	+11.25	+10.63	+ 1.77	+35.55	+22.80	+17.95

TABLE**LITERACY (INCLUDING**

State/District	Total Population 1981			Literate Population 1981		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
WEST BENGAL	54,485,560	28,505,151	25,980,409	22,271,867	14,391,808	7,880,059
1. Koch Bihar	1,771,562	915,401	856,161	531,326	366,055	165,271
2. Jalpaiguri	2,207,087	1,154,611	1,052,476	659,461	444,301	215,160
3. Darjiling	1,006,434	531,655	474,779	427,962	274,244	153,718
4. West Dinajpur	2,402,763	1,240,353	1,162,410	646,772	448,191	198,581
5. Maldah	2,035,009	1,043,634	991,375	469,211	328,310	140,901
6. Murshidabad	3,702,869	1,889,785	1,813,084	924,686	611,325	313,361
7. Nadia	2,977,013	1,528,626	1,448,387	1,094,546	668,670	425,876
8. Twentyfour Parganas	10,726,751	5,634,777	5,091,974	4,924,567	3,122,117	1,802,450
9. Calcutta	3,291,655	1,922,632	1,369,023	2,270,880	1,407,470	863,410
10. Haora	2,957,464	1,578,964	1,378,500	1,521,992	958,922	563,070
11. Hugli	3,549,817	1,859,790	1,690,027	1,732,194	1,076,715	655,479
12. Medinipur	6,723,860	3,444,561	3,279,299	2,880,558	1,905,470	975,088
13. Bankura	2,374,205	1,208,424	1,165,781	866,494	597,107	269,387
14. Puruliya	1,855,429	948,211	907,218	553,243	432,207	121,036
15. Barddhaman	4,808,886	2,536,405	2,272,481	2,059,995	1,291,426	768,569
16. Birbhum	2,094,756	1,067,322	1,027,434	707,980	459,278	248,702

POPULATION IN AGE-GROUP 0-4)

Percentage of Literates to total population

1971			1981			State/District 1
Persons 8	Males 9	Females 10	Persons 11	Males 12	Females 13	
33.20	42.81	22.42	40.88	50.49	30.33	WEST BENGAL
21.92	31.08	11.93	29.99	39.99	19.30	1. Koch Bihar
24.01	31.96	15.04	29.88	38.48	20.44	2. Jalpaiguri
33.07	41.75	23.23	42.52	51.58	32.38	3. Darjiling
22.12	31.09	12.37	26.92	36.13	17.08	4. West Dinajpur
17.61	25.45	9.34	23.06	31.46	14.21	5. Maldah
19.66	26.73	12.26	24.97	32.35	17.28	6. Murshidabad
31.31	38.61	23.61	36.77	43.74	29.40	7. Nadia
33.45	48.44	27.13	45.91	55.41	35.40	8. Twentyfour Parganas
60.32	64.08	54.40	68.99	73.21	63.07	9. Calcutta
40.59	50.51	28.68	51.46	60.73	40.85	10. Haora
38.82	48.33	28.21	48.80	57.89	38.79	11. Hugli
32.87	45.59	19.42	42.84	55.32	29.73	12. Medinipur
26.30	37.63	14.47	36.50	49.41	23.11	13. Bankura
21.50	34.27	8.25	29.82	45.58	13.34	14. Puruliya
34.36	42.87	24.75	42.84	50.92	33.80	15. Barddhaman
26.57	35.45	17.40	33.80	43.03	24.21	16. Birbhum

TABLE-IV—CITIES WITH A POPULATION OF

Sl. No.	Name of City	Provisional Population 1981			Sex Ratio	
		Persons	Males	Females		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1.	*Calcutta (M.C.)	3,291,655	1,922,632	1,369,023	712	
2.	*Haora (M.C.)	742,298	420,517	321,781	765	
3.	*South Suburban (M)	394,594	208,882	185,712	889	
4.	Durgapur (N.A.)	305,838	167,814	138,024	822	
5.	*Bhatpara (M)	269,158	152,823	116,335	761	
6.	*Jadabpur (M)	249,424	132,210	117,214	887	
7.	*Kamarhati (M)	240,418	135,925	104,493	769	
8.	*South Dum Dum (M)	227,578	119,829	107,749	899	
9.	*Panihati (M)	205,546	109,133	96,413	883	
10.	*Garden Reach (M)	191,389	106,918	84,471	790	
11.	Asansol (M)	187,039	103,875	83,164	801	
12.	*Baranagar (M)	167,848	89,883	77,965	867	
13.	Barddhaman (M)	167,589	88,885	78,704	885	
14.	Siliguri (M)	153,825	85,779	68,046	793	
15.	Kharagpur (M)	152,964	81,527	71,437	876	
16.	*Bally (M)	137,723	80,929	56,794	702	
17.	*Hugli-Chinsurah (M)	129,338	67,106	62,232	927	
18.	*Serampur (M)	126,918	70,317	56,601	805	
19.	Nabadwip (M)	118,820	60,110	58,710	977	
20.	*Naihati (M)	114,165	64,056	50,109	782	
21.	Balurghat (M)	112,531	59,288	53,243	898	
22.	*Barrackpore (M)	109,149	58,344	50,805	871	
23.	*Titagarh (M)	104,439	64,269	40,170	625	
24.	*Chandannagar (M.C.)	101,568	53,375	48,193	903	
Name of Urban Agglomeration						
1.	Calcutta	U. A.	9,165,650	5,140,019	4,025,631	783
2.	Asansol	U. A.	365,371	204,410	160,961	787
3.	Kharagpur	U. A.	234,931	124,753	110,178	883
4.	Nabadwip	U. A.	129,647	65,642	64,005	975
5.	Habra	U. A.	127,855	65,220	62,635	960
6.	Raniganj	U. A.	119,322	69,381	49,941	720
7.	Balurghat	U. A.	112,531	59,288	53,243	898
8.	Ondal	U. A.	108,647	62,995	45,652	725
9.	Baharampur	U. A.	100,150	51,019	49,131	963

Notes : (1) Asterisk (*) marked cities are included in Calcutta Urban Agglomeration

(2) Balurghat City includes its 2 out growths and with these two out growths Balurghat Urban Agglomeration has also been formed.

U.A.—Urban Agglomeration, M.C.—Municipal Corporation, M—Municipality,
N.A.—Notified Area

100,000 AND ABOVE

1981 Census
(Provisional Figures)

Total Literates			Literacy Rates			Remarks	Sl. No.	Name of City
Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1.	2
2,270,880	1,407,470	863,410	68.99	73.21	63.07		1.	*Calcutta (M.C.)
483,428	297,689	185,739	65.13	70.79	57.72		2.	*Haora (M.C.)
280,561	160,506	120,055	71.10	76.84	64.65		3.	*South Suburban (M)
203,369	120,639	82,730	66.50	71.89	59.94		4.	Durgapur (N.A.)
130,984	87,126	43,858	48.66	57.01	37.70		5.	*Bhatpara (M)
169,223	96,282	72,941	67.85	72.83	62.33		6.	*Jadabpur (M)
161,860	96,594	65,266	67.32	71.06	62.46		7.	*Kamarhati (M)
165,546	92,800	72,746	72.74	77.44	67.51		8.	*South Dum Dum (M)
147,635	82,492	65,143	71.83	75.59	67.57		9.	*Panihati (M)
90,857	60,198	30,659	47.47	56.30	36.30		10.	*Garden Reach (M)
116,730	69,394	47,336	62.41	66.81	56.92		11.	Asansol (M)
127,367	72,261	55,106	75.88	80.39	70.68		12.	*Baranagar (M)
105,726	62,474	43,252	63.09	70.29	54.96		13.	Barddhaman (M)
96,275	57,344	38,931	62.59	66.85	57.21		14.	Siliguri (M)
88,126	53,081	35,045	57.61	65.11	49.06		15.	Kharagpur (M)
88,434	55,595	32,839	64.21	68.70	57.82		16.	*Bally (M)
94,200	52,522	41,678	72.83	78.27	66.97		17.	*Hugli-Chinsurah (M)
82,597	48,952	33,645	65.08	69.62	59.44		18.	*Serampur (M)
72,497	41,522	30,975	61.01	69.08	52.76		19.	Nabadwip (M)
62,422	38,655	23,767	54.68	60.35	47.43		20.	*Naihati (M)
74,733	42,848	31,885	66.41	72.27	59.89		21.	Balurghat (M)
75,087	43,295	31,792	68.79	74.21	62.58		22.	*Barrackpore (M)
48,441	34,943	13,498	46.38	54.37	33.60		23.	*Titagarh (M)
70,624	40,060	30,564	69.53	75.05	63.42		24.	*Chandannagar (M.C.)
Name of Urban Agglomeration								
5,979,495	3,632,222	2,347,273	65.24	70.67	58.31		1.	Calcutta U. A.
209,038	129,538	79,500	57.21	63.37	49.39		2.	Asansol U. A.
140,370	84,331	56,039	59.75	67.60	50.86		3.	Kharagpur U. A.
76,525	44,130	32,395	59.03	67.23	50.61		4.	Nabadwip U. A.
90,105	49,614	40,491	70.47	76.07	64.65		5.	Habra U. A.
51,197	34,649	16,548	42.91	49.94	33.14		6.	Raniganj U. A.
74,733	42,848	31,885	66.41	72.27	59.89		7.	Balurghat U. A.
43,216	30,374	12,842	39.78	48.22	28.13		8.	Ondal U. A.
65,282	36,144	29,138	65.18	70.84	59.31		9.	Baharampur U. A.

TABLE-V—PROVISIONAL POPULATION TOTALS

(1981 CENSUS)

India/State/Union Territories	Total Population 1981			Total Literates 1981		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
	2	3	4	5	6	7
INDIA	683,810,051	353,347,249	330,462,802	37,991,932	158,837,215	79,154,717
STATES						
1. Andhra Pradesh	53,403,619	27,035,531	26,368,088	15,989,266	10,578,388	5,410,878
2. Assam*	19,902,826	10,472,712	9,430,114
3. Bihar	69,823,154	35,865,467	33,957,687	18,163,410	13,551,736	4,611,674
4. Gujarat	33,960,905	17,484,540	16,476,365	14,858,075	9,534,470	5,323,605
5. Haryana	12,850,902	6,846,153	6,004,749	4,605,649	3,271,047	1,334,602
6. Himachal Pradesh	4,237,569	2,131,312	2,106,257	1,777,201	1,115,973	661,228
7. Jammu & Kashmir*	5,981,600	3,062,200	2,919,400
8. Karnataka	37,043,451	18,869,494	18,173,957	14,228,947	9,171,677	5,057,270
9. Kerala	25,403,217	12,487,961	12,915,256	17,571,819	9,244,609	8,327,210
10. Madhya Pradesh	52,131,717	26,856,752	25,274,965	14,502,063	10,574,919	3,927,144
11. Maharashtra	62,693,898	32,341,115	30,352,783	29,695,721	19,046,963	10,648,758
12. Manipur	1,433,691	727,108	706,583	601,943	385,123	216,820
13. Meghalaya	1,327,874	678,883	648,991	441,077	251,056	190,021
14. Nagaland	773,281	414,231	359,050	324,700	203,643	121,057
15. Orissa	26,272,054	13,253,523	13,018,531	8,964,625	6,216,037	2,748,588
16. Punjab	16,669,755	8,840,234	7,829,521	6,791,547	4,118,415	2,673,132
17. Rajasthan	34,102,912	17,749,282	16,353,630	8,201,615	6,350,945	1,850,670
18. Sikkim	315,682	171,959	143,723	106,780	75,066	31,714
19. Tamil Nadu	48,297,456	24,420,228	23,877,228	22,111,593	13,965,132	8,146,461
20. Tripura	2,060,189	1,057,714	1,002,475	856,688	539,932	316,756
21. Uttar Pradesh	110,858,019	58,780,640	52,077,379	30,358,013	22,845,887	7,512,126
22. West Bengal	54,485,560	28,505,151	25,980,409	22,271,867	14,391,808	7,880,059
<i>Union Territories</i>						
1. A & N Islands	188,254	106,889	81,365	96,520	62,470	34,050
2. Arunachal Pradesh	628,050	335,941	292,109	126,185	94,002	32,183
3. Chandigarh	450,061	254,208	195,853	291,091	174,953	116,138
4. D & N. Haveli	103,677	52,514	51,163	27,578	19,007	8,571
5. Delhi	6,196,414	3,422,550	2,773,864	3,783,611	2,325,804	1,457,807
6. Goa, Daman & Diu	1,082,117	546,260	535,857	604,489	353,832	250,657
7. Lakshadweep	40,237	20,367	19,870	22,018	13,233	8,785
8. Mizoram	487,774	251,988	235,786	290,241	166,296	123,945
9. Pondicherry	604,136	304,342	299,794	327,600	194,792	132,808

*Projected figures