



# CENSUS OF INDIA 1971

SERIES-18 : WEST BENGAL

Paper I of 1971

## PROVISIONAL POPULATION TOTALS WEST BENGAL

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WEST BENGAL

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Sun Upon a Tank : *Alpana design*

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## N O T E

The figures presented in this booklet give some basic particulars of the population as on 1st April 1971 as recorded by the 1971 Census of India. These figures however are only the crude totals compiled from the abstracts furnished by the census enumerators themselves from the Census records. The figures so compiled from the abstracts collected from thousands of enumerators are bound to have their own limitations and are thus purely provisional which can be confirmed only after the census schedules are fully processed in a series of regional tabulation offices. After the final tabulation, apart from providing the Primary Census data down to every village and enumerators' block of a town, a series of cross tabulations of the Census data will be made to present the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population in a meaningful way such as by sex, broad age groups, educational levels etc. It is our anxiety to make available to the Government and the people the provisional results of the 1971 Census count as quickly as possible after the completion of enumeration which has impelled us to compile and present this booklet of provisional population figures.

# FIGURES AT A GLANCE

Census of India 1971 ● Provisional Population Totals ● West Bengal

## POPULATION

Total	44,440,095
Males	23,488,244
Females	20,951,851

## DECENNIAL POPULATION GROWTH RATE 1961-71

27.24 %

## DENSITY OF POPULATION

507 per Sq. Km.

## SEX RATIO

892 females per 1,000 males

## PROPORTION OF URBAN POPULATION TO TOTAL POPULATION

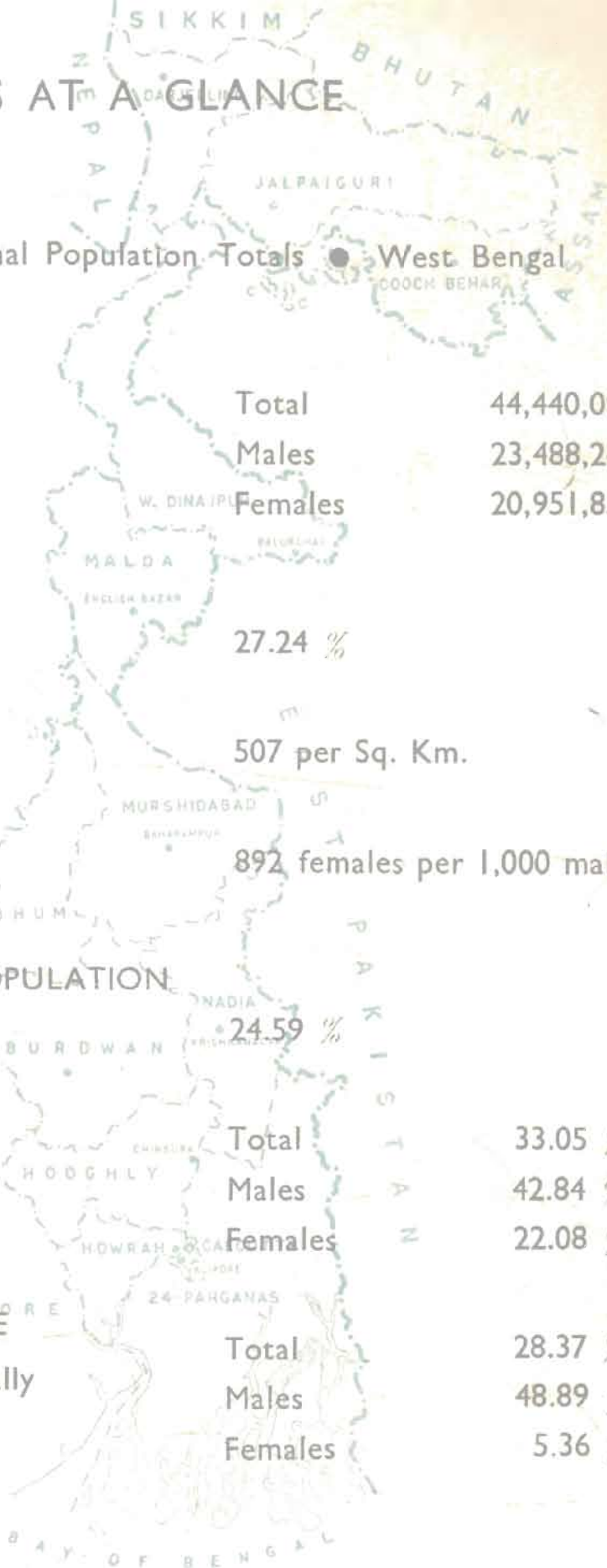
24.59 %

## LITERACY RATE

Total	33.05 %
Males	42.84 %
Females	22.08 %

## WORK PARTICIPATION RATE (i. e. Proportion of Economically Active Workers)

Total	28.37 %
Males	48.89 %
Females	5.36 %





*Any statement made or conclusion drawn in this Paper is wholly the responsibility of the author alone in his personal capacity and does not necessarily represent the views of the Government.*

## P R E F A C E

The Eleventh Census of West Bengal could not have been taken at a worse time. There were floods, which disrupted houselisting work, the elections, which disrupted the actual enumeration, forcing us hurriedly to reorganise and re-programme our work, and the creeping tide of violence, which not only threatened to swamp our essentially quiet operations but so harried those on whom we relied to get things done, that even the scant attention that census work normally merits (and probably deserves) was difficult to get. There were times when we despaired of ever getting the operations under way.

That the census has been taken, almost as quietly as we would have liked it to be, is a tribute to the devoted and extremely hard work put in by those whom, for lack of a better phrase, we can only call our census people: the enumerators, trudging through fields from one village to another, or walking warily down murky alleys and lanes in Calcutta; the supervisors, whose real task was no less wearying; the Charge Superintendents, who had to cope with the insistent demands of a hard pressed administration and also do census work—I met one who was distributing housebuilding grants after the October floods while he explained, at the same time, the progress he had made in census preparations—and the Officers-in-Charge of Census Operations in the districts and subdivisions, who had to wheedle and cajole people to get the most elementary things done, and who became persons to avoid, as everyone saw in them the unedifying prospects of being roped into the organisation. To all these persons, to the staff who patiently and tirelessly backed them up, to the Extension Officers in the blocks, who worked in a variety of capacities often on their own, with little sympathy from others, and, in Calcutta, to a few Charge Superintendents, the Civil Defence Organisation, and our own band of Charge Inspectors, Zonal Census Officers, to our Deputy and Assistant Directors,

who did not spare themselves to get their work done, I would like to express my personal gratitude and admiration. Had they not taken up this work with the enthusiasm and interest that they did, we would not have been able to present the data contained in this paper, or for that matter, any Census data at all.

To the District Magistrates and Deputy Commissioners of the State I owe a great deal, for guiding and advising their officers with sagacity and sympathy. In most of the districts, young Additional District Magistrates and Additional Deputy Commissioners were of immense help, not only to the Census echelons in their districts, but to me. Because of them and their interest, I worried a lot less than I would otherwise have done about quite a few districts. The Subdivisional Officers were also, by and large, not only sympathetic, but actually involved in this work. We in the Census organisation owe a great deal to some of them.

If there was any one officer whom I repeatedly worried for a thousand and one things it was the Home Secretary to the Government of West Bengal. Both Shri S. B. Ray, IAS and Shri B.R. Gupta, IAS, not only put up with all this but, in the midst of the tensions and crises which they had to face, they spent a good amount of time helping me to iron out the difficulties I had. To both of them I am extremely grateful.

In a very real and often distressing sense, the Director of Census Operations is a lonely person ; very few know what he is about, and the fact that he has to count people at such a time excites more amusement than sympathy. For making me feel that this task could be interesting and rewarding, whatever others might think, I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to Shri A. Chandra Sekhar, Registrar General and Census Commissioner for India, who never let the thousands of problems I faced remain problems, and who allowed me all the latitude I asked for to conduct this most difficult of Census operations. I am also greatly indebted to Shri K. D. Ballal, Deputy Registrar General and Shri K. K. Chakravarty, Central Tabulation Officer, for their unfailing help, advice and guidance.

I would also like to record my deep appreciation of the sterling work done by the officers and staff of this Directorate who



helped me to produce this paper in such a short period. They have sat up late and on holidays wrestling with figures, maps and charts, to ensure that we meet the deadline set : it makes me proud to be associated with them.

A new concept used in the tables is the urban agglomeration. We had town groups in 1961, but we felt that a more realistic definition was needed of the actual urban sprawl which exists in a particular place, both within and without recognised civic and even district boundaries. An urban agglomeration is the urban growth arround and including a core town, which is continuous, and not hyphenated by rural pockets. Several urban agglomerations have been identified, the chief among these being the Calcutta Urban Agglomeration. We hope to be able to provide, in our future publications, some additional, and more detailed information on these urban areas.

A word, finally, about this paper. The comments made in it are more hypotheses than anything else, since the data is really too scanty to form the basis of any definite opinions. Nevertheless, I feel some trends are noticeable, trends which will not be radically altered after final tabulation. I have tried to highlight some of them ; there are several others which scholars will certainly discern, and back up with their own studies.

One might conclude that some comments are so obvious as to be trite. This, however, has to be, since no carefully constructed theory or analysis is being advertised ; I have tried merely to point to what the figures seem to be saying. If their presentation and my comments stimulate further enquiries and discussions, perhaps a serious consideration of the trends which have become apparent, this paper will have more than served its purpose.

Calcutta,  
20th April, 1971

BHASKAR GHOSE  
*Director of Census Operations,  
West Bengal*



# THE CENSUS OPERATIONS



## The Census Operations

We are often asked how we think we can count all the people in the State. Since Census data is used for a number of important purposes, this question is logical. We feel it is necessary, therefore, briefly to describe the process through which we obtain our data, and the huge organisation which has to be set up on the eve of the Census.

### **Area demarcation**

The first requirement is a clear and precise knowledge of the boundaries of the State and the territorial units of operation, such as districts, police stations, towns and municipal wards. Before the operations, therefore, we scrutinised the boundaries of West Bengal and its territorial units carefully; areas transferred from one district to another were identified and lists of changes sent to the district officers concerned. While there were no major alterations in boundaries since 1961, several minor changes had been made from time to time. Some of these had been officially notified, others had not. For operational purposes, we went ahead with the jurisdictions as we found them, but the final figures will be presented according to territorial units modified by such changes in area as have been actually notified by the State Government.

### **Urban areas**

Another task which we had to undertake was the identification of urban areas in the State. To do this, we used four indicators : (a) the density had to be more than 1,000 persons per sq. mile ; (b) the population had to be at least 5,000 ; (c) at least 75% of the male working force had to be engaged in non-agricultural pursuits ; and (d) the area had to possess, in the opinion of the Director of Census Operations, distinct urban characteristics. Since the

average density all over West Bengal was 1,021 persons per square mile in 1961, the density indicator was not useful ; neither was the size indicator. We actually relied mainly on the character of the male working force, and a quick examination of the area to see whether a definite infrastructure of services and functions existed. The final list of urban areas in West Bengal was submitted to the State Government and adopted by us after their approval had been received.

#### Sketch maps

Our objective being to count people, and since people are invariably found, at some time or the other, where they reside, we had first to get a list of houses and their locations. To enable us to do this listing properly, we prepared a set of sketch maps on which the location of each house was plotted. Such sketches of every village, town and city have been prepared for the first time in West Bengal. We used the State Government's field staff for it, and, by and large, they did an excellent job. These sketches formed the basis of the housenumbering, which, owing to the fact that we had these sketches, became a very clear, simple and rational business. They were also invaluable for supervision and checking later on.

#### The organisation

##### (a) Districts

The Census organisation was essentially a borrowed one, manned by officials from the State Government. The Directorate, which is an office of the Government of India, had a field unit only in the city of Calcutta. The fact that the Director and Deputy Directors of Census Operations are officers of the State Government deputed to the Government of India for Census work made the continuous liaison which the job required possible and effective.

We began by dividing the State into a number of small units, called blocks. In rural areas, every revenue village, or *mouza*, was treated as a Census block. If, however, the population was too large, we split the *mouza* into a number of blocks, using our sketch maps as guides, trying to ensure that each block had

roughly, 750 persons. In urban areas we divided each Municipal or Corporation Ward into blocks of roughly 600 persons ; again, our sketch maps were our guides.

A number of blocks were grouped into what we called Census Circles, and a group of circles formed a Census Charge. In rural areas the charge was coterminous with Development Blocks ; in urban areas the municipality or the non-municipal urban area was itself a charge, unless it had a population of well over 80,000, in which case it was split into a suitable number of charges. The subdivisions of each district consisted, as a consequence, of a number of charges.

In the fifteen districts of West Bengal, officers of the State Government looked after Census work down to the charge level ; the District Magistrate (or Deputy Commissioner, where the District Magistrate was so known) was the District Census Officer, and he had an officer of the rank of a Deputy or Sub-Deputy Magistrate to assist him, who was formally appointed Officer-in-Charge, Census. Similarly, every Subdivisional Officer was the Subdivisional Census Officer in his jurisdiction, and had an Officer-in-Charge, Census, to assist him. A Community Development Block being coterminous with a census charge in rural areas, the Block Development Officer was appointed Charge Superintendent. In the urban areas of each district, the Chairman of the Municipality was appointed Town Census Officer, and either the Block Development Officer or another responsible officer was made Charge Superintendent. Some charges were very thickly populated, or had inaccessible areas ; in these, an officer from among the Extension Officers was appointed Deputy Charge Superintendent.

At the circle level we made use of the Pradhans of the Anchal Panchayats, and also officials of the State Government, appointing them Circle Supervisors. Each of them supervised the Census taking in a group of blocks. In urban areas Municipal Commissioners were appointed Circle Supervisors, since an urban circle was coterminous with a municipal ward. Where an urban area was not a municipality a group of five to six blocks was formed into a circle, and a leading local citizen or a Government Official was appointed Circle Supervisor.

For each census block, the place where the actual census taking was done, there was an enumerator. He was usually a primary or secondary school teacher, or a local resident.

*(b) Calcutta Corporation area*

The set up in Calcutta was slightly different. Each ward in the city was made a census charge, and, on the basis of the sketch maps, blocks were carved out consisting of about 600 persons; groups of blocks were constituted into circles. A number of charges were constituted into Zones; there were, in this Census, eight Zones in Calcutta.

Each Zone was looked after by a Zonal Census Officer; five of them were officials of this Directorate and three were borrowed from the State Government. For each Charge, a Charge Superintendent was appointed from among Corporation Councillors, Civil Defence Divisional Wardens, and leading citizens of the area. In addition, a full-time official of this Directorate was posted to each Charge, and appointed Charge Inspector. Circle Supervisors and Enumerators were appointed from among local citizens and Government employees.

*(c) State and Country*

The over all responsibility for the census operations in the State was that of the Director of Census Operations, and the census was taken according to the instructions and guidance of the Registrar General and *ex-officio* Census Commissioner for India.

The Census hierarchy in this State has been shown in Appendix I to this chapter.

**Houselisting**

With the organisation on the ground, and the personnel properly trained, the first of the two census operations, houselisting, was conducted over September-November 1970. Every house was identified and assigned a number, except in Calcutta, where we adopted the Corporation numbers; these census numbers were



written on each house with coal tar or marking crayons. Basic information on each house, such as the use to which it is put, the material used for the walls and roof and, in respect of establishments, some details on the nature of work carried on in each of them, the number of workers engaged etc., was collected. This information is at the moment being processed and will be presented in a separate publication later on. With this data, we also collected some preliminary information on households ; this was really to help us gauge the magnitude of the actual census count ; the list of households also served as guides to the enumerator during the enumeration. He therefore had, as aids to rational counting, a sketch map of his area showing all buildings, and a list of households with the names of the heads of these households.

#### Enumeration

The actual enumeration was scheduled for the usual 'census period' *i.e.* from 10th February to 28th February 1971, with a revisional round of enumeration from March 1st to March 3rd. The mid-term general elections upset this programme, since the supervisory personnel we were depending on were required to organise the elections. After consultations with the Chief Election Commissioner, the Census was postponed to the period 10th March to 31st March, with April 1st to April 3rd as the revisional round. In West Bengal, however, we felt it would prove impossible to take the Census after the elections, since the polling date for the State was 10th March ; there was, in addition, the hazard of a deteriorating law and order situation. With the approval of the State Government and the Registrar General, therefore, we completed the enumeration in February, well ahead of the elections. The data collected was revised in the field from April 1st to April 3rd in line with the rest of the country.

The Census figures relate to one particular day ; in other words, we report the population of West Bengal as it was on a fixed day. A little reflection will make it obvious that this must be so. The population of any place is never static, but is continually changing ; people are dying, babies are being born, some people

are going away from a place and others are arriving. Unless we report on the size of the population as it was on a given day, nobody will know when the population was what we say it was and when it was less or more. The census, therefore, relates to a fixed day, called the reference day. For the 1971 Census it was April 1st 1971. What we did in West Bengal was to enumerate the population in February, and, on and after the reference date, revise our figures to eliminate deaths which had taken place before 1st April, but after our initial counting, and include all births which occurred in the same period. We thus obtained the population figures as they were: on 1st April, and the risk of 'missing' persons was minimised.

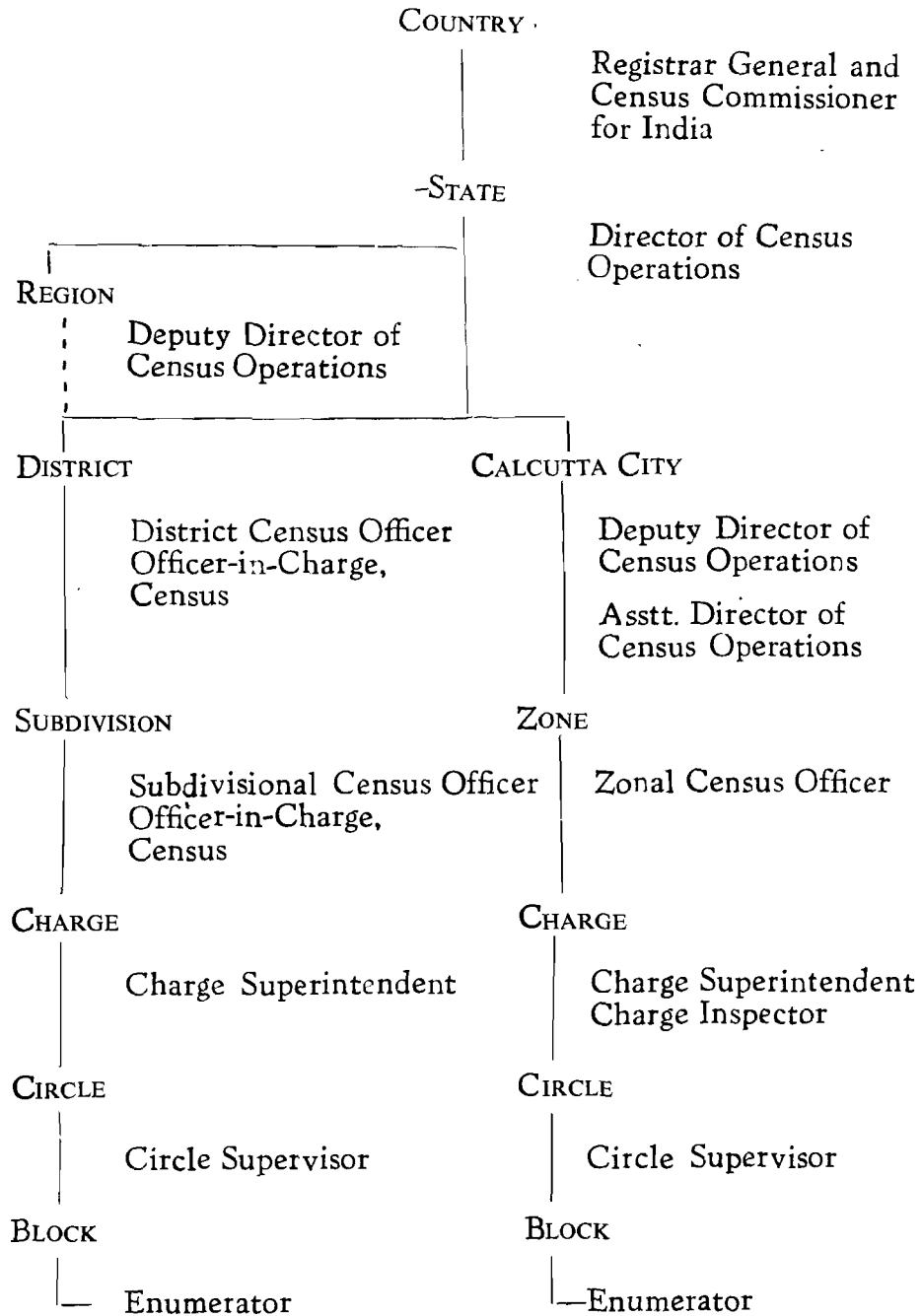
#### Accuracy

A common, very valid, question, is how accurate our figures are. The first and basic fact which one cannot afford to overlook is that this is a gigantic operation covering over 44,000,000 persons. It would be patently foolish to say that not one person has been missed or that no one has been counted twice. That, certainly, was our aim, and all our efforts were concentrated on the imperative need to ensure accuracy ; but there always are some errors. In any field operation of any kind an error exists, as everyone knows it does ; the important point here is to determine how great the error is. Simply because one hears of perhaps 20 families in Calcutta which have been missed, and knows of someone who knows of 20 more, means very little. Forty families of an average size of 5 in a population of over 3,000,000 is far too insignificant a number to alter any of the trends, or comparative analyses which are done by demographers and scholars. Our experience this time was that in a good many cases of apparently missed persons, they had, in fact been enumerated, with the help of some member of the household ; although the enumerator's first endeavour was to get in touch with the heads of the households, this was not always possible. There were busy heads, absent heads and, as we found to our distress, rude heads. The enumerator had often, perforce, to go to someone else to get the information he wanted. The accuracy of the Census,

therefore, has to be accepted not as mathematical accuracy, but as a truthful, correct tally of persons allowing for a negligible margin of error. This margin is, we would like to emphasise, calculated by a post enumeration check of Census figures in the field, and published, so that those who use Census figures allow for it. The estimation of the 1971 margin of error has been taken up and will be released as soon as it is determined.

APPENDIX I

*The Census Hierarchy*



## APPENDIX II

### A. Names of the District Census Officers and Officers-in-charge Census

Serial No.	Name of District	Name of District Census Officer	Name of Officer-in-charge
1	2	3	4
1.	Darjeeling	Shri T. S. Broca, IAS	Shri K. K. Chakraborty, WBCS
2.	Jalpaiguri	Shri N. P. Bagchi, IAS	Shri P. K. Chakraborty, WBCS
3.	Cooch Behar	Shri B. C. Sharma, IAS	Shri A. K. Basu, WBCS
4.	West Dinajpur	Shri J. Misra, IAS	Shri R. M. Saha, WBJCS
5.	Malda	Shri S. P. De, IAS	Shri A. N. Bhattacharji, WBCS
6.	Murshidabad	Shri A. K. Chatterjee, IAS	Shri R. K. De, WBJCS
7.	Nadia	Shri D. C. Mookerjee, IAS	Shri P. N. Roy, WBCS
8.	24-Parganas	Shri R. N. Sengupta, IAS	{ Shri K. J. Basu Roy Chowdhury, WBCS Shri B. Chakraborty, WBCS
9.	Howrah	Shri D. Rudra, IAS	Shri J. N. Roy, WBCS
10.	Hooghly	Shri I. Chaudhuri, IAS	Shri S. Dutta, WBCS
11.	Burdwan	Shri S. Banerjee, IAS	Shri C. H. Sengupta, WBCS
12.	Birbhum	Shri S. L. Bose, IAS	Shri B. Basu, WBCS
13.	Bankura	Shri V. P. Ramachandran, IAS	Shri D. C. Sarkar, WBCS
14.	Midnapore	Shri B. R. Chakraborty, IAS	Shri P. C. Sarkar, WBJCS
15.	Purulia	Shri K. M. Lal, IAS	Shri A. Chanda, WBJCS

### B. Names of Regional Deputy Directors of Census Operations

1.	Shri A. K. Mitra, WBCS	Western Region
2.	Shri S. Basu, WBCS	Central Region
3.	Shri A. K. Dutta, WBCS	Northern Region

### C. Names of Deputy and Assistant Directors and Zonal Census Officers, Calcutta Census Operations

1.	Shri H. Chakraborty, WBCS	Deputy Director of Census Operations, Calcutta City.
2.	Shri M. K. Bose, WBJCS	Asst. Director of Census Operations, Calcutta City.
3.	Shri Dilip Sen	Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. I
4.	Shri Asoke Sen	Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. II
5.	Shri S. K. Guha	Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. III
6.	Shri T. K. Ghosal	Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. IV
7.	Shri A. Sengupta	Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. V
8.	Shri A. K. Bhattacharya	Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. VI
9.	Shri A. Sarkar	Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. VII
10.	Shri A. Bhattacharya	Zonal Census Officer, Zone No. VIII

APPENDIX III

Officials who worked on Paper No. 1 of 1971

*General Supervision*

Shri B. Ray Deputy Director of Census Operations  
Shri S. K. Majumder Office Superintendent

*Compilation*

1. Shri M. N. Sarkar Tabulation Officer  
2. Shri D. P. Chatterjee Investigator  
3. Shri A. K. Ghosh Senior Technical Assistant  
4. Shri K. Dhani Computer  
5. Shri S. S. Ghosh Tabulation Officer  
6. Shri D. N. Basak ”  
7. Shri S. K. Paul Statistical Assistant  
8. Shri A. Das ,  
9. Shri S. K. Neogy Senior Technical Assistant  
10. Shri K. K. Dutta ”

*Mapping*

1. Shri S. N. Ganguly Cartographer  
2. Shri J. B. Dasgupta Draftsman  
3. Shri A. K. Paul ”  
4. Shri S. Chatterjee ”

*Printing*

1. Shri R. C. Bhar Tabulation Officer  
2. Shri H. Saha Chowdhury Proof Reader  
3. Shri A. Sengupta Computer

# A PROFILE OF THE POPULATION





## A Profile of the Population

### Growth

The population of West Bengal on April 1st 1971 was 44,440,095. The State ranks fourth in the country in terms of population size, with U. P., Bihar and Maharashtra ahead of it. The people of this State form 8.12% of the population of the country. This, in an area which constitutes only about 2.7% of the area of the country, making it the second smallest State, area wise. The overall growth rate of the State was, during the decade, 27.2%, which is substantially less than the rate registered in the previous decade. The decade 1951-1961 saw a phenomenally high rate of growth, 32.8%; the rate for the country as a whole for that decade was 21.5%. Clearly, there were factors other than the natural growth of the population which were responsible for the tremendous increase; among these, the influx of refugees and migrants from nearby States was significant. In the decade 1961-1971, the flow of refugees and migrants would, from all other accounts, appear to have lessened considerably; nevertheless, the growth rate remains considerably higher than the rate of growth for the country as a whole, which was 24.57%.

A look at the population figures of each district, and the increase registered, shows that the State can be divided into three large demographic regions: *the riverine districts* of Cooch Behar, West Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia and 24-Parganas; *the western plateau region* fringing the last outcroppings of the Chota Nagpur plateau, consisting of the districts of Birbhum, Purulia, Bankura and Midnapore, and *the more urbanised region around Calcutta*, which is very vitally interlinked with the capital city. These are the districts of

Howrah and Hooghly, which, together with Calcutta, form a densely populated region on either side of the Hooghly river. A large portion of the urbanised area of 24-Parganas also forms part of this region, but for purposes of comparison we have included 24-Parganas as a border district, since not to do so would distort the picture of these districts. Burdwan, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts do not fit into these regions very easily ; the former consists of a highly industrialised area and a large rural area, while Darjeeling cannot really be seen apart from its geographical setting. Jalpaiguri has a very small border, and most of it is covered with tea gardens and forests; these districts have, therefore, to be considered by themselves.

The riverine region shows a very high rate of growth, as in the previous decade ; it has registered a percentage increase of 33.97% over the population of 1961. The western plateau region has registered a much lesser rate of growth (24.15%), and the central region around Calcutta (including the city) even less, 17.22%. The rates as such need not be given much importance, since the division into regions is really arbitrary and not based on any data to establish any seminal relationship of districts within each region to one another and not to those outside the regions they are made a part of ; the rates serve only to highlight the uniform population growth patterns in these so-called regions. In the riverine regions Cooch Behar (38.47%), West Dinajpur (39.46%), Malda (32.13%), Murshidabad (28.48%), Nadia (29.98%) and 24-Parganas (36.63%) have all increased at a greater rate than the State as a whole, although only Malda and West Dinajpur have actually increased their growth rates. The other two regions have registered reduced rates of growth, the central industrial region registering a fairly considerable drop in the rate of growth. Burdwan, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling have also grown at a slower rate than in the previous decade.

*Special area : The Calcutta Urban Agglomeration*

Calcutta city should never be considered by itself, since the boundaries of the Corporation area have no demographic significance. The urban sprawl on either side of the Hooghly, with Calcutta as the focal point, is a more rational and meaningful

entity. For this reason, the capital city of the country, which really consists of the old city of Delhi, the New Delhi area, and Delhi Cantonment is considered an integrated urban area, not a set of independent ones. Greater Bombay, another major urban complex, is a single civic unit, it is true ; but only because the boundaries of what is now called Greater Bombay have been, very sensibly, redefined from time to time so that it includes all those areas which are organically linked to each other as a part of a single, vast, urban centre. In Calcutta no major redefinition of civic boundaries has been done ; occasionally, small areas adjoining the old city have been included, but others, which are no less parts of the urban complex, have been left as they were. Only recently some of the urban areas around the Howrah Municipal area have been regrouped to form Howrah Corporation, but this, again, is only a partial remedy. The huge urban focus which has grown around the old city, which is in every sense an outgrowth of the old city, is fragmented into a large number of small municipal and non-municipal areas.

Since census data had to be presented according to existing territorial or civic units, the data for all these municipalities and non-municipal urban areas were, in earlier census reports, presented separately for each unit. But in doing this, the actual size and characteristics of the urban area as a whole have been lost. Separate volumes of data were, of course, published for what was called the Calcutta Industrial Region, but this area varied with each Census, as it was bound to, since there was no universally recognised and accepted definition of what constituted the urban sprawl around Calcutta.

Recently, an encouraging sign has been the emergence of the Calcutta Metropolitan District as a distinct entity ; starting as a planning area only, it has now a more tangible footing, since two institutions, the Calcutta Metropolitan Water and Sanitation Authority and the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority have been given jurisdiction over this area.

There are, however, two major obstacles which prevent us from presenting data for the CMD in this paper. One of these is operational, and would not interest the reader ; the other is the

fact that the CMD includes a considerable number of rural villages. Our intention here is to identify the patently urban areas which are contiguous to the city of Calcutta and to each other, so that the continuous urban spread is defined. The inclusion of rural areas would alter the demographic characteristics of the exclusively urban area ; we have, therefore, excluded all rural areas, and urban pockets not contiguous to the main area. The resultant urban agglomeration, the Calcutta Urban Agglomeration, consists of 74 urban areas, most of which are municipalities or Corporations. One could call this Greater Calcutta if one wished, though the name does not have the legal sanction that Greater Bombay has.

The Calcutta Urban Agglomeration has a population of 7,040,345, which means that this area has grown at the rate of 19.7% in the decade 1961-1971. For a metropolitan urban area which serves the entire eastern region of the country this is not a very heartening rate of growth ; in fact, Greater Bombay grew in the same decade at the rate of 42.9%.

Data for the city of Calcutta has also been presented separately, for purposes of comparison. The Corporation area has a population of 3,141,180 persons, and shows a growth rate of 7.3%. This is a very low rate of growth indeed, underscoring the trend established in the previous decade, when the growth rate dropped sharply from 24.5% (1941-51) to 8.4% (1951-61). To draw any conclusions, however, about the economic health of Calcutta from this comparison is to make a basic mistake. It is as erroneous as a detailed study of the old Presidency Town of Calcutta (bounded by Upper and Lower Circular Roads) to determine the growth rate of the Corporation. One simply cannot shut one's eyes to the existence of the vast urban outgrowth all around the city. The decade 1961-1971 saw a spurt in the movement away to suburbs such as Behala, Lake Town, and Sodepur. On the other hand, it will not do to forget that there have been several deterrents to growth in Calcutta, for example, the inability of services and facilities such as sanitation and transport to take the strain of higher growth levels, and factors such as industrial unrest, economic difficulties overtaking obsolete modes of production, shortage of raw materials and so on.

## Density

The number of persons per square km. in West Bengal is 507, as against 398 in 1961. The increase is considerable, and West Bengal maintains its All India position of the second most densely populated State in India, Kerala, with 548 persons per sq. kilometre, coming first. The number of persons per sq. kilometre for the country as a whole is 182. As one would expect, the highest concentration of population is in Calcutta City and its neighbouring districts. Calcutta's density is suffocating, with 30,497 persons per sq. kilometre ; Howrah and Hooghly with 1,625 and 913 persons have also reached extremely high levels of density. The southwestern plateau districts are relatively less thickly populated, but from Malda all along the Bhagirathi river the density increases steadily until one reaches the urban focus around Calcutta. The Calcutta Urban Agglomeration has registered a density of 12,419 persons per sq. kilometre. Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri have, thanks to the vast areas in both districts under tea and forests, relatively low overall densities, but if one were to exclude those areas, and their population, the densities would be as high as in the Gangetic plains of the State. Burdwan has recorded a considerable rise in density, like the adjoining central industrial region. A little calculation shows that for every person in the State there are 19.8 hectares of land, or about half an acre.

## Sex Ratio

The number of females per 1,000 males for the State has gone up from 878 to 892. Gains have been particularly noticeable in Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Burdwan, Howrah and Calcutta. The Calcutta Urban Agglomeration has also increased the ratio from 654 in 1961 to 696 in 1971. Barring Cooch Behar, the other districts have large industrial bases, leading one to believe that a change in the earlier pattern of workers living away from their families might be taking place. Of special interest is the drop in the ratio in the western plateau districts of Birbhum, Purulia, Bankura and Midnapore. One would like to think that, situated as these districts are, near growing industrial centres (Asansol-Durgapur, and Ranchi-Dhanbad), they supply a good proportion of the labour force, and that, rather

than living singly, emigrant workers have taken their wives with them. But this is pure conjecture. A definite analysis can only be made when the migration data are available. Another feature is the fact that three riverine districts, Malda, Murshidabad and Nadia, have a lower sex ratio than in 1961. On the other hand Jalpaiguri, with its tea gardens, has registered the highest increase (35), the ratio rising from 854 to 889.

### Literacy

The test prescribed for literacy was the ability to read and write a simple letter. The most striking feature of the literacy data for the State is the universal rise in the number of literate females ; this has been particularly noticeable in 24-Parganas and Hooghly, where the increase is 36.63% and 29.85% over the number of literate females recorded in 1961. Considering the high growth rate of females in these two districts (24-Parganas 37.79% and Hooghly 29.45%) the gains are undoubtedly noteworthy. Darjeeling, Purulia, West Dinajpur, Malda and Midnapore have also recorded sharp increases in the percentage of literate females. The increase in male literacy is not as striking ; in fact, Cooch Behar district has registered a marginally lower percentage of literate males than in 1961.

The State has, on the whole recorded percentage increase of 12.88 in the number of literate persons, with the increase for literate males being 6.89 and for females 30.19.

Calcutta shows only a marginal increase in literacy : the overall increase is only 1.80%, the increase of literate males being 0.94%, and of literate females 4.00%.

The most appreciable increase is in 24-Parganas, for, set against an overall growth rate of 36.63%, an increase of almost 17% in the number of literate persons is a creditable achievement.

We would like to point out that all these percentages for 1971 and 1961, have been worked out on the total population. The age group 0-4 has not been excluded, as in customary, since the the age break up of the population is not yet available,

PROGRESS OF LITERACY 1961-71

State/District	Percentage of Literates to Total Population						Percentage increase in Literacy 1961-71		
	1961			1971			Persons	Males	Females
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>29.28</b>	<b>40.08</b>	<b>16.96</b>	<b>33.05</b>	<b>42.84</b>	<b>22.08</b>	+12.88	+ 6.89	+30.19
Darjeeling	28.70	40.15	15.46	32.90	42.05	22.54	+14.63	+ 4.73	+45.80
Jalpaiguri	19.22	27.07	10.01	24.22	32.38	15.03	+26.01	+19.62	+50.15
Cooch Behar	21.00	31.44	9.27	21.99	31.43	11.71	+ 4.71	- 0.03	+26.32
West Dinajpur	17.06	25.96	7.24	21.95	31.24	11.93	+28.66	+22.34	+64.78
Malda	13.79	21.47	5.84	17.25	25.07	9.05	+25.09	+16.77	+54.97
Murshidabad	16.03	23.49	8.36	19.57	26.81	12.06	+22.08	+14.13	+44.26
Nadia	27.25	35.78	18.24	31.31	39.28	22.92	+14.90	+ 9.78	+25.66
24-Parganas	32.48	43.86	19.33	37.98	48.16	26.41	+16.93	+ 9.80	+36.63
Howrah	36.91	48.41	22.66	39.67	49.42	28.01	+ 7.48	+ 2.09	+23.61
Calcutta	59.28	63.55	52.31	60.35	64.15	54.40	+ 1.80	+ 0.94	+ 4.00
Hooghly	34.65	46.11	21.81	38.60	47.86	28.32	+11.40	+ 3.80	+29.85
Burdwan	29.58	39.39	18.15	34.44	43.25	24.51	+16.43	+ 9.80	+35.04
Birbhum	22.09	32.43	11.47	26.39	35.72	16.77	+19.47	+10.14	+46.21
Bankura	23.08	36.17	9.73	26.21	38.07	13.87	+13.56	+ 5.22	+42.55
Midnapore	27.27	41.66	12.17	32.88	45.62	19.38	+20.57	+ 9.51	+59.24
Purulia	17.79	30.20	5.04	21.88	35.10	8.18	+22.99	+16.23	+62.30

DISTRICTS SHOWING A HIGHER PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN FEMALE LITERACY (1961-71) THAN THE STATE AVERAGE

Name of District	Percentage increase	Name of District	Percentage increase
1	2	1	2
1. West Dinajpur (11.93)	64.78	7. Darjeeling (22.54)	45.80
2. Purulia (8.18)	62.30	8. Murshidabad (12.06)	44.26
3. Midnapore (19.38)	59.24	9. Bankura (13.87)	42.55
4. Malda (9.05)	54.97	10. 24-Parganas (26.41)	36.63
5. Jalpaiguri (15.03)	50.15	11. Burdwan (24.51)	35.04
6. Birbhum (16.77)	46.21		

Note : Figures in brackets show the percentage of female literates in 1971.

### Rural-Urban Ratio

The urbanisation of the State fell to a very low level in the decade 1961-1971. The percentage of urban population to the total population in 1971 is 24.6%; in 1961 it was 24.5%. There has been virtually no increase at all. Only two districts show a small increase; these are 24-Parganas and Hooghly. In some, namely, Cooch Behar, Murshidabad and Midnapore, the proportion has actually fallen, though very slightly.

The urban population has, however, grown in many districts at a faster rate than the rural population: in West Dinajpur the urban growth rate was 75.34% as against the rural growth rate of 36.56%, and in Burdwan district the urban population increased at the rate of 59.57% as against the rate of 19.97% registered in rural areas. On the other hand, in Cooch Behar the urban growth rate was slightly less than the rural growth rate (35.39% as against 38.70%); Murshidabad and Midnapore also showed higher rural growth rates.

The picture one gets from these provisional figures is one of urban stagnation. In spite of the fact that as many as 42 new areas qualified to be treated as urban during this census, the percentage of urban population remains the same when the overall growth rate of the population has fallen.

### The working force

The percentage of workers in the State has dropped substantially. In 1961 there were 11,580,195 workers, and on April 1st 1971 the number was 12,606,996; percentage-wise, in 1961 33.2% of the population were workers and in 1971 the percentage is 28.37. In every district of the State, without exception, the percentage of both male and female workers has dropped. (The huge drop in the percentage of female workers in Purulia and Bankura is, however, probably owing to the conception of work varying from 1961 to 1971 and needs further examination.) Burdwan district, which saw the birth and expansion of the industrial city of Durgapur, and the industrial townships of Chittaranjan, Sen Raleigh, Rupnarainpur, Jaykaynagar and others, has a lower proportion of the population who are workers than in 1961.



Calcutta city's figures are very depressing ; the actual number of workers has gone down, the percentage of workers to the total population being only 37.05. This, however, must be seen in the context of a fairly large move to suburban areas such as Behala, Lake Town, etc. Only in 24-Parganas does one notice a very marginal increase in the percentage of female workers to the total population from 2.9% to 3.05%.

We hasten to add that the fact that 28.37% of the population are workers does not mean that the rest are unemployed. There are, in the remainder figure, babies, aged persons, the infirm, students, school going children and other categories of persons who were in the Census, classified as non-workers. Unemployed persons are among them but their numbers cannot be calculated just now.

At this stage, we are able to classify workers in only three broad categories viz., Cultivators, Agricultural Labourers and Other Workers. The data for the State and each district have been set out in Table VII. The category 'Other Workers' includes workers engaged in all branches of economic activity other than cultivation. It is, in this paper, a residual category, and should not, therefore, be taken to pertain to industrial workers alone. The percentage of cultivators has dropped, 31.75% of the workers having returned themselves as cultivators against 38.5% in 1961. On the other hand, there is a fairly sharp increase in the percentage of agricultural labourers, the increase in percentage being over 10. The percentage of other workers has dropped slightly from 46.2% to 42.5%. The increase in agricultural labourers is an interesting phenomenon. It may very possibly indicate that economic conditions have deteriorated considerably in the rural areas, and individual holdings have become so small that more people considered themselves as agricultural labourers, in which capacity they probably earned more than by cultivating their little plots of land. There is also the possibility that the present socio-political situation in rural areas, especially in the last two or three years, has induced a large number of persons to return themselves as agricultural labourers rather than as cultivators.

For this Census, we specified that a cultivator was one who actually cultivated land held by him from the Government or from a private person, trust etc. in return for payment in cash or kind. An agricultural labourer was one who received wages for the labour he put in, without any interest of any kind in the land. It is, therefore, not unlikely that a general feeling has grown up in the present-day context, that it is preferable to return oneself as an agricultural labourer. The answer might also lie in a combination of both the possibilities we have just mentioned. The decline in the percentage of other workers is yet another pointer to the run-down condition of the economy. In every sector of the economy outside agriculture activity has obviously declined fairly considerably, resulting in this lesser percentage of workers as compared to 1961. The pattern we have just indicated holds good in every district of the State ; the percentage of other workers has universally declined from the 1961 percentages, while the percentage of agricultural labourers has risen everywhere, and the percentage of cultivators has gone down. A universal trend of this type needs, necessarily, to be considered seriously. It indicates some kind of radical alteration in the pattern of activity in the State, which is not very propitious. The proportion of female workers classified as agricultural labourers has registered a very sharp increase practically in every district. For the State as a whole, the proportion has gone up from 21.1% to 38.21%. Among the other workers, *i.e.*, excluding cultivators and agricultural labourers, the percentage of female workers has also risen from 42.1% to 48.93%.

#### Conclusion : the demographic picture

Can any definite conclusions be drawn about West Bengal from the data now available? While a more complete definition of the condition of the State will have to wait until we get all the data that this Census has collected on migration, the pattern of employment in different industrial categories, age, language, religion and all the other subjects which have been covered, some very broad indications are already evident.

The picture is not very encouraging. The overall population growth rate remains high, but the percentage of the working

population has actually declined, and the virtual stagnation of the growth rate of the urban population is an additional reason for concern. Growth in industrial areas is associated with an increase in economic activity, and it is precisely in the industrialised regions that the growth rates have fallen sharply. If one reads these trends with the sharp rise in the number of agricultural labourers, the increase in the ratio of females to males in industrial areas, and what one is tempted to call a corresponding decline in the ratio in the districts adjoining these industrial areas, then it would seem that, in fact, the decline in industrial and commercial activity has forced many lone migrant workers to return to their villages; the "push" from villages has been offset by a greater push from the urban areas, the traditional centres of work and employment. But this is pure speculation, since the data needed to examine this hypothesis is not yet available. Nonetheless, this apprehension cannot lightly be set aside. The density of population shows that the rural areas are incapable of supporting a greater number of workers. In this context, industrialisation would be the main means of employment, but industrialised activity not only seems to have stopped, but begun to shrink

Another dismaying feature has been the relatively poor increase in the percentage of literate persons. Ten years have passed since the last Census, ten years of continuous efforts to combat illiteracy in the State: the gains do not appear to be commensurate with the effort. We must, however, note the very creditable progress in the field of female literacy, where the increase is over 30%.

Finally, there is the growth rate. We added to the population in the last decade the number of persons added in the preceding decade (1951-1961) and *over 800,000 more*. The drop in the percentage growth rate is a little deceptive; Table II shows the growth to be very high even now. Consequently, the problems and deficiencies which are already noticeable are bound to increase in size and complexity, and corrective action will necessarily have to be of a far greater magnitude to have any effect. The striking achievements in the field of female literacy show that this is eminently possible.



**STATEMENT**  
**A COMPARATIVE PICTURE OF THE POPULATION OF STATES OF INDIA**  
**1971 CENSUS : PROVISIONAL FIGURES**

India/States/ Union Territories	Total Population		Decennial Growth Rates Percentage		Density of Population 1971 (per Sq. Km.)
	Population in 1961 (and rank)	Population in 1971 (and rank)	1951-61	1961-71	
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>439,072,582</b>	<b>546,955,945</b>	+ <b>21.64</b>	+ <b>24.57</b>	<b>182*</b>
<i>States</i>					
Andhra Pradesh	35,983,447 (4)	43,394,951 (5)	+ 15.65	+ 20.60	157
Assam	11,127,939 (14)	14,857,314 (13)	+ 35.06	+ 33.51	149
Bihar	46,455,610 (2)	56,387,296 (2)	+ 19.77	+ 21.38	324
Gujarat	20,633,350 (9)	26,660,929 (9)	+ 26.88	+ 29.21	136
Haryana	7,590,543 (15)	9,971,165 (15)	+ 33.79	+ 31.36	225
Himachal Pradesh	2,812,463 (17)	3,424,332 (18)	+ 17.87	+ 21.76	62
Jammu and Kashmir	3,560,976 (16)	4,615,176 (16)	+ 9.44	+ 29.60	N. A.
Kerala	16,903,715 (12)	21,280,397 (12)	+ 24.76	+ 25.89	548
Madhya Pradesh	32,372,408 (7)	41,449,729 (6)	+ 24.17	+ 28.04	93
Maharashtra	39,553,718 (3)	50,295,081 (3)	+ 23.60	+ 27.16	163
Mysore	23,586,772 (8)	29,224,046 (8)	+ 21.57	+ 23.90	152
Nagaland	369,200 (23)	515,561 (23)	+ 14.07	+ 39.64	31
Orissa	17,548,846 (11)	21,934,827 (11)	+ 19.82	+ 24.99	141
Punjab	11,135,069 (13)	13,472,972 (14)	+ 21.56	+ 21.00	268
Rajasthan	20,155,602 (10)	25,724,142 (10)	+ 26.20	+ 27.63	75

N. A.—Stands for Not Available.

\*Density worked out after excluding the population and area of N. E. F. A. and Jammu & Kashmir.

STATEMENT—*contd.*

A COMPARATIVE PICTURE OF THE POPULATION OF STATES OF INDIA  
1971 CENSUS : PROVISIONAL FIGURES

India/States/ Union Territories	Total Population		Decennial Growth Rate Percentage		Density of Population 1971 (per Sq. Km.)
	Population in 1961 (and rank)	Population in 1971 (and rank)	1951-61	1961-71	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Tamil Nadu	33,686,953 (6)	41,103,125 (7)	+ 11.85	+ 22.01	316
Uttar Pradesh	73,746,401 (1)	88,299,453 (1)	+ 16.66	+ 19.73	300
West Bengal	34,926,279 (5)	44,440,095 (4)	+ 32.80	+ 27.24	507
<i>Union Territories &amp; Other Areas :</i>					
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	63,548 (27)	*115,090 (27)	+105.19	+ 81.11	14
Chandigarh	119,881 (26)	256,979 (26)	+394.13	+114.36	2,251
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	57,963 (28)	74,165 (28)	+ 39.56	+ 27.95	151
Delhi	2,658,612 (18)	4,044,338 (17)	+ 52.44	+ 52.12	2,722
Goa, Daman & Diu	626,667 (22)	857,180 (22)	+ 5.14	+ 36.78	225
Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands	24,108 (29)	31,798 (29)	+ 14.61	+ 31.90	994
Manipur	780,037 (20)	1,069,555 (20)	+ 35.04	+ 37.12	48
Meghalaya	744,833 (21)	983,336 (21)	+ 25.97	+ 32.02	44
North East Frontier Agency	336,558 (25)	444,744 (25)	..	+ 32.14	N. A.
Pondicherry	369,079 (24)	471,347 (24)	+ 16.34	+ 27.71	982
Tripura	1,142,005 (19)	1,556,822 (19)	+ 78.71	+ 36.32	149

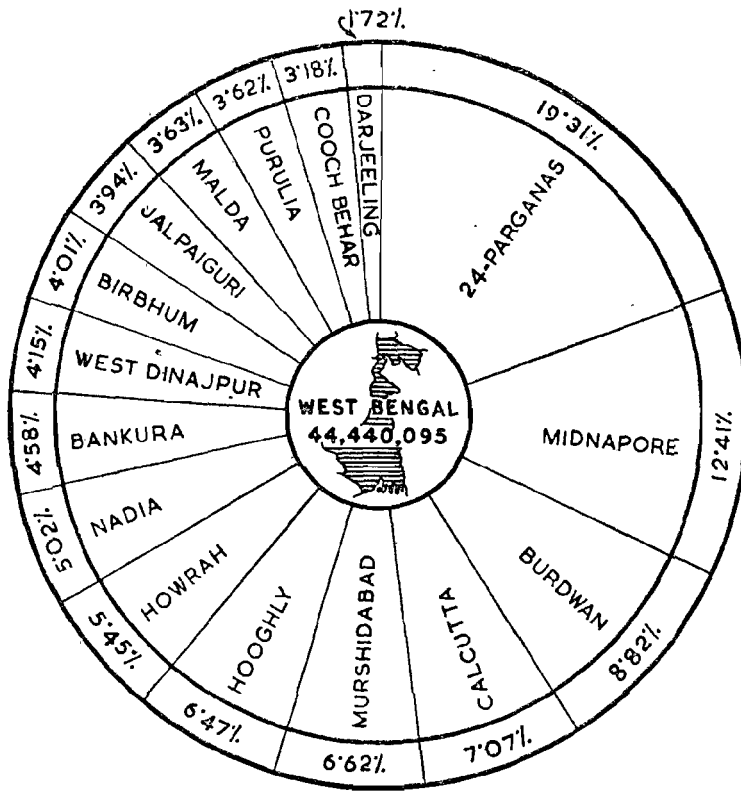
\*Excluding Jawar & Sentinal.

N. A.—Stands for Not Available.

CHARTS, DIAGRAMS  
AND  
MAPS

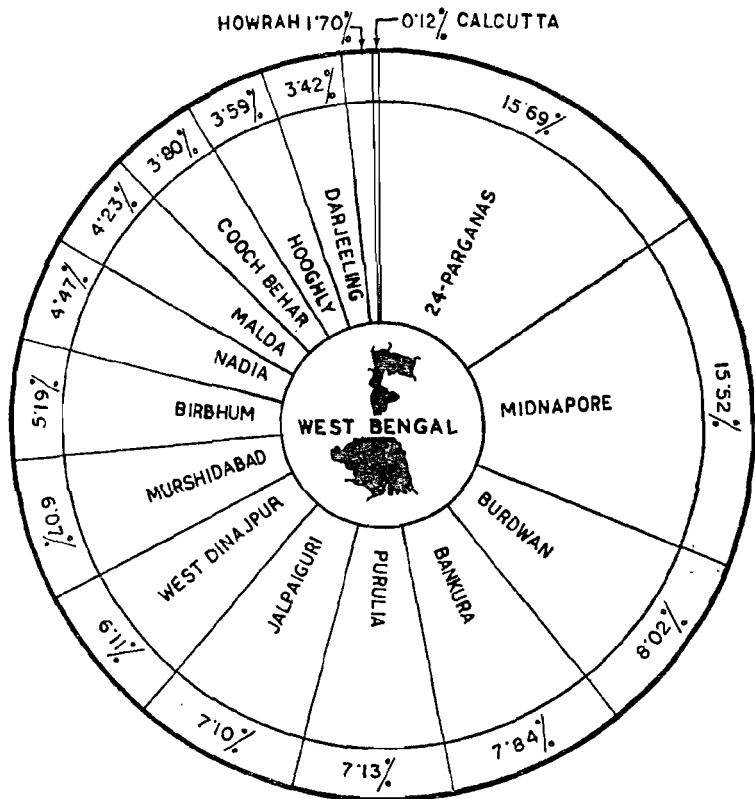






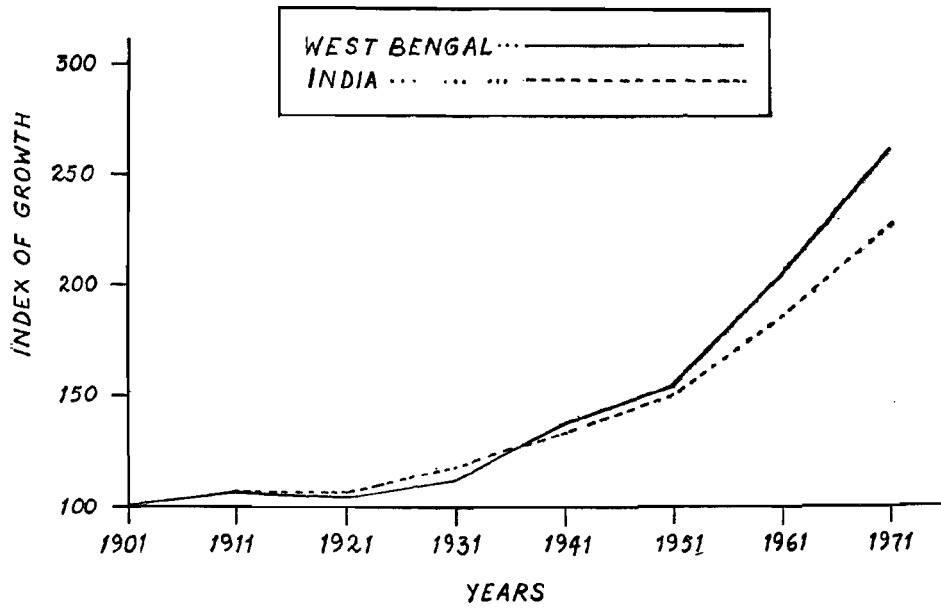
1.  
COMPARATIVE  
POPULATION SIZE  
OF THE DISTRICTS OF  
← WEST BENGAL

2.  
COMPARATIVE  
AREA SIZE OF THE  
DISTRICTS OF  
WEST BENGAL →



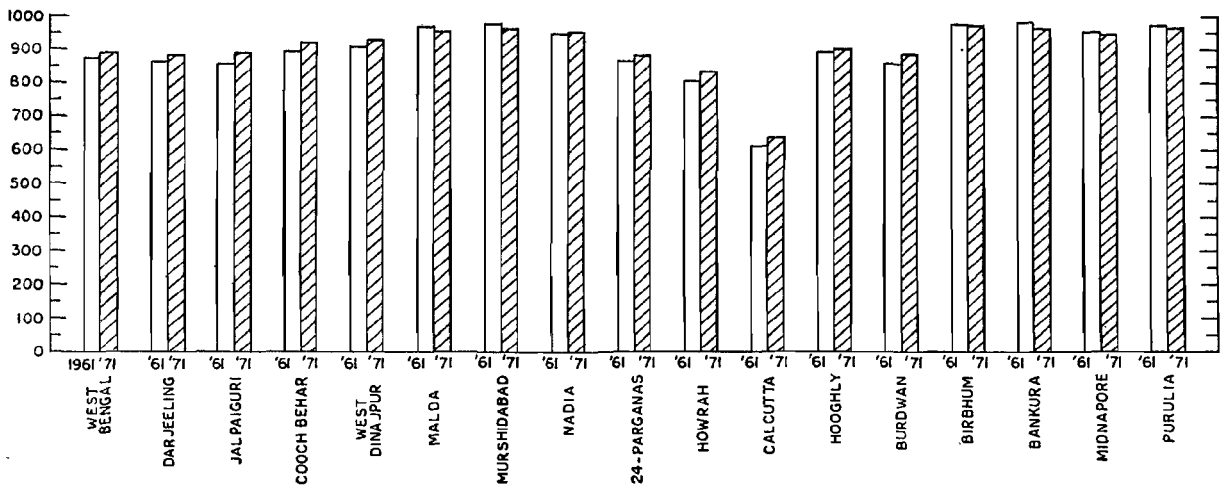
3.

INDEX OF POPULATION GROWTH 1901-71 : INDIA AND WEST BENGAL



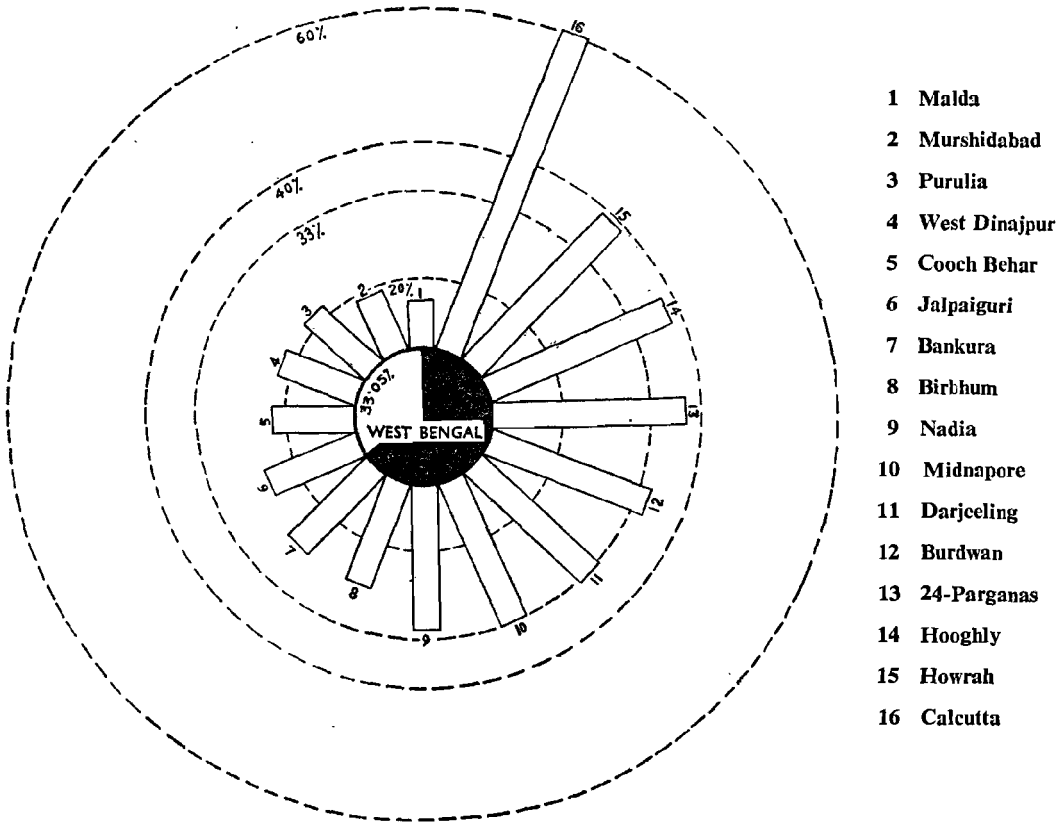
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CHANGES IN SEX RATIO 1961-71 : DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL



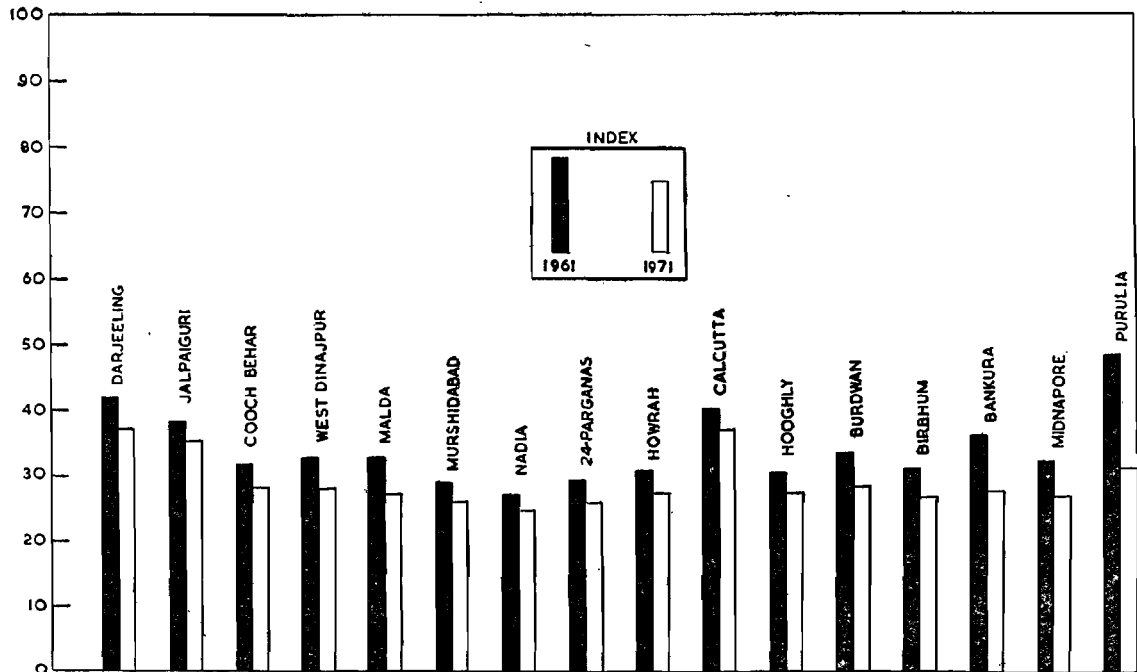
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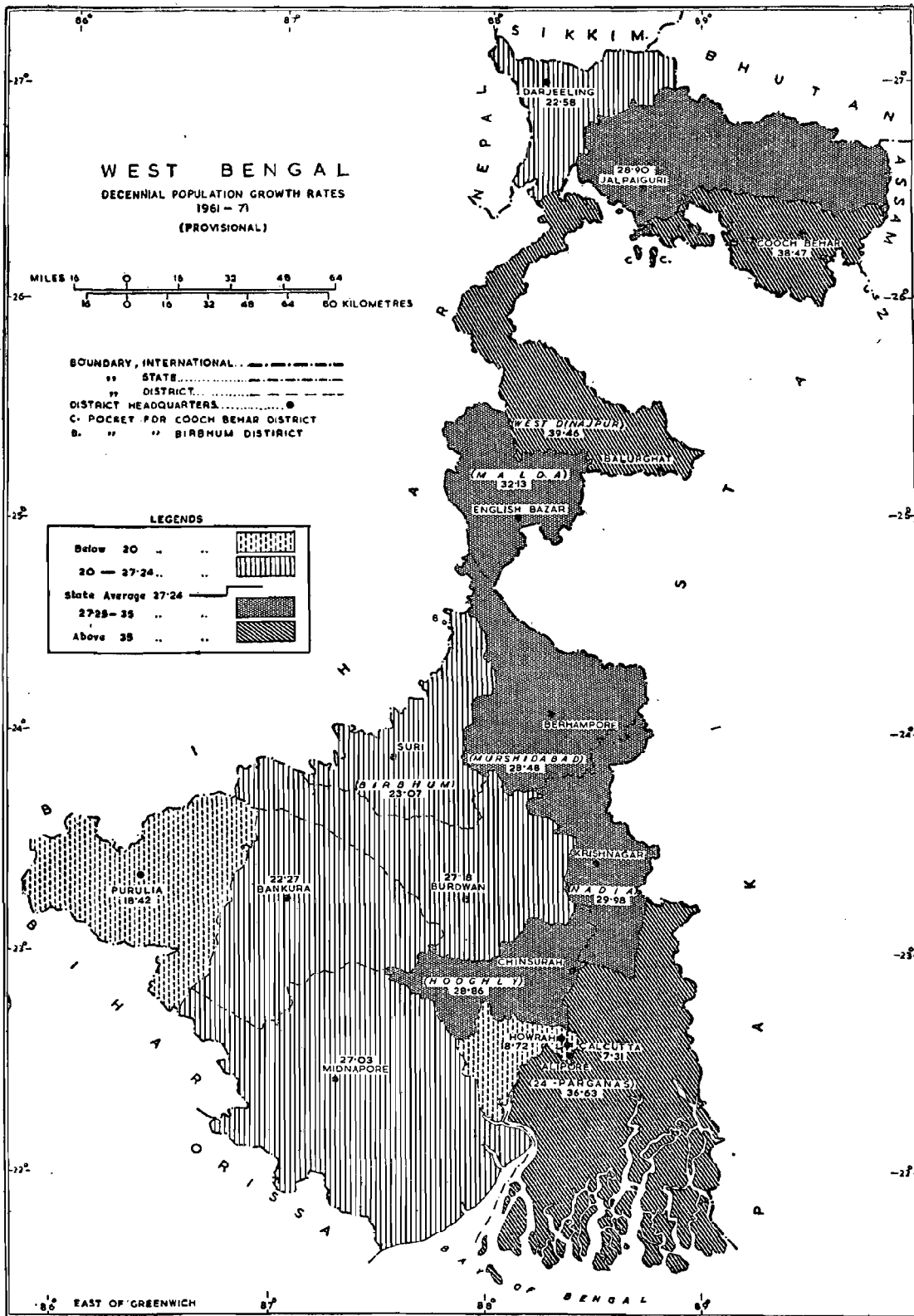
PERCENTAGE OF LITERATES 1971 : DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL



6.

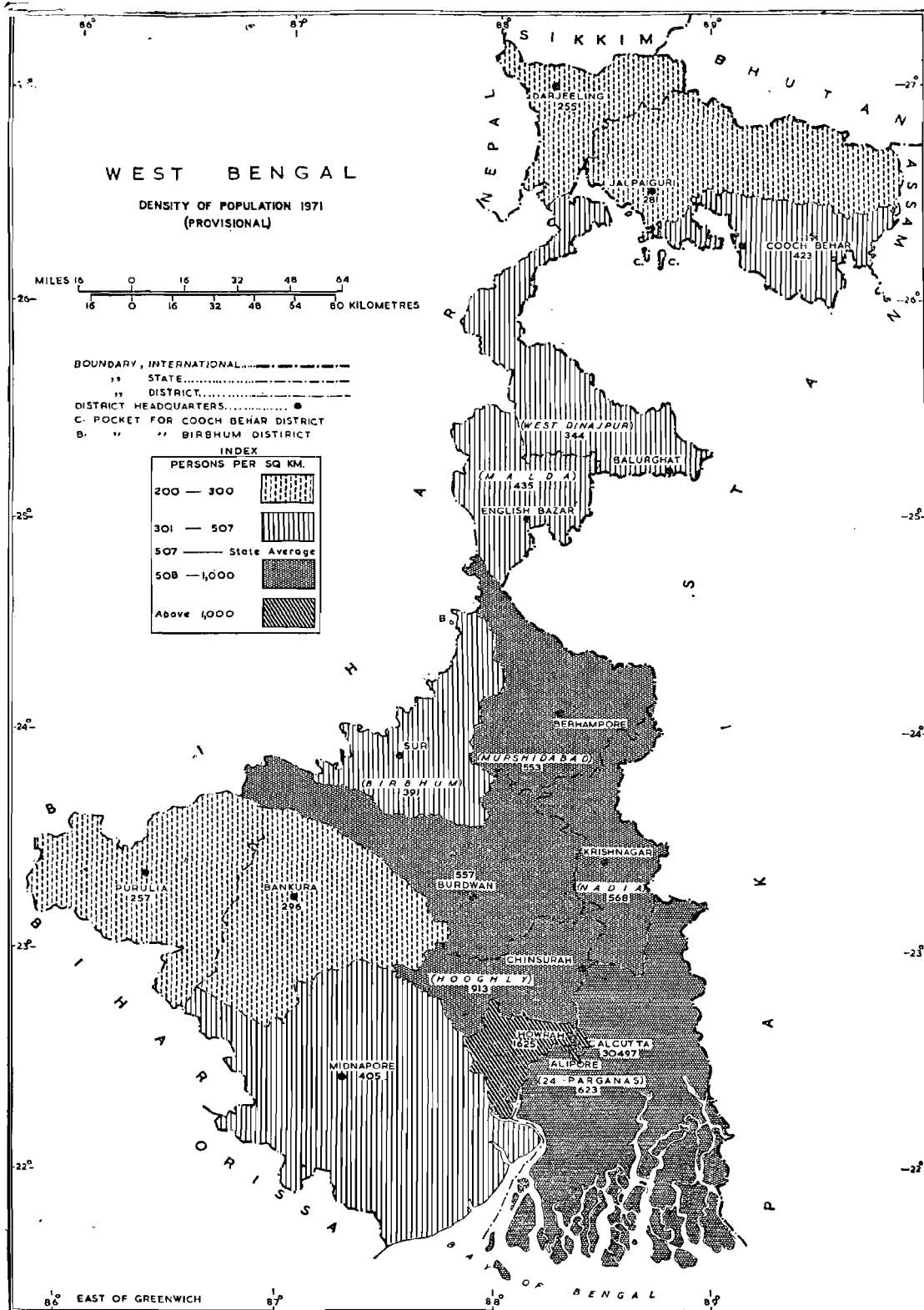
CHANGES IN LABOUR PARTICIPATION RATIO 1961-71 : DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL





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PROVISIONAL  
POPULATION TABLES





TABLE I

**DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, SEX RATIO, GROWTH RATE AND DENSITY OF  
POPULATION BY DISTRICTS**

State/District	Population 1971			Sex Ratio <i>i.e.</i> females for 1,000 males		Density of Population per Sq. Km.		Decennial Growth Rate of Population	
	Persons	Males	Females	1961	1971	1961	1971	1951-61	1961-71
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>44,440,095</b>	<b>23,488,244</b>	<b>20,951,851</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>+32.80</b>	<b>+27.24</b>
Darjeeling	765,677	406,775	358,902	864	882	208	255	+35.90	+22.58
Jalpaiguri	1,752,171	927,713	824,458	854	889	218	281	+48.27	+28.90
Cooch Behar	1,412,148	735,757	676,391	890	919	305	423	+52.45	+38.47
West Dinajpur	1,846,215	957,811	888,404	906	928	247	344	+35.51	+39.46
Malda	1,614,570	826,966	787,604	965	952	329	435	+30.33	+32.13
Murshidabad	2,942,125	1,501,322	1,440,803	974	960	430	553	+33.47	+28.48
Nadia	2,229,022	1,143,367	1,085,655	948	950	437	568	+49.65	+29.98
24-Parganas	8,581,743	4,565,777	4,015,966	866	880	456	623	+40.84	+36.63
Howrah	2,420,095	1,318,270	1,101,825	808	836	1,369	1,625	+26.51	+18.72
Calcutta	3,141,180	1,917,501	1,223,679	612	638	28,420	30,497	+8.48	+7.31
Hooghly	2,873,779	1,512,728	1,361,051	892	900	708	913	+39.10	+28.86
Burdwan	3,920,395	2,077,216	1,843,179	858	887	438	557	+40.65	+27.18
Birbhum	1,779,805	903,118	876,687	973	971	318	391	+35.55	+23.07
Bankura	2,035,273	1,037,671	997,602	981	961	242	296	+26.17	+22.27
Midnapore	5,515,320	2,836,722	2,678,598	952	944	319	405	+29.26	+27.03
Purulia	1,610,577	819,530	791,047	973	965	217	257	+16.33	+18.42

TABLE I A  
**DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION ETC. OF GREATER CALCUTTA**  
**( CALCUTTA URBAN AGGLOMERATION )**

Name	Population 1971			Sex Ratio <i>i.e.</i> females for 1,000 males		Density of Population per Sq. Km.	
	Persons	Males	Females	1961	1971	1961	1971
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Greater Calcutta (Calcutta Urban Agglomeration)*	7,040,345	4,152,322	2,888,023	654	696	10,379	12,420
	Decennial Growth Rate of Population		Literate Population 1971			Percentage of Literates to Total Population 1971	
	1961-71	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	+19.66	4,058,593	2,995,512	1,463,081	57.65	62.51	50.66
	Percentage of Workers to Total Population						
	Persons						
	16						
	32.65						

\*The constituent towns forming the 1971 Calcutta Urban Agglomeration have been shown in Table IV.

TABLE II

## DECADAL VARIATION IN POPULATION SINCE 1901

State/District	Percentage Decadal Variation in Population						
	1901-11	1911-21	1921-31	1931-41	1941-51	1951-61	1961-71
↓	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>West Bengal</b>	+ 6.25	- 2.91	+ 8.14	+22.93	+13.22	+32.80	+27.24
Darjeeling	+ 5.31	+ 5.12	+12.85	+17.72	+17.58	+35.90	+22.58
Jalpaiguri	+21.30	+ 4.93	+ 6.47	+14.42	+ 8.13	+48.27	+28.50
Cooch Behar	+ 4.58	- 0.07	- 0.26	+ 8.43	+ 4.74	+52.45	+38.47
West Dinajpur	+ 6.78	-12.13	+ 7.23	+11.92	+17.03	+35.51	+39.46
Malda	+15.72	- 1.77	+ 4.99	+17.19	+11.05	+30.33	+32.13
Murshidabad	+ 1.71	- 8.99	+11.97	+19.69	+ 4.59	+33.47	+28.48
Nadia	+ 0.36	- 8.28	+ 1.43	+16.40	+36.25	+49.65	+29.98
24-Parganas	+14.78	+ 6.31	+ 9.53	+26.07	+23.50	+40.84	+36.63
Howrah	+10.93	+ 5.71	+10.17	+35.62	+ 8.12	+26.51	+18.72
Calcutta	+ 8.86	+ 3.63	+10.63	+86.00	+24.50	+ 8.48	+ 7.31
Hooghly	+ 3.67	- 0.88	+ 3.25	+24.05	+13.28	+39.10	+28.86
Burdwan	+ 0.37	+ 6.46	+ 9.82	+19.99	+15.92	+40.65	+27.18
Birbhum	+ 3.67	- 9.41	+11.25	+10.63	+ 1.77	+35.55	+23.07
Bankura	+ 1.99	-10.43	+ 9.00	+16.00	+ 2.30	+26.17	+22.27
Midnapore	+ 1.15	- 5.48	+ 4.97	+13.99	+ 5.28	+29.26	+27.03
Purulia	+13.70	- 5.98	+16.91	+11.95	+ 7.43	+16.33	+18.42

TABLE III  
RURAL AND URBAN COMPOSITION OF POPULATION

State/District	Population 1971			Percentage of Urban to total Population		Decennial Growth Rate 1961-71		
	Total	Rural	Urban	1961	1971	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>44,440,095</b>	<b>33,511,696</b>	<b>10,928,399</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>24.59</b>	<b>+27.24</b>	<b>+27.01</b>	<b>+27.95</b>
Darjeeling	765,677	585,786	179,891	23.2	23.49	+22.58	+22.04	+24.37
Jalpaiguri	1,752,171	1,581,261	170,910	9.1	9.75	+28.90	+27.99	+38.04
Cooch Behar	1,412,148	1,315,416	96,732	7.0	6.85	+38.47	+38.70	+35.39
West Dinajpur	1,846,215	1,672,683	173,532	7.5	9.40	+39.46	+36.56	+75.34
Malda	1,614,570	1,546,156	68,414	4.2	4.24	+32.13	+32.02	+34.71
Murshidabad	2,942,125	2,699,256	242,869	8.5	8.25	+28.48	+28.87	+24.25
Nadia	2,229,022	1,810,283	418,739	18.4	18.79	+29.98	+29.35	+32.79
24-Parganas	8,581,743	5,648,805	2,932,938	31.8	34.18	+36.63	+31.89	+46.80
Howrah	2,420,095	1,406,063	1,014,32	40.5	41.90	+18.72	+15.88	+22.90
Calcutta	3,141,180	..	3,141,180	100.0	100.00	+ 7.31	..	+ 7.31
Hooghly	2,873,779	2,112,578	761,201	26.0	26.49	+28.86	+27.97	+31.40
Burdwan	3,920,395	3,025,106	895,289	18.2	22.84	+27.18	+19.97	+59.57
Birbhum	1,779,805	1,654,567	125,238	7.0	7.04	+23.07	+22.98	+24.28
Bankura	2,035,273	1,883,210	152,063	7.3	7.47	+22.27	+22.10	+24.48
Midnapore	5,515,320	5,092,320	423,000	7.7	7.67	+27.03	+27.07	+26.54
Purulia	1,610,577	1,478,206	132,371	6.8	8.22	+18.42	+16.62	+43.14

TABLE IV  
POPULATION OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS/TOWNS

Total of each size class/ Towns of Population size 20,000+	Population 1971			Proportion of population in each size class to total urban population		Growth Rate		Sex Ratio
	Persons	Males	Females	1961	1971	1961	1971	1971
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
All Classes	10,928,399	6,227,006	4,701,393	100.00 (184)	100.00 (226)	+35.97	+27.95	755
(i) No. of Urban Agglomerations—11 (Total No. of constituent towns—97)								
(ii) No. of other towns—129								
A. Total Class I (1,00,000+) U.A—1 No. of other towns—4	7,787,207	4,568,541	3,218,666	56.54	71.26			705
1. Calcutta Urban Agglomeration (74 constituent units)	7,040,345	4,152,322	2,888,023			...	+19.66	696
Calcutta MC	3,141,180	1,917,501	1,223,679			+8.48	+7.31	638
Garden Reach M	155,520	89,729	65,791			+19.80	+18.93	733
Panchur NM	43,432	24,673	18,759			...	+72.82	760
*Krishnagar NM	6,536	3,771	2,765			...	...	733
*Jagannathgarh NM	10,538	5,475	5,063			...	...	925
South Suburban M	273,762	146,830	126,932			+78.57	+47.33	864
Purba Putiari NM	5,584	2,877	2,707			...	+37.44	941
*Chakdaha NM	6,832	3,546	3,286			...	...	927
Bansdroni NM	15,724	8,355	7,369			...	+72.05	882
*Kamdahari NM	9,497	4,901	4,596			...	...	938
*Bademasar NM	12,265	6,534	5,731			...	...	877
Rajapur NM	14,688	7,587	7,101			...	+56.17	936
Santoshpur NM	16,055	8,471	7,584			...	+70.29	895
Jadabpur NM	12,777	7,460	5,317			...	+115.54	713
Garfa NM	22,825	11,938	10 887			...	+156.69	912

TABLE IV—contd.

## POPULATION OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS/TOWNS

Total of each size class/ Towns of Population size 20,000+	Population 1971			Proportion of population in each size class to total urban population		Growth Rate		Sex Ratio 1971
	Persons	Males	Females	1961	1971	1961	1971	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1								9
Kasba NM	23,578	12,509	11,069			...	+46.63	885
South Dum Dum M	174,538	96,082	78,456			+81.27	+56.84	817
*Garui NM	6,731	3,654	3,077			...	...	842
Dum Dum M	31,232	19,221	12,011			+43.13	+55.84	625
Dum Dum Aerodrome Area NM	4,237	2,389	1,848			...	-10.08	774
*Sultanpur NM	21,836	11,745	10,091			...	...	859
*Bandra NM	4,701	2,521	2,180			...	...	865
*Bisarpara NM	5,454	2,879	2,575			...	...	894
North Dum Dum M	63,114	33,258	29,856			+213.75	+65.48	898
Baranagar M	131,431	72,584	58,847			+39.82	+21.88	811
Kamarhati M	204,205	130,662	73,543			+62.40	+62.77	563
Panihati M	148,121	81,821	66,300			+89.34	+58.00	810
*Kerulia NM	4,385	2,312	2,073			...	...	897
*Patulia NM	8,417	4,541	3,876			...	...	854
Khardaha M	32,493	17,507	14,986			+53.11	+14.57	856
Titagarh M	88,318	55,826	32,492			+6.71	+15.56	582
Barrackpur M	97,169	54,623	42,546			+49.58	+52.36	779
Barrackpur Cantt.	24,641	14,562	10,079			+4.47	+45.70	692
North Barrackpur M	76,651	42,430	34,221			+76.18	+35.23	807
Ichhapur Defence Estate NM	10,134	6,313	3,821			-15.19	-18.16	605
Garulia M	44,403	25,976	18,427			+2.60	+52.90	709
*Gurdaha NM	6,520	3,361	3,159			...	...	940
*Panpur NM	5,129	2,728	2,401			...	...	880
*Narayanpur NM	2,863	1,486	1,377			...	...	927
*Madrail-Fuigapara NM	6,517	3,417	3,100			...	...	907

TABLE IV—*contd.*

## POPULATION OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS/TOWNS

Total of each size class/ towns of population size 20,000+	Population 1971			Proportion of population in each size class to total urban population		Growth Rate		Sex Ratio 1971
	Persons	Males	Females	1961	1971	1961	1971	
				5	6	7	8	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bhatpara M	205,303	126,228	79,075			+9.42	+39.07	626
Deulpara NM	26,454	14,166	12,288			+2.78	+48.64	867
Naihati M	81,782	46,220	35,562			+5.68	+39.90	769
Halisahar M	68,997	40,804	28,193			+48.34	+34.18	691
Kanchrapara M	79,019	43,858	35,161			+21.70	+14.58	802
Kalyani NM	18,333	10,213	8,120			...	+297.16	795
Bally NM	38,905	22,497	16,408			...	+30.83	729
*Chakapara NM	8,125	4,367	3,758			...	...	861
Howrah MC	740,662	440,399	300,223			+23.65	+9.50	682
Kolara NM	11,564	6,207	5,357			...	+36.13	863
Mahiari NM	7,192	3,915	3,277			...	+1.60	837
Nibra NM	9,863	5,140	4,723			...	+49.46	919
*Bankra NM	10,780	5,980	4,800			...	...	803
*Podara NM	4,085	2,135	1,950			...	...	913
*Dhuiya NM	6,877	3,616	3,261			...	...	902
Andul NM	3,609	1,985	1,624			...	+23.05	818
*Masila NM	5,763	3,078	2,685			...	...	872
Jhorhat NM	6,386	3,425	2,961			...	-0.81	865
Banupur NM	9,167	7,402	1,765			...	+62.13	238
Sankrail NM	11,304	6,102	5,202			...	-4.56	853
Manikpur NM	9,032	5,512	3,520			...	+15.15	639
Sarenga NM	11,423	6,207	5,216			...	+6.72	840
Uttarpara-Kotrung M	68,315	37,496	30,819			+2.80	+30.96	822
*Makhla NM	11,507	6,757	4,750			...	+19.85	703
Konnagar M	34,455	18,896	15,559			+45.52	+17.02	823
Nabagram Colony NM	11,471	5,908	5,963			+0.98	+29.38	942

TABLE IV—*contd.*

## POPULATION OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS/TOWNS

Total of each size class/ Towns of Population size 20,000+	Population 1971			Proportion of population in each size class to total urban population		Growth Rate		Sex Ratio
	Persons	Males	Females	1961	1971	1961	1971	1971
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rishra M	63,582	39,098	24,484			+40.31	+65.00	626
Serampore M	101,597	57,222	44,375			+23.14	+11.01	775
Baidyabati M	54,455	29,225	25,230			+78.08	+22.89	863
Chandannagar MC	75,960	40,744	35,216			+34.45	+13.20	864
Champdani M	58,425	35,703	22,722			+33.56	+38.68	636
Bhadreswar M	45,018	26,727	18,291			-2.21	+26.85	684
Hooghly-Chinsura M	105,341	56,147	49,194			+46.30	+26.76	876
Bansbaria M	61,601	34,888	26,713			+48.47	+35.50	766
Durgapur City NM	282,593	159,606	122,987			...	+577.75	771
Kharagpur City	161,911	86,387	75,524			+13.59	+9.95	874
Asansol M	157,388	90,116	67,272			+35.57	+53.21	747
Burdwan M	144,970	80,110	64,860			+43.58	+34.95	810
<b>B. Total Class II</b> (No. of Urban Agglomerations-6) (No. of other towns-13)	<b>1,346,523</b>	<b>719,788</b>	<b>626,735</b>	<b>17.80</b>	<b>12.32</b>	...	...	<b>871</b>
Siliguri M	97,462	56,192	41,270			+101.57	+49.86	734
Barasat Urban Agglomeration	95,364	49,995	45,369			+284.48	+54.76	907
(1) Barasat M	42,490	22,445	20,045			+82.70	+45.11	893
(2) Madhyamgram NM	31,410	16,533	14,877			...	+69.94	900
(3) Nabapally NM	21,464	11,017	10,447			...	+54.90	948
Nabadwip M	93,986	48,302	45,684			+29.42	+28.99	946
Habra Urban Agglomeration	87,917	45,226	42,691			...	+35.85	944
(1) Habra NM	51,726	26,921	24,805			...	+95.44	921
(2) Ashoknagar M Kalyangarh	36,191	18,305	17,886			...	-5.38	977
Krishnagar M	86,354	44,759	41,595			+40.76	+22.59	929



TABLE IV—contd.

## POPULATION OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS/TOWNS

Total of each size class/ Towns of Population size 20,000+	Population 1971			Proportion of population in each size class to total urban population		Growth Rate		Sex Ratio
	Persons	Males	Females	1961	1971	1961	1971	1971
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Baharampur Urban Agglomeration	79,686	41,704	37,982			+12.05	+27.87	911
(1) Baharampur M	73,380	38,507	34,873			+12.05	+17.75	906
(2) Cossimbazar NM	6,306	3,197	3,109			...	...	972
Bankura M	79,243	41,643	37,600			+27.27	+27.12	903
Midnapore M	71,521	39,385	32,436			+30.93	+21.14	830
Balurghat M	66,541	35,080	31,461			+48.99	+146.46	897
Budge Budge Urban Agglomeration	63,748	37,781	25,967			+23.69	+60.07	687
(1) Budge Budge M	51,979	31,688	20,291			+23.69	+30.52	640
*(2) Uttar Raypur NM	11,769	6,093	5,676			...	...	932
Basirhat M	63,282	32,966	30,316			+54.91	+17.31	920
Cooch Behar Urban Agglomeration	62,703	33,971	28,732			+26.11	+49.70	846
(1) Cooch Behar M	53,734	29,297	24,437			+26.11	+28.18	834
*(2) Guriahati NM	8,969	4,674	4,295			...	...	919
English Bazar M	61,713	32,550	29,163			+49.69	+46.93	896
Santipur M	61,201	31,316	29,885			+20.69	+19.56	954
Purulia M	57,721	30,353	27,368			+16.09	+19.92	902
Outer Burnpur NM	57,177	32,061	25,116			...	+30.18	783
Jalpaiguri M	55,345	30,853	24,492			+18.13	+13.56	794
Alipurduar Urban Agglomeration	55,224	29,797	25,427			+16.24	+90.91	853
(1) Alipurduar M	36,667	19,723	16,944			+16.24	+26.76	859
*(2) Alipurduar Rly. Jn. NM	18,557	10,074	8,483			...	...	842
Bongaon M	50,335	26,454	24,181			+75.83	+22.52	925
<b>C. Total Class III</b> (No. of Urban Agglomerations-4) (No. of other towns-29)	<b>1,070,929</b>	<b>571,268</b>	<b>499,661</b>	<b>17.03</b>	<b>9.79</b>			<b>875</b>
Ranaghat M	47,956	25,034	22,922			+25.66	+35.98	916

TABLE IV—*contd.*  
POPULATION OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS/TOWNS

Total of each size class/ Towns of Population size 20,000+	Population 1971			Proportion of population in each size class to total urban population		Growth Rate		Sex Ratio
	Persons	Males	Females	1961	1971	1961	1971	1971
				5	6	7	8	9
Nangi NM	47,872	25,770	22,102			...	+54.47	858
Chakdah M	46,645	24,078	22,567			+128.27	+32.93	937
Kulti Urban Agglomeration	44,557	24,852	19,705			+15.91	- 8.04	793
(1) Barakar NM	14,699	8,185	6,514			+35.77	+ 3.70	796
(2) Kulti NM	29,858	16,667	13,191			+ 9.30	-12.90	791
Rayganj M	43,336	22,882	20,454			+108.69	+34.21	894
Darjeeling M	42,662	22,724	19,938			+20.97	+ 5.95	877
Chittaranjan NM	40,769	22,912	17,857			+79.17	+40.79	779
Raniganj M	39,039	21,862	17,177			+16.09	+29.64	786
Bishnupur M	38,152	19,546	18606			+29.09	+23.24	952
Krishnapur Urban Agglomeration	33,365	17,536	15,829			...	...	903
*(1) Krishnapur NM	14,886	7,766	7,120			...	...	917
*(2) Jyāgra NM	9,990	5,284	4,706			...	...	891
*(3) Arjunpur NM	8,489	4,486	4,003			...	...	892
Bauria Urban Agglomeration	32,977	19,632	13,345			+115.61	+17.86	680
(1) Burikhali NM	5,420	2,766	2,654			...	- 4.96	960
(2) Bauria NM	10,566	5,701	4,865			- 34.56	+24.42	853
(3) Fort Gloster NM	16,991	11,165	5,826			...	+23.26	522
New Barrackpur M	32,675	15,662	17,013			...	+56.56	1086
Jangipur M	30,841	15,744	15,097			+32.57	+27.44	959
Suri M	30,399	16,241	14,158			+25.95	+33.09	872
Bolpur M	29,600	15,485	14,115			+57.78	+26.74	912
Burnpur NM	29,164	16,789	12,375			+13.72	+38.72	737
Katwa M	28,822	15,009	13,813			+32.76	+39.77	920

TABLE IV—*concl.*  
POPULATION OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS/TOWNS

Total of each size class/ Towns of Population size 20,000+	Population 1971			Proportion of population in each size class to total urban population		Growth Rate		Sex Ratio
	Persons	Males	Females	1961	1971	1961	1971	1971
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Kalna M	28,711	14,934	13,777			+30.47	+27.02	923
Baduria NM	27,684	14,091	13,593			+43.87	+17.44	965
Ghatal M	27,612	14,128	13,484			+30.62	+31.01	954
Jiaganj Azimganj M	27,209	13,836	13,373			+23.64	+14.93	967
Contai M	26,917	14,278	12,639			+73.45	+21.83	885
Uluberia Urban Agglomeration	26,533	14,86	12,347			+86.78	+12.96	870
(1) Banitabla NM	6,488	3,433	3,055			...	+30.31	890
(2) Uluberia NM	20,045	10,753	9,292			+47.19	+8.30	864
Kandi M	26,268	13,584	12,684			+29.96	+32.80	934
Arambagh M	25,619	13,810	11,809			+44.42	+54.79	855
Rampurhat M	23,749	12,616	11,133			+31.39	+19.36	882
Kalimpong M	23,745	12,689	10,786			+54.50	+6.49	850
Tamluk M	22,720	12,248	10,472			+32.26	+26.32	855
*Dhubulia NM	22,064	11,196	10,868			...	...	971
Ondal NM	21,910	12,631	9,279			+334.82	+17.51	735
Kaliaganj NM	21,284	11,288	9,996			...	+47.01	886
Taki M	20,942	10,838	10,104			+33.66	+19.26	932
Baruipur M	20,496	10,660	9,836			+47.30	+50.62	923

\* Towns declared for the first time in 1971.

TABLE  
LITERATE

State/District	Total Population			Literate Population 1971		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>44,440,095</b>	<b>23,488,244</b>	<b>20,951,851</b>	<b>14,688,745</b>	<b>10,063,468</b>	<b>4,625,277</b>
Darjeeling	765,677	406,775	358,902	251,944	171,032	80,912
Jalpaiguri	1,752,171	927,713	824,458	424,292	300,398	123,894
Cooch Behar	1,412,148	735,757	676,391	310,576	231,336	79,240
West Dinajpur	1,846,215	957,811	888,404	405,233	299,255	105,978
Malda	1,614,570	826,966	787,604	278,610	207,308	71,302
Murshidabad	2,942,125	1,501,322	1,440,803	576,262	402,553	173,709
Nadia	2,229,022	1,143,367	1,085,655	697,929	449,096	248,833
24-Parganas	8,581,743	4,565,777	4,015,966	3,259,641	2,199,086	1,060,555
Howrah	2,420,095	1,318,270	1,101,825	960,152	651,496	308,656
Calcutta	3,141,180	1,917,501	1,223,679	1,895,773	1,230,087	665,686
Hooghly	2,873,779	1,512,728	1,361,051	1,109,425	724,012	385,413
Burdwan	3,920,395	2,077,216	1,843,179	1,350,099	898,363	451,736
Birbhum	1,779,805	903,118	876,687	469,694	322,590	147,104
Bankura	2,035,273	1,037,671	997,602	533,433	395,066	138,367
Midnapore	5,515,320	2,836,722	2,678,598	1,813,339	1,294,141	519,198
Purulia	1,610,577	819,530	791,047	352,343	287,649	64,694

## POPULATION

## Percentage of Literates to Total Population

1961			1971			State/District
Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	
8	9	10	11	12	13	1
29.28	40.08	16.96	33.05	42.84	22.08	West Bengal
28.70	40.15	15.46	32.90	42.05	22.54	Darjeeling
19.22	27.07	10.01	24.22	32.38	15.03	Jalpaiguri
21.00	31.44	9.27	21.99	31.43	11.71	Cooch Behar
17.06	25.96	7.24	21.95	31.24	11.93	West Dinajpur
13.79	21.47	5.84	17.25	25.07	9.05	Malda
16.03	23.49	8.36	19.57	26.81	12.06	Murshidabad
27.25	35.78	18.24	31.31	39.28	22.92	Nadia
32.48	43.86	19.33	37.98	48.16	26.41	24-Parganas
36.91	48.41	22.66	39.67	49.42	28.01	Howrah
59.28	63.55	52.31	60.35	64.15	54.40	Calcutta
34.65	46.11	21.81	38.60	47.86	28.32	Hooghly
29.58	39.39	18.15	34.44	43.25	24.51	Burdwan
22.09	32.43	11.47	26.39	35.72	16.77	Birbhum
23.08	36.17	9.73	26.21	38.07	13.87	Bankura
27.27	41.66	12.17	32.88	45.62	19.38	Midnapore
17.79	30.20	5.04	21.88	35.10	8.18	Purulia

TABLE VI  
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY WORKERS AND NON-WORKERS

State/District	Persons Males Females	Total Population	Workers	Percentage of Workers to Total Population	
				1961	1971
1	2	3	4	5	6
West Bengal	Persons	44,440,095	12,606,996	33.2	28.37
	Males	23,488,244	11,484,499	54.0	48.89
	Females	20,951,851	1,122,497	9.4	5.36
Darjeeling	Persons	765,677	284,798	42.6	37.20
	Males	406,775	207,024	53.4	50.89
	Females	358,902	77,774	30.1	21.67
Jalpaiguri	Persons	1,752,171	622,391	38.4	35.52
	Males	927,713	491,200	54.9	52.95
	Females	824,458	131,191	19.2	15.91
Cooch Behar	Persons	1,412,148	401,144	31.8	28.41
	Males	735,757	382,797	56.8	52.03
	Females	676,391	18,347	3.7	2.71
West Dinajpur	Persons	1,846,215	519,125	32.7	28.12
	Males	957,811	493,714	56.5	51.55
	Females	888,404	25,411	6.5	2.86
Malda	Persons	1,614,570	441,160	32.8	27.32
	Males	826,966	411,051	53.4	49.71
	Females	787,604	30,109	11.5	3.82
Murshidabad	Persons	2,942,125	770,112	29.0	26.18
	Males	1,501,322	722,470	51.1	48.12
	Females	1,440,803	47,642	6.3	3.31
Nadia	Persons	2,229,022	554,784	27.2	24.89
	Males	1,143,367	530,961	49.5	46.44
	Females	1,085,655	23,823	3.6	2.19
24-Parganas	Persons	8,581,743	2,236,673	29.4	26.06
	Males	4,565,777	2,114,252	52.2	46.31
	Females	4,015,966	122,421	2.9	3.05
Howrah	Persons	2,420,095	664,660	30.9	27.46
	Males	1,318,270	633,822	53.7	48.08
	Females	1,101,825	30,838	2.6	2.80
Calcutta	Persons	3,141,180	1,163,829	40.4	37.05
	Males	1,917,501	1,092,073	61.4	56.95
	Females	1,223,679	71,756	6.1	5.86
Hooghly	Persons	2,873,779	790,506	30.5	27.51
	Males	1,512,728	713,180	51.1	47.15
	Females	1,361,051	77,326	7.5	5.68

TABLE VI—*contd.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY WORKERS AND NON-WORKERS

State/District	Persons Males Females	Total Population	Workers	Percentage of Workers to Total Population	
				1961	1971
1	2	3	4	5	6
Burdwan	Persons	3,920,395	1,115,838	33.7	28.46
	Males	2,077,216	1,011,438	54.9	48.69
	Females	1,843,179	104,400	9.0	5.66
Birbhum	Persons	1,779,805	478,442	31.2	26.88
	Males	903,118	438,789	52.4	48.59
	Females	876,687	39,653	9.5	4.52
Bankura	Persons	2,035,273	567,143	36.4	27.87
	Males	1,037,671	479,026	53.7	46.16
	Females	997,602	88,117	18.8	8.83
Midnapore	Persons	5,515,320	1,490,014	32.4	27.02
	Males	2,836,722	1,334,805	52.5	47.05
	Females	2,678,598	155,209	11.4	5.79
Purulia	Persons	1,610,577	506,377	48.7	31.44
	Males	819,530	427,897	58.7	52.21
	Females	791,047	78,480	38.3	9.92

TABLE  
DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING POPULATION BY

State/District	Persons Males Females	Total Workers	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	Other Workers
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>12,606,996</b>	<b>4,003,249</b>	<b>3,245,656</b>	<b>5,358,091</b>
	<b>Males</b>	<b>11,484,499</b>	<b>3,858,909</b>	<b>2,816,731</b>	<b>4,808,859</b>
	<b>Females</b>	<b>1,122,497</b>	<b>1,44,340</b>	<b>428,925</b>	<b>549,232</b>
Darjeeling	Persons	284,798	83,380	29,666	171,752
	Males	207,024	59,847	20,362	126,815
	Females	77,774	23,533	9,304	44,937
Jalpaiguri	Persons	622,391	248,834	54,702	318,855
	Males	491,200	221,086	49,094	221,020
	Females	131,191	27,748	5,608	97,835
Cooch Behar	Persons	401,144	271,057	60,258	69,829
	Males	382,797	265,029	58,177	59,591
	Females	18,347	6,028	2,081	10,238
West Dinajpur	Persons	519,125	300,467	145,403	73,255
	Males	493,714	293,469	130,726	69,519
	Females	25,411	6,998	14,677	3,736
Malda	Persons	441,160	202,155	146,990	92,015
	Males	411,051	197,263	131,635	82,153
	Females	30,109	4,892	15,355	9,862
Murshidabad	Persons	770,112	299,120	271,925	199,067
	Males	722,470	293,244	262,025	167,201
	Females	47,642	5,876	9,900	31,866
Nadia	Persons	554,784	207,883	150,748	196,153
	Males	530,961	205,312	144,471	181,178
	Females	23,823	2,571	6,277	14,975
24-Parganas	Persons	2,236,673	540,033	599,183	1,097,457
	Males	2,114,252	530,815	581,782	1,001,655
	Females	122,421	9,218	17,401	95,802
Howrah	Persons	664,660	75,713	125,615	463,332
	Males	633,822	74,389	123,495	435,938
	Females	30,838	1,324	2,120	27,394



## VII

## AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER WORKERS

Percentage of Agricultural and other Workers to Total Workers

Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Other Workers		Persons Males Females	State/District
1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971		
7	8	9	10	11	12	2	1
38.5	31.75	15.3	25.75	46.2	42.50	Persons	West Bengal
38.8	33.60	14.4	24.53	46.8	41.87	Males	
36.8	12.86	21.1	38.21	42.1	48.93	Females	
37.5	29.28	2.9	10.42	59.6	60.30	Persons	Darjeeling
33.4	28.91	3.0	9.83	63.6	61.26	Males	
45.8	30.26	2.8	11.96	51.4	57.78	Females	
43.5	39.98	3.0	8.79	53.5	51.23	Persons	Jalpaiguri
47.1	45.01	3.5	9.99	49.4	45.00	Males	
31.3	21.15	1.1	4.27	67.6	74.58	Females	
74.1	67.57	7.1	15.02	18.8	17.41	Persons	Cooch Behar
74.8	69.23	7.4	15.20	17.8	15.57	Males	
63.1	32.86	2.7	11.34	34.2	55.80	Females	
61.8	57.88	21.1	28.01	17.1	14.11	Persons	West Dinajpur
63.8	59.44	19.8	26.48	16.4	14.08	Males	
43.0	27.54	33.2	57.76	23.8	14.70	Females	
49.8	45.82	14.4	33.32	35.8	20.86	Persons	Malda
53.9	47.99	13.9	32.02	32.2	19.99	Males	
30.3	16.25	17.0	51.00	52.7	32.75	Females	
44.2	38.84	19.7	35.31	36.1	25.85	Persons	Murshidabad
47.7	40.59	20.9	36.27	31.4	23.14	Males	
15.6	12.33	9.4	20.78	75.0	66.89	Females	
42.9	37.47	16.7	27.17	40.4	35.36	Persons	Nadia
45.1	38.67	17.2	27.21	37.7	34.12	Males	
11.0	10.79	9.6	26.35	79.4	62.86	Females	
31.4	24.14	17.6	26.79	51.0	49.07	Persons	24-Parganas
32.1	25.10	18.0	27.52	49.9	47.38	Males	
17.6	7.53	11.7	14.21	70.7	78.26	Females	
14.3	11.39	9.5	18.90	76.2	69.71	Persons	Howrah
14.5	11.74	9.8	19.48	75.7	68.78	Males	
0.3	4.29	2.0	6.87	88.9	88.84	Females	

TABLE

**DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING POPULATION BY**

State/District	Persons Males Females	Total Workers	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	Other Workers
1	2	3	4	5	6
Calcutta	Persons	1,163,829	210	1,731	1,161,888
	Males	1,092,073	194	1,577	1,090,302
	Females	71,756	16	154	71,586
Hooghly	Persons	790,506	192,146	238,082	360,278
	Males	713,180	188,497	188,660	336,023
	Females	77,326	3,649	49,422	24,255
Burdwan	Persons	1,115,838	268,391	331,239	516,208
	Males	1,011,438	262,125	269,933	479,380
	Females	104,400	6,266	61,306	36,828
Birbhum	Persons	478,442	176,524	200,009	101,909
	Males	438,789	171,850	175,888	91,051
	Females	39,653	4,674	24,121	10,858
Bankura	Persons	567,143	229,429	218,819	118,895
	Males	479,026	219,074	156,184	103,768
	Females	88,117	10,355	62,635	15,127
Midnapore	Persons	1,490,014	679,938	502,297	307,779
	Males	1,334,805	664,833	406,000	263,972
	Females	155,209	15,105	96,297	43,807
Purulia	Persons	506,377	227,969	168,989	109,419
	Males	427,897	211,882	116,722	99,293
	Females	78,480	16,087	52,267	10,126

Note : N Stands for Negligible.

O Stands for Nil figures.

VII—contd.

**AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER WORKERS**

Percentage of Agricultural and other Workers to Total Workers

Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Other Workers		Persons Males Females	State/District
1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971		
7	8	9	10	11	12	2	1
N	0.02	N	0.15	99.99	99.83	Persons	Calcutta
N	0.02	N	0.14	99.99	99.84	Males	
O	0.02	N	0.22	99.99	99.76	Females	
30.3	24.31	19.7	30.12	50.0	45.57	Persons	Hooghly
32.3	26.43	16.9	26.45	50.8	47.12	Males	
14.4	4.72	41.6	63.91	44.0	31.37	Females	
28.4	24.05	17.7	29.69	53.9	46.26	Persons	Burdwan
29.8	25.92	15.9	26.69	54.3	47.39	Males	
18.7	6.00	30.8	58.72	50.5	35.28	Females	
43.7	36.90	30.6	41.80	25.7	21.30	Persons	Birbhum
47.0	39.16	28.8	40.09	24.2	20.75	Males	
25.1	11.79	40.8	60.83	34.1	27.38	Females	
52.4	40.45	24.6	38.58	23.0	20.97	Persons	Bankura
55.7	45.73	21.0	32.61	23.3	21.66	Males	
42.8	11.75	35.1	71.08	22.1	17.17	Females	
55.6	45.63	20.3	33.71	24.1	20.66	Persons	Midnapore
59.0	49.81	17.6	30.42	23.4	19.77	Males	
38.9	9.73	33.4	62.04	27.7	28.23	Females	
69.9	45.02	13.7	33.37	16.4	21.61	Persons	Purulia
65.8	49.52	12.2	27.28	22.0	23.20	Males	
76.3	20.50	16.0	66.60	7.7	12.90	Females	