



## MESSAGE TO BE READ IN THE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

*The fifteenth Census of India, which is one of the largest peacetime operations in the country will be conducted from 9<sup>th</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2011. It is the bounden duty of each one of us to render full cooperation in making this exercise a grand success. Let us understand what is this exercise all about, how it is conducted and what is its utility.*

*For your information, “a population census is the total process of collecting, compiling, analyzing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specific time, of all persons in a country or a well defined part of a country. As such, the Census provides a snapshot of the country's population and housing at a given point of time.”*

*You will be surprised to learn that Census in our country has an ancient history dating back to the Rig Veda (800-600 BC). The Arthashastra of Chanakya (3rd Century BC) and the Ain-e-Akbari(16<sup>th</sup> Century) have also referred to Census taking. However, the first modern Census was conducted in 1872. Since then Census has been conducted in India every decade without a break. The present Census is the 15<sup>th</sup> since 1872.*

*The fact that the Census gives us the population of a country is well known. However what is of greater significance is that the Census is the biggest source of comprehensive data on Demography, Economic Activity, Literacy & Education, Housing & Household Amenities, Urbanization, Fertility and Mortality, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Language, Religion and Migration. It is the only source of primary data at village, town and ward level. It not only provides valuable information for planning and formulation of policies, Delimitation/Reservation of Constituencies and effective Public Administration but is also widely used by National and International agencies, scholars, business people, industrialists, and many more.*





*In short, the Census tells us who and how many we are, what do we do and how often, what kind of houses we live in, what household amenities and assets we possess and a host of other individual level information. This data is the basis on which scientific planning for a bright future is done.*

*You will be astonished to learn that during Census 2011 information would be collected from about 1.28 billion persons (estimated) by visiting 240 million households spread out in 35 States/Union Territories, 640 Districts, 7742 Towns and more than 6 lakh Villages! Around 2.5 million persons will be involved in the exercise. 640 million Census Forms will be canvassed in 16 languages for which approximately 12,000 Metric Tons of paper will be used. Isn't that mind boggling?*

*Each one of us, teachers and students alike, have an important role in the Census. Teachers have always been at the forefront of this task and it would not be wrong to state that their role has always been a very important one for a bulk of the enumerators and supervisors engaged in the exercise are teachers. At the same time students have an equally important role to play. The first task is to make sure that when the Census starts no person in your neighborhood is left out. Spread the word about the event and its importance. Secondly, assist the enumerators in their task by welcoming them into your homes and ensuring that complete and correct information is provided to them. Thirdly, the questions that will be asked will be advertised in the newspapers and the media. You can help your parents to keep the information ready so that the time and effort of the enumerator is saved. Each one of us can contribute in ways big and small and help in the success of this great National task.*

*Each one of us has to remember that this is our Census and this will pave the way for our own bright future. In that way, we are only helping ourselves by helping the Government in this task. Let us put our best foot forward and ensure that the Census of India 2011 is a resounding success.*

