

A-3 VILLAGES BY POPULATION SIZE

NOTE

This table corresponds to table A-3 of 2001, 1991, 1981, 1971, 1961 and 1951 Censuses and gives the total number of inhabited villages classified by seven broad population ranges viz., (i) less than 200 (ii) 200-499 (iii) 500-999 (iii) 1,000-1,999 (v) 2,000- 4,999 (vi) 5,000-9,999 (vii) 10,000 and above indicating therein the total rural population by persons, males and females. The figures are given first for India, states and union territories, followed by districts in each state and union territory. In previous censuses prior to 1951, this table was used to be prepared for villages and towns together.

To mention briefly the village for census purposes is the revenue village with a definite name and surveyed boundary. It may comprise several hamlets, but the entire village has been treated as one unit for the presentation of data. In un-surveyed area, like villages within forest areas, each habitation area with locally recognized boundaries within each forest range officer's beat, was treated as one unit. The number of inhabited villages shown in this table is exclusive of those which have gone to make up urban areas and whose population is included in the respective urban areas or towns. In the case of villages partly incorporated in urban areas, the unmerged portions of villages which are outside the urban areas have been treated as villages and their number and population are included in this table.

Statement -1 is supported by table A-3 giving the details of number of inhabited villages and population size. There are as many as 597,608 inhabited villages in India and among them 82,151 villages have a population size of less than 200 . Nearly half of the rural population of India is residing in 115,080 villages with population more than 2,000 but less than 10,000.

This statement gives the percentage of population living in villages of various population size reference to the total rural population in 2011 for India and States/U.T.s. Very few people (0.98 per cent) are living in villages falling in the population range of 'Less than 200'. The highest percentage of 34.64 is noted in the population range of 2,000-4,999. Among states in the

range 'Less than 200' the highest percentage is noted in Arunachal Pradesh (29.40) followed by Himachal Pradesh (13.16) and Meghalaya (12.82). But major portion of rural population is residing in the villages falling under the size groups of 1,000-1,999 and 2,000-4,999. In India only 8.68 per cent of population are living in villages having population more than 10,000 and above. Kerala shows the highest percentage of 92.21 of population living in villages of this range.

Statement-2: This statement presents a comparative picture of the percentage of inhabited villages and population by size of villages in 2001 and 2011. In India there is an increase in the number of villages in the population size 1000 - 1999, 2000 - 4999, 5000 - 9999 and 10000+. where as decrease in number of villages in the population size of less than 500 and 500 - 999. The percentage of population in the size 2000 - 10000+ has increased to 58.17 in 2011 from 53.97 in 2001. It is also noticed that the number of inhabited villages increase in the population size of 1000 - 1999 but decline in percentage of population from 24.69 in 2001 to 23.69 in 2011 in India.

It is very interested to see that the proportions of number of smaller villages in India has gone down from 36.90 in 2001 to 32.95 in 2011 Census in the population size of less than 500. This is but natural because with the growth of population the villages have moved up in classification by population size. This trend is prevailing in almost all states and union territories except Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Goa, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep. It is also observed that the percentage of smaller villages has doubled from 25.00 to 50.00 during the decade in Lakshadweep U.T. But the percentages of the number of villages in their ranges have gone up in most of the states/union territories when compared with the percentages of 2001 Census.

Statement-3: This statement presents a comparative picture of number of inhabited villages having population 10,000 and above in each village during 2001 and 2011 in India and States/U.T.s. In this population size India has 4,681 inhabited villages in 2011 Census as against 3,962 inhabited villages in 2001 Census. This is but natural because with growth of population the

villages have moved up. The same trend is also prevailing in all most all States except Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Kerala. It is also observed that among the States Bihar tops the list which has 1,129 inhabited villages followed by Kerala and Uttar Pradesh which have 797 and 545 in inhabited villages respectively in 2011 Census. The maximum number of such villages has increased in Bihar from 630 in 2001 to 1,129 in 2011 followed by Uttar Pradesh from 296 in 2001 to 545 in 2011. The States of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya do not have even a single village having 10,000 and above population in 2011 Census.