No. 9/36/2017-CD (CEN)

Dated 22nd December, 2017

CENSUS OF INDIA 2021 - CIRCULAR NO- 1

Subject: Planning for the 2021 Census – Jurisdictional changes and lists of districts, tehsils/ talukas/ police stations, C.D. Blocks, villages and towns – Compilation thereof

The Population Census in India is conducted once in every ten years under the legal provisions of Census Act, 1948 and Census Rules, 1990, as amended from time to time. The next decennial Census of India is due in 2021 and will be the 15th in the series since 1881 and 8th since Independence. This is a gigantic task of national importance. Like the previous censuses, every stage of work is to be accomplished with great care and in a time bound manner.

2. The basic purpose of census being enumeration of all individuals in the country without any omission or duplication, preparation of a complete and updated list of all territorial entities in the entire country well in advance of the next census is required. It is needless to mention that each state or union territory is divided into districts, each district into sub-districts/ tehsils/ talukas/police stations/development blocks etc. and further into villages in rural areas and towns in urban areas. As such, an important preparatory work in connection with the Census 2021 is to collect and compile the details of all the jurisdictional changes that have occurred so far after the 2011 Census and that will occur hereafter till the freezing of the boundaries of the administrative units for 2021 Census, i.e. up to 31st December, 2019. The jurisdictional changes may include any of the changes listed below:

a) Creation of new districts
b) Change in jurisdiction of already existing districts
c) De-notification of already existing districts
d) Creation of new sub-districts
e) Change in jurisdiction of already existing sub districts
f) De-notification of already existing sub-districts
g) Creation of new village by splitting/merging of existing village
h) Change in Jurisdiction of already existing town area
i) Exclusion of areas from town
j) Notification of new town
k) De-Notification of existing town
l) Change in name/spelling of the above entities
m) Changes in the ward boundaries of a town
n) Any other jurisdictional changes

3. There would have been several jurisdictional changes in the boundaries of administrative units after Census 2011 and there may be more till the date of freezing of boundaries for 2021 Census. As a matter of practice and also as per the guidelines communicated to all Directorates of Census Operations (DCOs) vide Letter No. 9/65/2014-CD (Cen) dated 01.07.2015, the DCOs have been obtaining notifications on jurisdictional changes of various administrative units from the respective state government departments and scrutinizing the same. This process shall continue till 31st December, 2019. Now, the DCOs are required to send the details of jurisdictional changes as on 01.01.2018 (for the period from 01.01.2010 to 31.12.2017) by 31.01.2018 in prescribed formats (Form ‘A’ to ‘E’ in Annexure-I and Summary Sheet in Annexure-II) along with the ‘For-Read’ statement as communicated vide the ORGI letter No. 9/65/2014-CD (Cen) dated 01.07.2015 in both soft (in Excel) and hard copies. Similar information is to be supplied for the period 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2019 by 31.01.2020 which will provide the complete picture of jurisdictional changes up to 31.12.2019.

4. The complete list of villages should be obtained from the State Revenue Department and compared with the list of villages of the 2011 Census. The list of villages should include not only inhabited but also uninhabited ones as well as hamlets, if any. To speed-up the process of obtaining the complete list of villages along with hamlets, a copy of the 2011 list of villages as per Master Directory may be sent to each Tahsildar or concerned sub-district level authority along with the available sub-district level maps of Census 2011 with the request to mark all type of changes in the list like creation of new or deletion of village(s), changes in the names, if any, etc. They are also to be requested to indicate the location of the new village(s), if any, on the sub-district map as well. All the concerned state authorities may be conveyed with a line of caution that in the past a number of court cases have been encountered due to non-inclusion of the genuine village(s) and/or non-reporting of correct name of the village in the Village list by some of the concerned sub-district level officers. The onus of preparing the correct and updated list of villages for sub-districts in connection with census 2021, as such, would remain with the concerned sub-district level officers.

5. As regards, updating the list of towns, it is known that the State Governments establish Local bodies / Municipalities etc. through notifications in the official gazette within their jurisdiction from time to time. These notifications delineate areas which would indicate the municipal limits in terms of villages or parts thereof. Between 2011 and now, there would have been several changes in the form of additions and deletions to the list of Local bodies. All the DCOs should not only obtain a list of these towns from the concerned State Government department (Local Self Government Department) but also procure copies of the notifications creating new/de-notified towns etc. or effecting jurisdictional changes in the boundaries of the existing towns.

6. It is reiterated that the process of collecting information and notifications is to continue till 31st December, 2019. Subsequent to the procurement of complete list of all rural and urban administrative units of the State/ Union Territory over time, the said lists are to be compared by the DCOs with the Master Directory of Census 2011 and the Local Government Directory (LGD) maintained by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India. It is noteworthy to mention that the LGD is a web based application wherein all administrative units with Meta Data and Data Standard (MDDS) codes as per Census 2011 are said to be available as base and the concerned state/UT authorities have been requested by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to upload the newly created administrative units or any changes in administrative units along with notification. The LGD available in the public domain (www.lgdirectory.gov.in) is expected to serve as a platform for updated list of administrative units on a real time basis. The DCOs are to use the LGD as one of the inputs for finalization of list of administrative units for Census 2021 and the anomalies, if any, between the list finalized through State Government authorities and LGD may be brought to the
notice of the concerned and reconciled. The list of villages / wards in towns / towns along with the spellings (both in English and Hindi) are to be got authenticated/certified from the concerned authorities of the States/UTs. In addition, the list of forest villages/habitations which are not found in the Revenue records, after being collected from the Forest Authorities are to be added to the list of villages to ensure completeness in census. Thereafter, the Charge Registers are to be prepared for field operation of census 2021.

7. All the Directorates of Census Operations may please note that any incompleteness in building up the frame on the basis of these lists, will have serious consequences. Extreme care should be taken to ensure accuracy in updating the frame of all administrative units in each State/Union Territory at all levels down up to village and town. In order to carry out the above work properly and expeditiously, it would be desirable to nominate a suitable officer in the DCO to monitor all relevant information in this regard and to ensure that copies of the notifications effecting jurisdictional changes are collected on priority and further required actions have been undertaken.

8. All the DCOs are requested to sincerely put their efforts necessary for finalizing the jurisdictional changes in their States/UTs at all levels and comply with the directions given for the same on regular basis.

Encl: Annexure I & II

(Sanjay)
Deputy Director General

To
The all Directorates of Census Operations.

Copy to:
1. All Chief Secretaries of State/Union territories for information and favour of issuing necessary instructions to all the concerned
2. All District Magistrates (through Directorate of Census Operations)
3. All heads of the Divisions including Language Division, Kolkata
4. Joint Director (OL) for Hindi translation
5. PS to RGI
6. PS to Addl. RGI
7. Guard File