

## CHAPTER I

### GENERAL

#### *Introduction*

This report is intended for my successor. I am specially aware of the need for leaving such reports. When I replaced Sri C. Narasimha Murthy in the Census Organisation in the second half of January, 1960, nearly one year after my colleagues in other States had joined, I found in the printed administration reports of the 1951 Census prepared by Sri S. Venkateswaran, I.C.S. for Madras and Coorg, by Mr. G. B. Bowman, I. C. S. for Bombay, Saurashtra and Kutch and by Sri C. K. Murthy, I.A.S. for Hyderabad and the draft report for Mysore available in my office complete guidance not only regarding the various steps to be taken to ensure successful enumeration but also about the hidden dangers and pitfalls and the best method to tackle them. It is always pleasant to profit by the experience of another person, and thus avoid the discomfort of learning by trial and error at the hard school of experience. Moreover I had no time to embark on any such experiment even if I had been inclined that way. When I joined, the 'zero hour' for Census enumeration was hardly 12 months ahead.

I am suffering from a handicap in writing the earlier portions of this report as I had no personal touch with the events dealt with therein. I thus missed the excitement and frustrations of hunting for accommodation, persuading colleagues to release competent officials and all the other details of organising a new office literally from a scratch.

#### *Census Legislation*

First communication from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

This is the first Census in which the proceedings in all the areas have been taken

under the India Census Act of 1948 right from the beginning. Though the India Census Act of 1948 was made applicable to the erstwhile Part B States by its amendment in 1950, the preliminary work connected with the 1951 Census had commenced by then the Mysore and Hyderabad States under the respective State Acts. This is also the first Census for the Reorganised State of Mysore which came into existence on 1st November 1956.

The provisions of the India Census Act of 1948 appear to be adequate so far as actual enumeration, i.e., eliciting of answers from respondents is concerned. There are, however, two matters, one relating to the preliminary arrangements prior to enumeration and the other relating to the preservation of Census records, on which the provisions of the law can be made more categorical. Under the Act any person can be appointed as a Census Officer. It is not necessary that the persons appointed as Census Officers should be employees of the Central or State Government or of a local authority. In fact, as mentioned by Mr. Bowman in his report on 1951 Census, service as a Census Officer is analogous to jury service. However, to ensure smooth conduct of training and enumeration, an attempt is generally made to weed out unwilling persons. But even a person who is willing to work as a Census Officer cannot put forth his best unless his employer co-operates. Though Census enumeration is supposed to be done in spare time without affecting the normal occupation of the Enumerators and Supervisors, it has in actual practice been found necessary to permit persons doing enumeration to attend offices one or two hours late during the enumeration period. So far as employees of Government Offices, both Central and State are concerned, there was no difficulty either in securing a fair