



CENSUS OF INDIA 1961

VOLUME XVI

WEST BENGAL & SIKKIM

PART I-A

GENERAL REPORT

Book (ii)

POPULATION AND SOCIETY

J. DATTA GUPTA

*of the West Bengal Civil Service
Superintendent of Census Operations, West Bengal & Sikkim*



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CENSUS OF INDIA 1961

VOLUME XVI

WEST BENGAL & SIKKIM

PART I-A

GENERAL REPORT

Book (ii)

Population and Society

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VOLUME XVI
WEST BENGAL & SIKKIM
Part I-A
General Report

The subject matter of the General Report has been arranged in twelve chapters as below:

- Chapter I—State
- Chapter II—The Distribution and Growth of Population
- Chapter III—The Urban Population
- Chapter IV—The Rural Population
- Chapter V—Migration
- Chapter VI—Age, Sex, Marriage and Family
- Chapter VII—Literacy and Education
- Chapter VIII—Language
- Chapter IX—Religion
- Chapter X—The Working Population
- Chapter XI—The Non-working Population
- Chapter XII—Economic Trends

The first five chapters have been presented in Book One of this Report entitled 'Population Progress'. The present Book includes the remaining seven chapters which deal generally with the socio-economic aspects of the population.

The views expressed in the Report are of a purely personal nature and should not be deemed to commit the Government in any manner whatsoever.

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VI

AGE, SEX, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

SIKKIM

and 1961 with only marginal variations in the interim period. The figures are given in the statement below.

STATEMENT VI-13

Proportion per 1,000 of the Population in the Age-groups 0—14, 15—49 and 50+ in Sikkim, 1901—1961

Year 1	Age-groups		
	0—14	15—49	50+
	2	3	4
1901	373	502	125
1911	402	477	121
1921	386	524	90
1931	409	476	115
1951	398	478	124
1961	395	500	105

40. The most noticeable feature is that the decades 1901-11 and 1921-31 which showed sharp rise in the proportion of children had also witnessed very high decadal growth rates 48.98 per cent and 34.37 per cent. The dependency pattern in Sikkim, as reflected in her age ratios, does not appear to be much different in character from that in West Bengal, except that in the former there has been a conspicuous fall in old age dependency after 1921.

STATEMENT VI-14

Proportion per 1,000 of the Population in the Age-groups 0—14, 15—59 and 60+ in Sikkim, 1901—1961

Year 1	Age-groups		
	0—14	15—59	60+
	2	3	4
1901	373	563	64
1911	402	534	64
1921	386	550	64
1931	409	538	53
1951	398	545	57
1961	395	555	50

41. The single year age returns show 20 centenarians in Sikkim in 1961 of whom 13 are women. All of them were enumerated in the rural areas.

SECTION 3—SEX

Reference to Statistics

42. In the Census, the primary classification of the population has been by sex and in all the tables the distinction of sex has been maintained. But, for the purpose of this Chapter, the most important table is C-II in which the statistics of sex are combined with those for age and marital status.

Ratio of the sexes

43. In the total population of 34,926,279 of West Bengal, there are 18,599,144 males and 16,327,135 females: a deficit of 2,272,009 females. The sex ratio, i.e., the number of females per thousand males, for the State has already been compared in Chapter II with other States and countries (Statements II.2 and II.3). It has been seen that the sex ratio of most of the States except Kerala (1,002) and Orissa (1,001) is unfavourable to females. The lowest is 864 for the Punjab as against 878 for West Bengal and 941 for India. In France, F.D.R. (Germany), Hungary, Poland, Rumania, U.K., Yugoslavia, Mexico, U.S.A., and Japan the sex ratio is in favour of females, where it varies from 1,005 in Mexico to 1,085 in France.

44. The excess of males over females in India is not a freak of the 1961 Census. In fact, a distressing feature of the Indian sex ratio is the widening excess of males over females. The following statement will indicate the trend.

STATEMENT VI-15

Variations in Sex Ratio, 1901—1961

Year 1	India 2	West Bengal 3	Sikkim 4
1901	972	945	916
1911	964	925	951
1921	955	905	970
1931	950	890	967
1941	945	852	920
1951	946	865	907
1961	941	878	904

Sex distribution by age-groups

45. The peculiarity of the distribution of the sexes does not consist only in its inequality but also in the variations in the magnitude of the inequality in different parts of the country. The difference is negligible in certain areas and quite substantial in others. And, what is still more interesting, the difference tends to get larger in some age-groups, while it narrows down in certain others. Statement VI.16 shows comparison of sex ratios and of proportion of persons of the two sexes in different age-groups in the States and Territories of India, as also in the U. S. A., U.K., France and Japan.

46. It is noticed that of all States the proportion of males between aged 15 and 49 is the highest (50.00 per cent) in West Bengal. In other States it fluctuates from 43.48 per cent in the Punjab to 49.56 per cent in Madras. The all-India average is 47.20 per cent. For females in this age, however, West Bengal's proportion (46.13 per cent) is a little below the all-India average (47.13 per cent.)

47. The proportions of persons at younger and much older ages also show significant variations. Boys aged 0 to 14 form the largest portion of the male population in Kerala (43.61 per cent), while their proportion is the lowest in Madras (37.75). In

STATEMENT VI-16

Females per 1,000 Males and proportion of Persons of each Sex in the Age-groups 0—14, 15—49 and 50+ expressed as per cent of the Total Population of each Sex, in the latest Census

State/Union Territory/Country 1	Population of each sex in age-groups expressed as per cent of total population of the sex									
	Females per 1,000 Males 2	0—14		15—49		50+		Age not stated		
		Males 3	Females 4	Males 5	Females 6	Males 7	Females 8	Males 9	Females 10	
INDIA*	941	40.92*	41.14*	47.20*	47.13*	11.84*	11.69*	0.04*	0.04*	
STATES										
Andhra Pradesh	981	39.52	39.56	47.59	47.64	12.88	12.79	0.01	0.01	
Assam	876	42.70	47.23	46.93	44.42	10.29	8.29	0.08	0.06	
Bihar	994	43.40	41.20	45.36	46.79	11.21	11.99	0.03	0.02	
Gujarat	940	43.22	42.51	46.51	46.80	10.24	10.66	0.03	0.03	
Jammu and Kashmir	878	39.46	41.94	48.90	48.98	11.45	8.87	0.19	0.21	
Kerala	1,022	43.61	41.66	44.75	46.41	11.61	11.91	0.03	0.02	
Madhya Pradesh	953	40.93	40.67	48.23	47.65	10.79	11.63	0.05	0.05	
Madras	992	37.75	37.46	49.56	50.25	12.68	12.28	0.01	0.01	
Maharashtra	936	40.18	41.15	48.66	47.70	11.12	11.11	0.04	0.04	
Mysore	959	41.48	42.82	46.67	45.72	11.80	11.42	0.05	0.04	
Orissa	1,001	39.30	38.83	48.45	48.20	12.17	12.89	0.08	0.08	
Punjab	864	42.92	44.27	43.48	44.66	13.56	11.02	0.05	0.05	
Rajasthan	908	42.59	42.67	46.04	46.43	11.29	10.82	0.08	0.08	
Uttar Pradesh	909	40.62	40.32	46.24	47.11	13.09	12.53	0.05	0.04	
West Bengal	878	39.21	42.86	50.00	46.13	10.76	10.98	0.03	0.03	
UNION TERRITORIES AND OTHER AREAS										
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	617	29.81	46.75	63.15	47.08	7.04	6.17	..	..
Delhi	785	38.06	43.56	52.66	47.96	9.25	8.45	0.03	0.03	
Himachal Pradesh	923	37.16	39.06	47.13	48.26	15.68	12.66	0.03	0.02	
Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands	1,020	42.76	39.08	45.89	49.92	11.35	10.98	..	0.02	

SEX RATIO IN DIFFERENT STATES

STATEMENT VI-16—contd.

Population of each sex in age-groups expressed as per cent of total population of the sex

State/Union Territory/Country	Females per 1,000 Males	0—14		15—49		50+		Age not stated	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	2								
Manipur	1,015	43.84	42.42	44.84	45.79	11.11	11.57	0.21	0.22
Tripura	932	42.12	43.67	46.11	46.24	11.76	10.08	0.01	0.01
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	968	43.41	43.95	46.93	46.92	9.62	9.04	0.04	0.09
Goa, Daman and Diu	1,071	39.23	35.41	47.00	46.96	13.77	17.63	0.00	0.00
North East Frontier Agency*	894	12.40	37.29	84.17	57.71	2.51	4.67	0.92	0.33
Nagaland	933	37.90	39.54	49.29	48.68	12.69	11.60	0.12	0.18
Pondicherry	1,013	37.04	36.29	48.41	49.73	14.54	13.96	0.01	0.02
Sikkim	904	37.99	41.24	51.32	48.44	10.59	10.23	0.10	0.09
COUNTRIES									
U. S. A.	1,030	32.10	30.14	45.51	45.72	22.39	24.14	..	..
U. K.	1,068	24.37	21.75	48.15	45.24	27.48	33.01	..	..
France	1,085	26.80	24.42	46.52	42.63	26.68	32.95	..	..
Japan	1,036	31.14	28.94	52.19	53.07	16.67	17.99	..	..

*The classification of 297,853 persons (M 147,100 and F 150,753) of N. E. F. A. into various age-groups is not available. Therefore, these figures have not been taken into account while working out the distribution into various age-groups for N. E. F. A. and India.

SEX

CAUSATION OF SEX

West Bengal the percentage is 39.21 which is slightly lower than the all-India average of 41.14. The proportion of elderly persons of either sex is a little smaller in West Bengal than the all-India average. On the demographic and socio economic significance of the composition of the population in these age groups, we have already commented in the foregoing section.

48. In the four foreign countries included in the statement there is an excess of females over males. This is expected to be true for most countries of Europe. In fact, so accustomed were western scholars with male deficiency, that they used to attribute the contrary results shown by the Indian Censuses to enumeration errors. The issue had been hotly debated in the Reports of the early Censuses, but it is no longer considered necessary to enter into elaborate arguments in support of the reality of the female deficiency in India, because successive Censuses have repeatedly confirmed the observed pattern of bias in the ratio. Deficiency
of females

49. A number of empirical theories have been advanced to explain the causation of sex, but no satisfactory conclusion has yet been arrived at. Race and environment, the latter in the sense of different climatic, social and dietary conditions, have often been put forward as explanations. It will be of interest to recapitulate the theories mentioned by O'Malley in his Report on the 1911 Census:

1. The offspring has a tendency to be of the same sex as the elder parent, and the tendency varies with the difference in the relative ages of the parents.
2. An intense desire of the parents may have some effect on the sex of the child.
3. In mountainous countries more boys are born than girls.
4. Differences in sex proportion are due to race, rather than locality or climate.
5. Consanguineous marriages produce a considerable excess of male births.

50. Researches are shedding new light on the old mysteries about life's genesis—when male sperm fertilizes the female egg. In statistical theory, males and females should be evenly divided. Yet at the moment of human conception males outnumber females. At conception the sex of the child is determined by the male alone, for the egg contains only girl-producing X chromosomes while sperm contains both X chromosomes and boy-producing Y chromosomes. The X chromosome is larger than the Y. As early as the seventeenth century when the microscope was improved, researches noted that the sperm heads varied in size—some had small round heads and others had large elongated heads. In most men the small round heads are more numerous than the large elongated heads. It is likely that the former are the boy-producers.

51. Generalisation on a subject in which so much remains to be solved as that of sex will be hazardous, but judging from the regional variations (Statement VI.16) it certainly appears that in India, setting aside all influences of a temporary or special nature, the ratio of females is high in the coastal tracts and tends to diminish as the north is approached.

52. In West Bengal, as the map included will show, sex ratio is generally higher in tracts between 22° and 25° north latitude than elsewhere in the State. The map illustrates police stationwise variations, while district level variations with rural-urban break up are shown in the statement next page.

SEX

STATEMENT VI-17

Number of Females per 1,000 Males in West Bengal, its districts and in Sikkim

State/District 1	Number of Females per 1,000 Males		
	Total 2	Rural 3	Urban 4
West Bengal	878	943	701
Darjeeling	864	909	731
Jalpaiguri	854	863	768
Cooch Behar	890	899	774
West Dinajpur	906	914	821
Malda	965	959	873
Murshidabad	974	979	920
Nadia	948	952	933
24-Parganas	866	932	737
Calcutta	612	..	612
Howrah	808	940	644
Hooghly	892	948	749
Burdwan	858	898	699
Birbhum	973	984	844
Bankura	981	987	905
Midnapore	952	963	830
Purulia	973	979	889
Sikkim	904	911	752

Rural-Urban
Variations

53. In the case of Calcutta and Howrah the effect of migration on sex ratio is very marked. Other districts with below average sex ratio are Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, 24-Parganas and Burdwan. While in 24-Parganas and Burdwan migration has been a prominent factor in lowering the ratio, in the hill and forest districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri climatic and ethnic conditions may be instrumental in bringing about a conspicuous deficiency of the fair sex. It is only in the arid zone of Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore and Purulia and in the low plain of Malda and Murshidabad that the male-female ratio very nearly approaches equality.

54. Because of migration the sex ratio in urban areas is more uneven than in rural areas. Towns and cities attract migrants who go there in search of livelihood. These migrants are mostly men who have left their families behind at their country residence. The sex ratios in individual cities and towns and their variations since 1901 have been commented upon at Chapter III of this Report. In Chapter IV notice has been taken of the variation of the sex ratio in the rural population of the districts. Statement VI.18 traces the changes in the proportion of the sexes in the rural and urban areas of the State and districts since 1901. It is seen that till

STATEMENT VI-18

Changes in the Proportion of the Sexes, 1901—1961

(Females per 1,000 Males)

State/Division/District	Total Rural Urban	1961	1951	1941	1931	1921	1911	1901
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
West Bengal	Total	878	865	852	890	905	925	945
	Rural	943	939	945	961	971	982	994
	Urban	701	660	559	578	591	614	652
<i>Presidency Division</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>849</i>	<i>818</i>	<i>792</i>	<i>835</i>	<i>846</i>	<i>861</i>	<i>884</i>
	<i>Rural</i>	<i>933</i>	<i>923</i>	<i>928</i>	<i>938</i>	<i>940</i>	<i>947</i>	<i>960</i>
	<i>Urban</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>634</i>	<i>521</i>	<i>542</i>	<i>556</i>	<i>574</i>	<i>610</i>

VARIATIONS IN SEX RATIO
STATEMENT VI-18—*contd.*

State/Division/District	Total Rural Urban	1961	1951	1941	1931	1921	1911	1901
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Darjeeling	Total	864	863	884	881	898	871	876
	Rural	909	903	912	906	912	893	894
	Urban	731	721	736	728	777	666	690
Jalpaiguri	Total	854	825	836	830	856	829	843
	Rural	863	838	846	838	862	835	849
	Urban	768	679	594	581	616	559	580
Cooch Behar	Total	890	855	879	886	877	873	881
	Rural	899	867	893	896	888	885	892
	Urban	774	713	608	621	575	529	540
West Dinajpur	Total	906	884	910	923	929	920	918
	Rural	914	890	913	923	929	920	918
	Urban	821	771	583	..	..	..	..
Malda	Total	965	966	983	989	991	1,004	1,007
	Rural	969	971	988	995	996	1,008	1,012
	Urban	873	853	827	814	802	861	854
Murshidabad	Total	974	973	990	1,005	1,006	1,002	1,040
	Rural	979	978	996	1,011	1,012	1,028	1,046
	Urban	920	923	919	926	935	941	940
Nadia	Total	948	937	945	951	956	996	1,014
	Rural	952	940	941	947	946	988	1,006
	Urban	933	927	973	981	1,035	1,067	1,082
24-Parganas	Total	866	846	826	849	855	881	918
	Rural	932	924	912	933	933	941	952
	Urban	737	666	581	574	577	639	740
Calcutta	Total	612	580	456	468	487	492	518
	Rural	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Urban	612	580	456	468	487	492	518
<i>Burdwan Division</i>	Total	913	920	918	946	966	988	1,002
	Rural	953	934	960	979	996	1,011	1,021
	Urban	727	734	659	667	680	726	765
Howrah	Total	808	810	788	834	864	892	935
	Rural	940	925	920	948	990	1,006	1,054
	Urban	644	610	528	537	520	564	584
Hooghly	Total	892	883	864	879	921	959	982
	Rural	948	955	944	956	998	1,014	1,027
	Urban	749	690	633	627	642	707	760
Burdwan	Total	858	888	893	934	965	997	1,004
	Rural	898	909	926	958	979	1,010	1,015
	Urban	699	777	678	694	788	813	833
Birbhum	Total	973	974	999	1,005	1,004	1,017	1,029
	Rural	984	984	1,008	1,010	1,009	1,019	1,031
	Urban	844	851	861	798	825	861	848
Bankura	Total	981	981	978	996	1,002	1,024	1,032
	Rural	987	984	984	1,000	1,006	1,025	1,031
	Urban	905	946	904	927	956	1,012	1,042
Midnapore	Total	952	955	955	975	991	1,000	1,006
	Rural	963	961	966	985	997	1,006	1,009
	Urban	830	885	798	803	829	847	935
Purulia	Total	973	983	977	989	997	1,001	1,011
	Rural	979	988	985	995	1,002	1,006	1,015
	Urban	889	921	848	861	881	889	900

SEX

1941 some of the districts, particularly their rural areas had occasionally shown sex ratios favouring the females but since 1951 the ratio has been wholly masculine in all the districts both in the rural and in the urban population.

Sex ratio at birth and death

55. Difference in sex proportions arising out of the selective character of migration tends to be negligible in areas where migratory movements are too small in relation to the total population. Sex ratio in the total population of such areas would depend primarily on two factors, viz., sex ratio at birth and sex ratio at death.

STATEMENT VI-19

Ratio of Females to Males in the general Population, at Birth and at Death, 1961

State/Union Territory 1	Number of females per 1,000 males in the general population 2	Average number of female births to 1,000 male births during the decade 3	Average of female deaths to 1,000 male deaths during the decade 4
INDIA	941	N.A.	N.A.
STATES			
Andhra Pradesh	981	933	937
Assam	876	960	933
Bihar	994	915	876
Gujarat	940	906	935
Jammu and Kashmir	878	901	935
Kerala	1,022	N.A.	N.A.
Madhya Pradesh	953	932	907
Madras	992	928	1,022
Maharashtra	936	N.A.	N.A.
Mysore	959	938	957
Orissa	1,001	930	945
Punjab	864	878	894
Rajasthan	908	830*	837*
Uttar Pradesh	909	831	814
West Bengal	878	923	872
UNION TERRITORIES AND OTHER AREAS			
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	617	693	606
Delhi	785	907	858
Himachal Pradesh	923	N.A.	N.A.
Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands	1,020	N.A.	N.A.
Manipur	1,015	N.A.	N.A.
Tripura	932	N.A.	N.A.
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	963	923	928
Goa, Daman and Diu	1,071	869	955
Pondicherry	1,013	915	989
North-East Frontier Agency	894	N.A.	N.A.
Nagaland	933	N.A.	N.A.
Sikkim	904	N.A.	N.A.

*The figures pertain to the years 1955 to 1959.

N.A.—Not available.

SEX RATIOS AT BIRTH AND DEATH

56. Whatever the divergence in the proportion of the sexes in different parts of the world, vital statistics attest one interesting fact: more male babies than female babies are born almost in all countries. Why male births should be persistently larger than female births is a question to which science has yet to furnish a convincing answer. Any suggestion, at the present condition of human knowledge, must be hazardous to the extreme, but an observation of age specific death rates would permit one: male infant being more exposed to death risk than the female, it is the nature's way of redressing the balance. There is, in fact, a bias in deaths just as there is in births. Reckoning the total population, male deaths outnumber female deaths almost everywhere in the world. Statement VI.19 has shown the comparative ratios for the States of India.

57. The disparity in the mortality rate of the two sexes indicates that there is a difference in the degree of hazards for male and female lives. The difference in death rates alters the proportion of the sexes in the first year of life, and goes on altering it continuously from year to year. The risk of death falls more heavily on males at certain ages and on females at others. Statement VI.20 shows the distribution of the sexes in different age-groups in the State and districts.

Female deficiency in different periods of life

SEX
STATEMENT VI-20

Distribution of 1,000 Persons of each Sex by Age-groups and Number of Females per 1,000 Males in each Age-group in the State and Districts, 1961

Under each age : (a) Denotes Ratio of Males in that Age-group to Total of 1,000 Males in all Age-groups together
(b) Ratio of Females in each Group to Total of 1,000 Females in all Age-groups together
(c) Number of Females per 1,000 Males in each Age-group

Age-groups 1		WEST BENGAL			Darjeeling		
		Total 2	Rural 3	Urban 4	Total 5	Rural 6	Urban 7
0	(a)	24	26	17	25	27	18
	(b)	27	28	23	31	30	32
	(c)	1,014	1,032	940	1,054	995	1,325
1	(a)	25	28	18	25	26	22
	(b)	30	31	26	28	29	27
	(c)	1,035	1,038	1,024	990	1,012	913
2	(a)	31	36	20	29	31	25
	(b)	37	39	29	33	34	30
	(c)	1,021	1,027	995	963	993	852
3	(a)	29	33	20	30	32	25
	(b)	35	37	26	35	37	28
	(c)	1,046	1,070	939	1,024	1,071	842
4	(a)	30	33	21	31	32	28
	(b)	34	35	30	34	34	35
	(c)	1,000	1,008	969	964	989	883
5—9	(a)	146	159	114	138	146	114
	(b)	164	168	153	160	160	159
	(c)	985	996	942	1,001	997	1,016
10—14	(a)	106	109	97	115	117	110
	(b)	102	97	120	121	121	124
	(c)	841	833	866	907	931	829
15—19	(a)	81	79	86	88	86	97
	(b)	85	83	92	92	92	93
	(c)	926	999	745	900	973	706
20—24	(a)	87	78	110	93	87	111
	(b)	92	90	98	99	98	104
	(c)	928	1,083	630	922	1,020	689
25—29	(a)	91	84	108	94	90	106
	(b)	84	83	89	93	93	94
	(c)	817	930	577	850	928	651
30—34	(a)	79	72	97	75	71	87
	(b)	68	67	75	68	67	71
	(c)	763	873	542	776	850	593
35—39	(a)	66	61	78	63	61	69
	(b)	51	51	52	48	49	47
	(c)	682	782	469	667	732	496
40—44	(a)	56	51	67	52	48	62
	(b)	47	46	48	43	40	43
	(c)	736	851	497	713	798	512
45—49	(a)	42	42	44	41	41	38
	(b)	34	35	33	29	30	27
	(c)	717	789	533	626	659	517
50—54	(a)	37	36	39	37	38	33
	(b)	34	34	33	29	29	29
	(c)	812	898	595	672	682	636

PROPORTIONS BY AGE-GROUPS
STATEMENT VI-20.—*contd.*

Age-groups 1		Jalpaiguri			Cooch Behar		
		Total 8	Rural 9	Urban 10	Total 11	Rural 12	Urban 13
0	(a)	27	28	16	29	30	17
	(b)	32	33	22	30	31	23
	(c)	1,001	996	1,088	936	930	1,072
1	(a)	26	26	18	25	26	17
	(b)	31	32	28	32	32	25
	(c)	1,039	1,028	1,192	1,109	1,108	1,138
2	(a)	36	36	31	34	35	20
	(b)	42	42	39	42	43	35
	(c)	1,015	1,016	1,000	1,101	1,088	1,383
3	(a)	35	35	30	36	37	22
	(b)	43	43	35	44	44	32
	(c)	1,055	1,072	870	1,080	1,078	1,114
4	(a)	35	35	37	36	35	42
	(b)	40	41	35	40	40	32
	(c)	981	1,008	736	984	1,021	590
5—9	(a)	143	147	108	153	155	136
	(b)	168	168	169	173	173	174
	(c)	1,003	987	1,197	1,003	1,004	986
10—14	(a)	101	100	113	98	97	110
	(b)	100	99	120	87	84	132
	(c)	847	850	815	786	774	921
15—19	(a)	72	69	99	74	72	92
	(b)	78	77	89	79	78	87
	(c)	929	965	688	952	975	723
20—24	(a)	78	76	96	76	74	101
	(b)	93	93	93	89	89	90
	(c)	1,016	1,053	740	1,042	1,081	685
25—29	(a)	96	96	101	89	89	93
	(b)	95	96	84	90	91	76
	(c)	844	867	636	904	928	630
30—34	(a)	80	80	84	73	72	84
	(b)	70	70	69	68	68	63
	(c)	746	759	629	821	844	579
35—39	(a)	72	72	74	69	69	66
	(b)	51	51	48	52	53	47
	(c)	608	619	500	677	686	558
40—44	(a)	57	56	59	57	56	59
	(b)	42	43	41	43	43	45
	(c)	642	654	535	682	689	589
45—49	(a)	44	45	38	43	44	39
	(b)	32	31	30	32	32	33
	(c)	593	592	607	650	649	660
50—54	(a)	39	40	32	37	37	35
	(b)	31	31	33	33	33	30
	(c)	674	666	776	802	812	67

SEX
STATEMENT VI-20—contd.

Age-groups 1		West Dinajpur			Malda		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
		14	15	16	17	18	19
0	(a)	24	24	18	27	28	22
	(b)	26	26	23	29	30	29
	(c)	991	986	1,071	1,038	1,035	1,125
1	(a)	29	30	26	31	31	28
	(b)	33	33	30	33	33	29
	(c)	1,023	1,026	973	1,014	1,018	922
2	(a)	35	39	30	37	38	30
	(b)	43	44	39	39	39	31
	(c)	1,015	1,013	1,053	995	999	901
3	(a)	36	36	29	35	36	25
	(b)	42	43	30	38	38	34
	(c)	1,064	1,079	845	1,051	1,047	1,177
4	(a)	37	37	29	35	35	28
	(b)	42	42	37	37	37	32
	(c)	1,044	1,042	1,067	1,027	1,029	990
5—9	(a)	159	161	135	172	173	150
	(b)	173	174	163	176	176	162
	(c)	987	987	988	986	988	948
10—14	(a)	102	100	118	117	117	116
	(b)	90	87	127	107	106	122
	(c)	802	793	890	879	877	917
15—19	(a)	74	72	91	77	77	66
	(b)	78	78	86	80	80	90
	(c)	964	985	774	1,014	1,007	1,186
20—24	(a)	71	69	87	74	73	93
	(b)	86	86	89	82	82	88
	(c)	1,111	1,141	836	1,078	1,093	822
25—29	(a)	88	88	87	83	82	98
	(b)	93	93	83	84	84	80
	(c)	958	973	783	976	990	710
30—34	(a)	76	76	79	66	65	87
	(b)	71	71	68	62	62	64
	(c)	847	859	715	902	918	641
35—39	(a)	70	70	69	62	62	65
	(b)	55	56	50	52	52	53
	(c)	719	729	592	799	803	712
40—44	(a)	54	53	60	46	45	50
	(b)	45	44	47	43	43	42
	(c)	750	781	638	913	922	737
45—49	(a)	44	44	41	39	39	37
	(b)	33	33	29	34	34	35
	(c)	686	695	577	846	847	813
50—54	(a)	37	37	38	32	33	32
	(b)	31	31	32	31	31	30
	(c)	768	774	694	929	934	823

PROPORTIONS BY AGE-GROUPS
STATEMENT VI-20—*contd.*

Age-groups 1		Murshidabad			Nadia		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
		20	21	22	23	24	25
0	(a)	29	28	33	28	29	23
	(b)	29	30	21	29	30	24
	(c)	999	1,048	572	1,003	1,012	956
1	(a)	31	32	27	27	28	22
	(b)	34	34	28	30	31	24
	(c)	1,049	1,057	956	1,025	1,028	1,009
2	(a)	39	40	27	36	38	27
	(b)	40	42	36	38	40	31
	(c)	1,033	1,019	1,259	1,011	1,005	1,049
3	(a)	35	35	26	33	34	27
	(b)	36	37	30	36	38	28
	(c)	1,019	1,018	1,031	1,041	1,057	953
4	(a)	37	38	27	33	34	28
	(b)	38	38	30	36	37	31
	(c)	1,002	1,001	1,020	1,031	1,030	1,037
5—9	(a)	176	178	151	160	163	148
	(b)	181	182	167	168	171	155
	(c)	1,000	998	1,018	994	998	972
10—14	(a)	117	116	119	115	115	118
	(b)	103	101	120	104	102	117
	(c)	861	855	926	858	843	925
15—19	(a)	72	71	88	85	83	94
	(b)	75	74	87	82	79	91
	(c)	1,011	1,024	912	909	910	907
20—24	(a)	74	73	90	79	76	91
	(b)	83	83	89	84	84	87
	(c)	1,090	1,111	913	1,010	1,041	895
25—29	(a)	78	78	80	77	77	78
	(b)	78	79	75	78	78	76
	(c)	978	989	871	957	968	908
30—34	(a)	68	68	73	65	65	68
	(b)	63	63	64	63	63	67
	(c)	894	902	814	922	926	906
35—39	(a)	57	57	57	58	57	59
	(b)	47	47	53	48	48	47
	(c)	814	810	852	791	803	740
40—44	(a)	47	46	56	51	50	56
	(b)	45	45	50	48	47	52
	(c)	931	945	816	882	884	875
45—49	(a)	37	37	40	39	39	39
	(b)	33	33	36	34	34	36
	(c)	862	866	823	835	828	866
50—54	(a)	34	34	38	37	36	42
	(b)	35	35	33	37	36	41
	(c)	986	1,007	798	954	964	916

SEX
STATEMENT VI-20—contd.

Age-groups 1		24-Parganas			Calcutta		
		Total 26	Rural 27	Urban 28	Total 29	Rural 30	Urban 31
0	(a)	21	23	18	14	..	14
	(b)	24	24	23	20	..	20
	(c)	971	972	970	851	..	851
1	(a)	25	28	20	13	..	13
	(b)	30	30	29	22	..	22
	(c)	1,033	1,011	1,094	1,008	..	1,008
2	(a)	31	35	22	15	..	15
	(b)	39	41	32	25	..	25
	(c)	1,078	1,092	1,037	1,003	..	1,003
3	(a)	30	34	22	14	..	14
	(b)	36	39	28	21	..	21
	(c)	1,045	1,078	947	934	..	934
4	(a)	29	32	23	16	..	16
	(b)	35	36	32	25	..	25
	(c)	1,031	1,036	1,016	968	..	968
5—9	(a)	148	158	127	93	..	93
	(b)	169	173	158	145	..	145
	(c)	988	1,019	915	954	..	954
10—14	(a)	112	116	106	86	..	86
	(b)	108	101	125	122	..	122
	(c)	833	815	871	871	..	871
15—19	(a)	80	80	80	88	..	88
	(b)	85	83	92	92	..	92
	(c)	924	960	852	634	..	634
20—24	(a)	86	78	101	118	..	118
	(b)	92	90	97	100	..	100
	(c)	933	1,084	709	518	..	518
25—29	(a)	90	84	101	118	..	118
	(b)	84	83	88	91	..	91
	(c)	809	911	643	474	..	474
30—34	(a)	77	68	94	106	..	106
	(b)	67	65	72	81	..	81
	(c)	748	881	564	465	..	465
35—39	(a)	66	61	77	87	..	87
	(b)	50	50	49	58	..	58
	(c)	646	761	472	409	..	409
40—44	(a)	56	50	69	73	..	73
	(b)	44	45	44	51	..	51
	(c)	680	838	462	432	..	432
45—49	(a)	40	40	40	49	..	49
	(b)	31	32	29	38	..	38
	(c)	677	750	535	473	..	473
50—54	(a)	35	34	36	42	..	42
	(b)	31	32	30	34	..	34
	(c)	785	885	606	500	..	500

PROPORTIONS BY AGE-GROUPS
STATEMENT VI-20—*contd.*

Age-groups 1		Howrah			Hooghly		
		Total 32	Rural 33	Urban 34	Total 35	Rural 36	Urban 37
0	(a)	23	28	16	26	28	20
	(b)	29	30	26	29	30	25
	(c)	1,014	1,008	1,026	992	1,002	954
1	(a)	22	27	17	26	29	20
	(b)	29	29	27	30	31	26
	(c)	1,023	1,024	1,022	1,010	1,013	1,000
2	(a)	29	36	21	32	36	23
	(b)	34	37	29	36	37	32
	(c)	941	975	868	1,006	999	1,035
3	(a)	26	31	20	29	32	20
	(b)	32	34	29	34	36	29
	(c)	1,006	1,036	947	1,055	1,051	1,069
4	(a)	27	32	21	31	34	22
	(b)	33	33	31	34	36	30
	(c)	966	986	931	990	988	995
5—9	(a)	133	156	104	150	163	118
	(b)	158	163	149	163	169	146
	(c)	963	986	921	971	985	923
10—14	(a)	102	114	86	108	113	97
	(b)	107	105	111	104	101	113
	(c)	853	836	836	855	847	876
15—19	(a)	84	84	84	84	84	84
	(b)	84	80	92	86	84	93
	(c)	807	893	699	916	949	831
20—24	(a)	100	84	120	88	82	104
	(b)	94	89	103	94	92	100
	(c)	762	1,001	554	947	1,064	714
25—29	(a)	96	77	119	85	78	104
	(b)	82	77	91	79	76	86
	(c)	695	946	493	823	930	618
30—34	(a)	83	68	101	75	68	92
	(b)	70	66	77	66	64	72
	(c)	684	917	490	792	899	591
35—39	(a)	68	57	82	62	55	77
	(b)	50	49	52	48	47	51
	(c)	588	795	407	696	808	491
40—44	(a)	58	51	68	56	51	67
	(b)	49	50	48	49	48	49
	(c)	680	918	458	781	900	550
45—49	(a)	42	40	45	40	39	45
	(b)	33	35	31	34	34	33
	(c)	640	809	451	742	824	559
50—54	(a)	37	36	39	37	36	41
	(b)	35	36	32	35	35	37
	(c)	756	940	542	848	925	674

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SEX
STATEMENT VI-20—*contd.*

Age-groups 1		Burdwan			Birbhum		
		Total 38	Rural 39	Urban 40	Total 41	Rural 42	Urban 43
0	(a)	22	23	16	25	26	21
	(b)	28	28	27	27	27	28
	(c)	1,093	1,076	1,200	1,040	1,034	1,135
1	(a)	24	25	18	31	31	26
	(b)	31	32	28	32	32	29
	(c)	1,109	1,116	1,070	1,006	1,009	961
2	(a)	32	35	23	38	39	27
	(b)	36	37	31	39	40	28
	(c)	974	973	967	1,011	1,017	899
3	(a)	28	29	22	36	36	31
	(b)	36	37	28	39	39	35
	(c)	1,110	1,154	881	1,052	1,057	970
4	(a)	31	32	24	36	36	27
	(b)	35	35	32	36	37	31
	(c)	960	967	920	987	988	967
5—9	(a)	140	144	125	167	169	137
	(b)	161	162	157	167	168	155
	(c)	983	1,008	871	978	979	954
10—14	(a)	101	101	102	98	97	104
	(b)	95	92	113	84	83	100
	(c)	808	816	777	841	843	815
15—19	(a)	77	75	84	75	73	97
	(b)	86	85	92	80	79	90
	(c)	953	1,005	762	1,028	1,055	777
20—24	(a)	92	85	119	73	71	99
	(b)	95	93	104	89	88	96
	(c)	891	988	611	1,180	1,221	813
25—29	(a)	99	95	115	83	83	90
	(b)	87	84	98	84	84	87
	(c)	748	793	599	985	1,001	807
30—34	(a)	86	83	100	74	73	83
	(b)	69	68	75	67	66	70
	(c)	691	739	526	879	894	715
35—39	(a)	67	66	70	61	61	65
	(b)	51	51	52	53	53	50
	(c)	660	696	523	842	859	649
40—44	(a)	56	56	60	50	49	56
	(b)	47	48	44	47	47	51
	(c)	710	763	510	928	943	763
45—49	(a)	42	43	39	43	44	40
	(b)	35	36	28	40	40	41
	(c)	704	750	498	890	892	865
50—54	(a)	36	37	33	37	38	36
	(b)	34	35	29	38	38	38
	(c)	826	871	621	987	995	893

PROPORTIONS BY AGE-GROUPS
STATEMENT VI-20—*contd*

Age-groups 1		Bankura			Midnapore		
		Total 44	Rural 45	Urban 46	Total 47	Rural 48	Urban 49
0	(a)	28	28	24	26	26	21
	(b)	26	26	27	30	30	18
	(c)	928	922	1,018	1,083	1,109	718
1	(a)	28	28	26	28	28	24
	(b)	27	28	27	29	30	24
	(c)	979	982	944	1,003	1,018	813
2	(a)	31	31	30	35	35	27
	(b)	34	34	31	35	36	27
	(c)	1,068	1,077	929	967	977	826
3	(a)	31	31	28	30	31	26
	(b)	33	34	31	33	34	22
	(c)	1,071	1,077	988	1,030	1,055	694
4	(a)	30	30	28	31	31	27
	(b)	32	32	29	32	32	34
	(c)	1,052	1,059	959	994	991	1,043
5—9	(a)	160	161	143	158	160	137
	(b)	160	160	159	163	163	162
	(c)	980	978	1,005	983	983	980
10—14	(a)	109	109	108	111	110	115
	(b)	93	92	102	95	93	128
	(c)	830	828	854	818	808	924
15—19	(a)	85	84	98	79	79	90
	(b)	89	89	88	90	89	91
	(c)	1,032	1,053	890	1,072	1,095	846
20—24	(a)	82	81	98	79	78	97
	(b)	92	92	96	92	92	101
	(c)	1,106	1,128	885	1,106	1,132	869
25—29	(a)	82	82	85	79	77	95
	(b)	83	83	79	80	80	91
	(c)	991	1,003	847	973	993	790
30—34	(a)	72	72	75	71	70	79
	(b)	68	68	70	68	67	73
	(c)	921	929	836	914	929	762
35—39	(a)	57	57	60	59	58	67
	(b)	51	51	50	51	51	46
	(c)	876	886	763	828	855	571
40—44	(a)	51	51	55	55	54	61
	(b)	50	49	51	49	49	49
	(c)	942	951	841	852	871	667
45—49	(a)	42	42	39	42	43	37
	(b)	38	38	35	36	36	33
	(c)	886	892	810	800	805	737
50—54	(a)	37	37	36	38	39	37
	(b)	38	38	38	35	36	30
	(c)	1,003	1,008	944	874	891	676

PROPORTIONS BY AGE-GROUPS
STATEMENT VI-20—*contd.*

Age-groups 1		WEST BENGAL			Darjeeling		
		Total 2	Rural 3	Urban 4	Total 5	Rural 6	Urban 7
55—59	(a)	24	24	26	21	21	21
	(b)	21	22	20	16	16	16
	(c)	764	848	553	670	712	545
60—64	(a)	21	22	19	21	23	17
	(b)	24	24	25	20	20	19
	(c)	994	1,018	917	813	812	816
65—69	(a)	10	11	9	9	9	8
	(b)	12	11	12	7	7	7
	(c)	973	989	922	687	718	582
70+	(a)	15	16	10	12	13	8
	(b)	19	19	16	13	13	14
	(c)	1,130	1,128	1,136	933	868	1,260
Age not stated	(a)	..	..	..	1	1	1
	(b)	..	..	..	1	1	1
	(c)	807	792	1,091	982	959	1,054
Total	(a)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(b)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(c)	878	943	701	864	909	731

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STATEMENT VI-20—contd.

Age-groups 1	Jalpaiguri			Cooch Behar			
	Total 8	Rural 9	Urban 10	Total 11	Rural 12	Urban 13	
55—59	(a)	21	21	26	24	24	25
	(b)	15	15	17	17	17	19
	(c)	631	646	515	647	652	591
60—64	(a)	20	20	15	22	23	18
	(b)	18	17	21	22	22	23
	(c)	754	732	1,026	884	875	1,021
65—69	(a)	7	7	10	9	9	12
	(b)	7	7	9	9	9	16
	(c)	787	800	697	908	895	1,023
70+	(a)	11	11	13	15	15	12
	(b)	12	11	18	17	17	18
	(c)	877	851	1,088	1,011	1,000	1,179
Age not stated	(a)	..	..	..	1	1	..
	(b)	..	..	..	1	1	..
	(c)	782	767	2,500	854	854	..
Total	(a)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(b)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(c)	854	863	768	890	899	774

PROPORTIONS BY AGE-GROUPS

STATEMENT VI-20—contd.

Age-groups	West Dinajpur			Malda		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	14	15	16	17	18	19
55—59	(a) 21 (b) 17 (c) 732	21 17 736	21 17 672	21 19 906	20 19 914	26 23 774
60—64	(a) 20 (b) 20 (c) 883	20 20 888	20 21 830	19 22 1,112	19 22 1,118	23 26 1,000
65—69	(a) 9 (b) 8 (c) 824	9 8 816	10 11 910	10 11 1,026	10 11 1,015	15 18 1,240
70+	(a) 13 (b) 13 (c) 910	13 13 888	12 18 1,192	16 20 1,207	16 20 1,209	9 12 1,116
Age not stated	(a) 1 (b) 1 (c) 805	1 1 803	.. .. 1,000	1 1 691	1 1 705	......
Total	(a) 1,000 (b) 1,000 (c) 906	1,000 1,000 914	1,000 1,000 821	1,000 1,000 965	1,000 1,000 969	1,000 1,000 873

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STATEMENT VI-20—contd.

Age-groups 1		Murshidabad			Nadia		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
		20	21	22	23	24	25
55—59	(a)	22	22	21	24	23	26
	(b)	22	21	21	22	21	24
	(c)	948	949	933	879	879	878
60—64	(a)	21	21	23	23	23	23
	(b)	26	25	30	27	26	31
	(c)	1,180	1,179	1,190	1,134	1,107	1,250
65—69	(a)	10	10	12	11	11	12
	(b)	11	11	11	12	12	15
	(c)	1,067	1,094	837	1,035	988	1,234
70+	(a)	15	15	12	18	18	19
	(b)	20	20	19	23	22	23
	(c)	13	1,259	1,474	1,179	1,186	1,151
Age not stated	(a)	1	1	..	1	1	..
	(b)	1	..	..	1	1	..
	(c)	796	803	..	712	721	200
Total	(a)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(b)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(c)	974	979	920	948	952	933

PROPORTIONS BY AGE-GROUPS
STATEMENT VI-20—*contd.*

Age-groups 1		24-Parganas			Calcutta		
		Total 26	Rural 27	Urban 28	Total 29	Rural 30	Urban 31
55—59	(a)	24	23	25	30	..	30
	(b)	20	20	19	21	..	21
	(c)	719	802	571	438	..	438
60—64	(a)	22	23	19	19	..	19
	(b)	23	23	24	26	..	26
	(c)	933	950	893	835	..	835
65—69	(a)	11	12	10	10	..	10
	(b)	12	11	13	13	..	13
	(c)	921	899	972	851	..	851
70+	(a)	17	21	10	9	..	9
	(b)	20	22	16	15	..	15
	(c)	1,031	982	1,237	951	..	951
Age not stated	(a)	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(b)	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c)	970	856	2,976	783	..	783
Total	(a)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	..	1,000
	(b)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	..	1,000
	(c)	866	932	737	612	..	612

SEX
STATEMENT VI-20—contd.

Age-groups		Howrah			Hooghly		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1		32	33	34	35	36	37
55—59	(a)	24	25	22	23	23	24
	(b)	22	23	20	21	21	20
	(c)	750	866	583	810	880	636
60—64	(a)	21	23	17	22	22	20
	(b)	25	27	23	25	25	25
	(c)	990	1,066	861	1,033	1,067	938
65—69	(a)	10	12	8	10	10	9
	(b)	12	13	11	11	11	11
	(c)	959	997	887	1,002	1,032	913
70+	(a)	15	19	10	16	17	13
	(b)	22	24	18	22	23	22
	(c)	1,177	1,180	1,169	1,228	1,224	1,243
Age not stated	(a)	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(b)	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c)	406	420	290	1,047	1,008	3,500
Total	(a)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(b)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(c)	808	940	644	892	948	749

PROPORTIONS BY AGE-GROUPS
STATEMENT VI-20—*contd.*

Age-groups	I	Burdwan			Birbhum		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
		38	39	40	41	42	43
55—59	(a)	25	26	22	27	27	24
	(b)	22	23	18	26	26	23
	(c)	754	793	573	933	941	828
60—64	(a)	20	21	14	22	23	17
	(b)	23	24	22	24	25	23
	(c)	1,023	1,019	1,046	1,067	1,061	1,162
65—69	(a)	10	11	7	11	11	9
	(b)	12	12	10	12	12	12
	(c)	1,025	1,032	985	1,055	1,053	1,077
70+	(a)	12	13	7	13	13	11
	(b)	17	18	12	16	16	13
	(c)	1,243	1,252	1,180	1,188	1,202	974
Age not stated	(a)	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(b)	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c)	1,319	1,351	250	831	837	..
Total	(a)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(b)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(c)	858	898	699	973	984	844

SEX
STATEMENT VI-20—*contd.*

Age-groups 1		Bankura			Midnapore		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
		44	45	46	47	48	49
55—59	(a)	25	25	21	26	27	24
	(b)	25	25	24	23	23	22
	(c)	991	988	1,039	834	841	746
60—64	(a)	24	24	24	24	24	16
	(b)	28	28	29	25	25	22
	(c)	1,149	1,155	1,085	1,009	1,001	1,145
65—69	(a)	12	12	12	12	12	9
	(b)	13	13	12	13	13	11
	(c)	1,053	1,062	942	1,016	1,011	1,097
70+	(a)	14	15	10	17	18	11
	(b)	20	20	22	21	21	16
	(c)	1,348	1,313	1,981	1,164	1,161	1,224
Age not stated	(a)	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(b)	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c)	574	574	..	794	755	2,750
Total	(a)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(b)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(c)	981	987	905	952	963	830

PROPORTIONS BY AGE-GROUPS

STATEMENT VI-20—*contd.*

Age-groups	1	Purulia			Sikkim		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
		50	51	52	53	54	55
55—59	(a)	26	26	23	21	22	14
	(b)	26	27	21	18	18	6
	(c)	1,003	1,017	803	760	774	327
60—64	(a)	20	20	16	23	24	13
	(b)	23	24	19	24	24	14
	(c)	1,147	1,155	1,016	918	921	804
65—69	(a)	10	11	7	9	9	4
	(b)	12	13	9	10	10	8
	(c)	1,172	1,170	1,204	997	989	1,353
70+	(a)	11	12	9	15	15	5
	(b)	15	15	15	17	18	7
	(c)	1,261	1,247	1,512	1,082	1,081	1,167
Age not stated	(a)	..	..	..	1	1	7
	(b)	..	..	..	1	1	7
	(c)	833	870	..	837	864	778
Total	(a)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(b)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	(c)	973	979	889	904	911	752

SEX

58. But so much has been said about the inaccuracy of age returns, especially for females, that a conscientious reader will accept the figures on sex proportions by age-groups with grave reservations. As a matter of fact, earlier census reports had refrained from dwelling at great length on the significance of age-sex cohorts on account of the aberrations caused in the data by irregular age statistics. As already stated, single year age returns for the 1961 Census have been subjected to a purification process by the Census actuary, Shri S. P. Jain, and the graduated tables have been prepared. Statement VI.21 shows the sex ratios in the population under different ages as per the Census count and as per the graduated age tables for West Bengal and the country as a whole. Age tables for districts have not been graduated. As a matter of interest, comparative figures of the English Census of 1961 have also been included in the Statement.

STATEMENT VI-21

Comparative Sex Ratios at different Ages, India, West Bengal, England and Wales, 1961

(Unadjusted ratios are on Census count, adjusted ratios on graduated age tables)

Age	India		West Bengal		England and Wales	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	994	995	1,014	1,014	944	944
1	998	974	1,035	1,009	947	945
2	982	970	1,021	1,008	951	949
3	1,012	970	1,046	1,008	951	949
4	973	969	1,000	1,007	950	950
5-9	955	966	985	995	953	953
10-14	876	948	841	949	953	953
15-19	929	942	926	893	973	972
20-24	1,052	948	928	840	1,000	1,009
25-29	974	949	817	795	968	970
30-34	929	928	763	758	987	987
35-39	872	890	682	720	1,006	1,002
40-44	891	872	736	714	1,033	1,023
45-49	854	867	717	736	1,039	1,046
50-54	873	870	812	773	1,045	1,051
55-59	860	890	764	824	1,080	1,087
60-64	969	934	994	888	1,242	1,232
65-69	961	965	973	945	1,416	1,417
70+	1,063	1,146	1,130	1,148	1,741	1,742

59. In order to show the general course through life of the proportions of the sexes the ratios given in the statement have been thrown in the form of a diagram from which the relative differences at various periods of life in the three areas may be seen at a glance. For England and Wales, only the curve for the actual count has been shown as the hiatus between the unadjusted and adjusted ratios, wherever it occurs, is too insignificant to be exhibited in the chart.

60. A feature of the English sex ratio that at the very outset strikes one as the most conspicuous in contrast with the Indian statistics, is the regularity of its trend. The ratio changes very gradually from one age group to another except after age 59 when there is a sharp swing in favour of the females. Secondly, in England and Wales the female deficiency which is the largest at the first year of life is wiped out by the time age thirtyseven is reached. But in India the deficit in the numbers of the female goes on increasing from the very beginning of life and shows signs of narrowing down only at the end of the child-bearing period, though equality of the

RATIO AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE

numbers remains unattained till about the seventythird year of life. It may seem paradoxical that in a country where the deficiency of females makes itself the most manifest at the child bearing age, the birth rate should be so very high. Evidently the advantages of better equipment for survival that the female life gets from nature at birth and childhood are neutralized in adolescence by the strain of bearing children too early and too often.

61. In West Bengal the ratio between boys and girls in the age period 0 to 4 is in favour of girls. The spurts shown by the unsmoothed curve at ages 1 and 3 are due more to inaccuracies of age statements than to mortality differentials. The striking deficiency of females at age 10 to 14, in particular, in terms of the unsmoothed data seems to have been largely the result of misreporting of age: understatement if the girl is still unmarried and exaggeration if she is married and has become mother. It is more probable that the relative paucity of girls aged 10 to 14 is simply due to large proportions of them being returned as older than they really are, and this, incidentally, will partly explain the rise of the proportion at the next two quinquennia. This makes a travesty of the generally held opinion that ages of young women are always understated. On the other hand the tendency towards understatement appears to be more pronounced in women who have already got beyond their prime. This is a factor which, combined with the high mortality rate at the child-bearing age-groups, accounts for the very great drop in the proportion of females over the period 25 to 39. The hump in age 20 to 24 is also evident in the curve for England and Wales.

62. In India, as in West Bengal, the age period 40 to 49 seems to be the worst for female survival. This is due to the hazards of child bearing at latter ages and is also a matter of relative stamina. A man in those ages may still be relatively vigorous, while a woman is undergoing the changes of life with its attendant complications.

63. The alternate rises and falls at ages subsequent to 40 bear testimony to the special favour that the fair sex does to the multiples of 10 in stating her age. Once the child-bearing age is crossed the ratio begins to improve and thanks to greater longevity, females of age 70 and above outnumber their contemporaries of the opposite sex.

64. The graphs for the districts, despite their diversities, establish by and large the following broad trend in the variation of sex ratios in different age-groups: a sharp fall in age-group 10 to 14 leading to a considerable improvement of the sex ratio in the next two quinquennia—the age of passion for females and that of migration for males—15 to 19 and 20 to 24, followed by a sharp fall which continues until the age period 35 to 39 is reached and uninterrupted improvement thereafter. Big doses of selective in-migration of male population of different age-groups have deprived the curve for Calcutta of any comparability with those for the other districts.

65. Although one would feel inclined to put down a good deal of the variations shown by the unsmoothed figures as more apparent than real, there appears to be no escape from the unmistakable conclusion that the real reason for the low sex ratio is that the hazards of life for males are more favourable than those for females in certain age-groups, and these age-groups lie particularly within the age period 25 to 49.

EFFECT OF MIGRATION

to sex ratios is of particular importance in the case of a State like West Bengal which not only attracts migrants from outside but within whose borders there are certain well defined patterns of migration ; and migration, as is well known, tends to affect most the working age-groups. It is obvious that the large difference between the all-India and West Bengal sex ratios in these age-groups (*vide* Statement VI.21 and the diagram thereon) is not indicative of a higher incidence of maternal mortality in the State. It merely shows the large dose of immigration of adult males that the State has absorbed. It is, in fact, impossible to consider sex ratios divorced from the phenomenon of migration.

71. Due to inadequacy of data it is not possible to isolate the exact effect of migration on sex ratios at different periods of life. But making allowances for migration the sex ratio for the natural population of West Bengal, i.e., the persons enumerated in West Bengal less those amongst them who were born outside the State plus those claiming West Bengal as their birth place enumerated at other parts of India*, is found to be 935 females (as against only 878 females for the actual population) per 1,000 males, which is very close to the all-India ratio of 941 females per 1,000 males.

72. We have it therefore that what has depressed the sex ratio in West Bengal in comparison to that of the whole country is not any racial, topographical or climatic influence but the simple fact of migration of males.

* The figures for the natural population are however not quite accurate as it has not been possible to make allowance for emigrants outside India.

SECTION 4—MARRIAGE

Scope of the Section

73. The preceding section of this chapter related merely to the numerical proportions of the sexes to each other and the manner in which these proportions were found to vary at different periods of life. The purpose of the present section is to direct the enquiry to the narrower field of the more intimate relations that subsist between the sexes. Marriage is the first condition of the reproduction of the race and one of the main factors in the growth of the population. The chief aspects in which this institution need be analysed in these pages are the extent to which it prevails, and the ages at which it is most usually contracted. This, indeed, is a very large field of investigation only the outskirts of which can be approached in these pages. The marital status of the population will be examined with reference to four stages of conjugal life, *viz.*, never married, married, widowed and divorced or separated.

Never Married

74. The reason for choosing the grandiloquent term "Never married" to denote the unmarried persons at the 1961 Census may appear to many to be a little obscure for it is but tautology to say that unmarried persons are those who were married on no occasion. 'Unmarried' does not differ from 'Never Married' in the same sense as 'Unfastened', for example, does from 'Never fastened'. The seed of this unique description was perhaps sown unobtrusively in the 1951 instruction which asked the enumerator to "write NM for unmarried" (UM as an abbreviation would have been calligraphically difficult to handle). In 1961, the instruction was "for a person who has never been married write 'NM' ". The words 'Never married' occurring in the sentence were adopted in the Sorters' Tickets wherefrom they were passed on to the Tables and Reports.

Exclusion of age groups 0-9

75. Never married persons, then, are the starting point of this enquiry as their numbers indicate the degree of prevalence of the institution of marriage. Before taking in hand their numbers in themselves I may as well offer a few words of explanation on what may appear to be a limitation of the data. At the 1951 Census infants and children aged 0 to 4 were supposed to have been not married and the tabulation was made on that assumption. "While this assumption was generally correct", the 1951 Report on West Bengal (Part IC, p. 15) says, "the census returns reveal that marriage among infants and very young children is by no means extinct". In 1961, for reasons I am not able to adequately explain, it was decided to extend the benefit of this assumption to age-group 5 to 9 as well and as a result all persons below age 10 were treated as 'Never Married' irrespective of the actual returns in the Individual Schedules. The number of original returns for a status other than 'Never Married' in age-group 0 to 9 was, in any case, not too insignificant to deserve notice. According to an account kept at the sorting offices the following returns (pages 53-54) were received in age-group 0 to 9 for marital status other than "NM" but were later merged with marital status 'Never Married' for purposes of tabulation.

76. The statistics discussed hereinafter (except those in paragraphs 94 and 95) are based on the tabulated figures on marital status which show *all* persons in age-group 0 to 9 as Never Married.

ORIGINAL RETURNS
STATEMENT VI-23

Original Returns for Marital Status other than 'Never Married' in Ages 0 to 9, 1961

State/District 1	Total Rural Urban 2	Marital Status			
		Married		Widowed	
		Males 3	Females 4	Males 5	Females 6
West Bengal	T	2,090	11,854	68	285
	R	2,069	11,812	68	285
	U	21	42	..	..
Darjeeling	T	85	115	3	7
	R	82	115	3	7
	U	3	..	..	..
Jalpaiguri	T	61	280	..	1
	R	60	280	..	1
	U	1	..	..	..
Cooch Behar	T	380	2,472	6	30
	R	380	2,472	6	30
	U	..	..	..	..
West Dinajpur	T	392	929	1	15
	R	392	929	1	15
	U	..	..	..	..
Malda	T	160	543	1	4
	R	160	543	1	4
	U	..	..	..	..
Murshidabad	T	394	1,985	2	13
	R	394	1,985	2	13
	U	..	..	..	..
Nadia	T	..	22	..	..
	R	..	21	..	..
	U	..	1	..	..
24-Parganas	T	280	808	52	198
	R	280	806	52	198
	U	..	2	..	..
Calcutta	T	..	..	..	..
	R	..	..	..	..
	U	..	..	..	..
Howrah	T	78	71	..	1
	R	78	63	..	1
	U	..	8	..	..
Hooghly	T	13	158	..	..
	R	11	155	..	..
	U	2	3	..	..
Burdwan	T	..	1,246	..	2
	R	..	1,241	..	2
	U	..	5	..	..
Birbhum	T	146	710	1	5
	R	146	710	1	5
	U	..	..	..	..
Bankura	T	80	2,101	1	8
	R	74	2,082	1	8
	U	6	19	..	..
Midnapore	T	12	322	..	1
	R	11	318	..	1
	U	1	4	..	..
Purulia	T	9	92	1	..
	R	1	92	1	..
	U	8	..	..	..
Sikkim	T	22	34	..	..
	R	22	34	..	..
	U	..	..	..	..

MARRIAGE
STATEMENT VI-23—contd.

State/District 1	Total Rural Urban 2	Marital Status			
		Divorced or Separated		Unspecified Status	
		Males 3	Females 4	Males 5	Females 6
West Bengal	T	28	294	3,062	2,143
	R	28	294	2,951	2,125
	U	..	..	111	18
Darjeeling	T	2	1	404	168
	R	2	1	374	165
	U	..	..	30	..
Jalpaiguri	T	..	1	222	92
	R	..	1	222	92
	U	..	..	..	..
Cooch Behar	T	..	17	997	837
	R	..	17	997	837
	U	..	..	..	..
West Dinajpur	T	26	262	694	268
	R	26	262	694	268
	U	..	..	..	..
Malda	T	..	2	86	40
	R	..	2	86	40
	U	..	..	..	..
Murshidabad	T	..	2	255	414
	R	..	2	255	414
	U	..	..	..	..
Nadia	T	..	..	..	1
	R	..	..	..	1
	U	..	..	..	..
24-Parganas	T	..	5	153	52
	R	..	5	153	52
	U	..	..	..	51
Calcutta	T	..	..	..	1
	R	..	..	46	..
	U	..	..	..	..
Howrah	T	..	..	46	..
	R	..	..	..	..
	U	..	..	..	2
Hooghly	T	..	..	..	..
	R	..	..	..	2
	U	..	..	5	28
Burdwan	T	..	..	..	..
	R	..	..	5	28
	U	..	..	15	..
Birbhum	T	..	..	..	..
	R	..	3	15	..
	U	..	3	139	..
Bankura	T	..	..	139	139
	R	..	..	..	139
	U	..	1	46	..
Midnapore	T	..	1	31	97
	R	..	..	15	82
	U	..	..	..	15
Purulia	T	..	..	..	5
	R	..	..	..	5
	U	..	..	..	..
Sikkim	T	..	..	..	..
	R	..	..	..	..
	U	..	..	20	2
		..	..	20	2
	

UNIVERSALITY

77. The feature most prominently brought out by the statistics on marriage is the high degree of the prevalence of the institution, especially among females. In West Bengal only 55 per cent of the male population and 44 per cent of the female population are unmarried. The figures are for the entire population, i.e., they include infants and children, and also those suffering from bodily or mental affliction. Prevalence of the married

78. A comparison of the marital status classification of the population for the past five Censuses shows interesting results. The following statement extracted from Subsidiary Table C-II.2 gives the marital status classification of 1,000 persons of each sex for the Censuses from 1921 to 1961. Comparison with the past

STATEMENT VI-24

Marital Status of 1,000 Persons of each Sex in General Population of the State, 1921 to 1961

Marital Status	Males					Females				
	1961	1951	1941	1931	1921	1961	1951	1941	1931	1921
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Never Married	553	476	476	444	480	443	363	342	282	296
Married	416	484	469	516	473	428	478	462	505	465
Widowed/Divorced/Sepa- rated	30	40	55	40	47	128	159	196	213	239
Unspecified	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..

79. The noticeable bulge in the number of married persons, both males and females, in 1931 was due to the passing of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1928, more commonly known as the Sarda Act. The Act had been in force for less than twelve months when the 1931 Census was taken. Knowledge of the impending legislation prohibiting child marriage led to the hasty celebration of a number of marriages which would otherwise have been contracted later. Excluding that abnormal year, there was practical identity of the proportions of the unmarried in the male population during 1921 to 1951. Sweeping conclusions on the steep rise in 1961 would be rash because not an insignificant part of it might reflect more a change in the age composition of the population (*vide* Statement VI.8 at Section 1 of this Chapter) than a sudden repression of the mating instincts. Even as late as 1951 the proportion of the married, both male and female, to the total population was much larger than in 1921. The fact that there were in 1961 in the whole State 68 fewer married men and 50 fewer married women in 1,000 of each sex than there were ten years ago no doubt augurs well for the future. But does it mean that we are all set for a situation in which it is safe for us to confirm O'Donnell's prediction made as early as 1891 that "at this rate of decrease the people of Bengal would a century hence approach to a rate of marriage very similar to that of Europe now, and their teeming numbers would be subject to prudential influences of a very satisfactory kind"? It is to the consideration of this question that the next few paragraphs are devoted.

80. It might be interesting at the first instance to note that in 1891 there were 345 married males and 329 married females per 1,000 persons of each sex in England and Wales as against 482 married males and 483 married females per 1,000 persons Comparison with England and Wales

MARRIAGE

of the same sex in Bengal. For a comparison of the present conjugal condition of the population of India, West Bengal and England and Wales, we are to look at the following figures.

STATEMENT VI-25

Marital Status of 1,000 Persons of each Sex in India, West Bengal, England and Wales, 1961

Marital Status 1	India		West Bengal		England & Wales	
	Male 2	Female 3	Male 4	Female 5	Male 6	Female 7
Never Married	529	423	553	443	437	388
Married	430	463	416	428	530	499
Widowed	37	108	27	124	29	106
Divorced	4	5	3	4	4	7
Unspecified	..	1	1	1	..	..

81. The first point that will strike one in the above figures is that the proportion of the unmarried amongst each sex is large in India, more so in West Bengal, in comparison with that in England and Wales. Passing on to the numbers of the married we find that in England and Wales, on the whole, 53 per cent of the males and nearly half of the females are paired off, whilst in India only 43 per cent of the one, and 46 per cent of the other (42 per cent and 43 per cent respectively in West Bengal) are in that state. It is under the remaining two categories alone, *viz.*, the proportions of the widowed and divorced, that there is a tinge of similarity between the Indian and English figures. In order to examine how vastly the East and the West have changed in the question of conjugal condition of the total population, the corresponding statement for 1901 is added.

STATEMENT VI-26

Marital Status of 1,000 Persons of each Sex in India, Bengal, England and Wales, 1901

Marital Status 1	India		Bengal		England & Wales	
	Male 2	Female 3	Male 4	Female 5	Male 6	Female 7
Never Married	492	344	477	318	608	585
Married	454	476	482	483	357	340
Widowed/ Divorced	54	180	41	199	35	75

82. The figures in themselves suggest that a phenomenal metamorphosis has taken place in the course of the last sixty years in the marital condition in these areas so far as the total population is concerned. As regards the general tendency towards matrimony, West Bengal, as well as the country of which it is a part, seems to have back-slided considerably and England, to have advanced very largely.

83. This, however, does not presume to give a measure of what we understand by 'universality' of marriage because for such a measure to be worth while only the population in or beyond the marriageable age-group is to be taken into account. This brings us to the question of the age composition of the population which is so important a factor influencing its civil condition that statistics on the latter can not be considered in isolation of those on the former. A great majority

**Importance
of Age com-
position**

COMPARISON WITH ENGLAND

of the unmarried males and females must be young children and an enormous preponderance of the child and adolescent population would naturally make for a small proportion of the married persons. Meaningful comparison of marriage statistics relating to different populations can therefore only be made by correlating civil status with age. In England and Wales, as we have seen in an earlier part of this Chapter, only 23 per cent of the population are in the age-group 0 to 14 whilst in India, as in West Bengal, children below 15 years of age form no less than 41 per cent of the total numbers. We have therefore to look particularly at that age period that matters most so far as matrimonial relationships are concerned, namely, age 15 and above. In the case of Indian women it might be advisable to carry back the floor limit to an earlier age, but looking at the important consideration of general comparability it is not incorrect to adopt this age limit in dealing with comparable statistics. Statement VI.25, then, recast for the population of age 15 and above takes the following shape.

STATEMENT VI-27
Marital Status of 1,000 Persons aged 15 and above of each Sex in India,
West Bengal, England and Wales, 1961

Marital Status 1	India		West Bengal		England & Wales	
	Male 2	Female 3	Male 4	Female 5	Male 6	Female 7
Never Married	216	56	267	59	255	219
Married	714	751	683	717	700	636
Widowed	62	184	44	216	39	136
Divorced/Separated	7	8	5	7	6	9
Unspecified	1	1	1	1	..	..

84. Nothing could indicate more clearly the difference that the age composition of a population makes in its civil condition. Taking the entire population, the proportion of the unmarried of either sex is much higher in India than in England and Wales. But the reverse is the case if only the population of 15 years of age and above is considered. The age period 15 and above when further examined by smaller age-groups shows interesting variations in the pattern of conjugal relationships as age advances. The distribution of the population of 15 years of age and above of India and West Bengal separately for each quinquennial age-group by sex and marital status is given in Statement VI.28 in which, too, the data for England and Wales, according to the enumeration of 1961, are placed alongside for comparison. Districtwise variations of the proportions in West Bengal are shown in a statement included in the Appendix to this Chapter.

Marital Status by Age-groups

EARLY MARRIAGE AND WIDOWHOOD

132 of them who have not married. Among 1,000 old men aged 70 and above those who are unmarried number 28 in India and 12 in West Bengal, but 77 in England and Wales. The bearing of the comparative figures will be seen more clearly from a reference to the diagrams included in this Chapter.

86. In India, as in West Bengal, the proportion of unmarried persons is higher among males than among females throughout life. But in England and Wales their proportion among the females exceeds that among the males in age-group 45 to 49 and beyond. It is precisely from this age-group that the proportion of spinsters goes on increasing with every advancing period of life—a phenomenon which indicates that the impact of the earlier part of this century when marriage among females in that country was far less universal than at present has not yet been effaced from the returns.

87. The proportion of married persons is higher among females than among males upto the age of 30 to 34 in India and of 35 to 39 in England and Wales. Among 1,000 girls in age-group 15 to 19 the numbers that remain unwed are 292 in India, 253 in West Bengal and 934 in England and Wales. In other words, the chances that a woman of seventeen will be married are three to one in favour of the event in West Bengal and fourteen to one against it in England and Wales. By the time a woman reaches the age 22 she will have been married in all but (i) 6 per cent cases in India, (ii) 7.5 per cent cases in West Bengal and (iii) 42 per cent cases in England and Wales.

88. Early marriage of girls is for the most part marriage to husbands much older in age, with its complement of inevitable widowhood. It is significant that in India and West Bengal the proportion of the wives to total females begins to decline as soon as the age period 25 to 29 is crossed owing to casualties among the husbands, while in England and Wales there is no falling off of this proportion even at age-group 35 to 39. Before a woman reaches 50 the probability of her becoming a widow is at least 29 in 100 in India, 39 in 100 in West Bengal but only 5 in 100 in England and Wales. Only one seventh of the women in the age-group 55 to 59 are widows in England and Wales but in India and West Bengal their proportions are one half and three fifths respectively. The approximate age from which widows begin predominating over the wives is 50 in West Bengal, 55 in India and 75 in England and Wales.

Widowhood

89. The proportion of widowers also naturally increases with each quinquennium but even at its highest in the age-group 70 and above it is not much more than 3 in 10 in India or West Bengal, and is only a little less in England and Wales. The proportion of men whose wives are still living is the largest in age-group 35 to 39 in India, as in West Bengal, and in age-group 45 to 49 in England and Wales. Apart from the inequality of age at marriage, the preponderance of widows over widowers is caused by the greater frequency, even in Europe, of the remarriage of the widowers than that of widows.

90. Divorce and separation seem to have taken the heaviest toll in either sex in age-group 30 to 34 and thereabouts in India and West Bengal and in age-group 45 to 49 in England and Wales. Perhaps a revealing aspect of the statistics is that the relative incidence of divorce and separation is not much lower in this country than in the West.

Divorce and Separation

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