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गृह मंत्रालयMinistry of Home Affairs
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MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 9/133/2010-CD(CEN) **Dated: November 19, 2010**

CENSUS OF INDIA 2011 - CIRCULAR No. 24

Subject : Enumeration of Houseless population during Census of India 2011- Circular

I am sure that the preparations for the second phase of Census 2011 – Population Enumeration are in full swing. As you are well aware the, basic aim of the Population Enumeration is to ensure the complete count of the population without omission or duplication. One of the most vulnerable groups in this regard comprises the persons who live in the open like pavement dwellers, persons residing in hume pipes, under fly overs, stair cases, places of worship, railway platforms, etc. As the 'Houseless' have not been covered during the first phase of Census they pose a special challenge during the main Census. It would be essential that advance preparatory action be taken to identify the places where such homeless households reside and plan for the systematic coverage of the same. Needless to add that street children would also form a part of this vulnerable group. This Circular aims to sensitize you to the problem and familiarize you with the methodology for a complete coverage. I request you to ensure action well in advance, so that the enumeration is a complete success.

2. The enumeration of the houseless population is traditionally carried out on the last night of the Population Census. In the present context, the enumeration of the houseless will be conducted in the night of the 28th February, 2011.

3. In order to ensure complete coverage of houseless population, the first and foremost requirement is that an estimation of the places where such population resides is well known in advance. It is also necessary to have a fair idea of the number of people who are present in any particular location, so that adequate manpower planning could be undertaken. For this purpose, provisions have been made in the Abridged Houselist Section-4 to list down the houseless households all through the period of enumeration. In other words, the enumerator would have a fair idea of the places where such houseless population resides and an approximate number of such persons during perambulations in her/his enumeration block. This would help in assessing the number of enumerators that would be required for this specific purpose. It would be prudent that the night enumeration should be done by pooling all the enumerators under a particular supervisor as enumeration, especially, by female enumerators during the night would be difficult. It is also suggested that the local officials, including the Police, should be alerted well in advance and teams of enumerators should be accompanied by officials and police on the night of the enumeration.

4. In metropolitan cities and large towns the strength available at the supervisory level might not be adequate to cover the houseless population in specific enumeration blocks. In such cases, augmentation of the number of teams would be required. The DCOs should identify such areas and take up the matter with the local authorities for taking up the enumeration.

5. There would be a number of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who are working in the sector of rehabilitation of houseless persons and street children. The possibility of enlisting their services for support during the enumeration should also be

examined. A list of such organizations would be available with the State Social Welfare/Social Defence Departments or with the local bodies. You are requested to obtain such lists and work out the modalities of carrying out the enumeration with the support of the Non Governmental Organizations.

6. To summarize, the following points may be kept in mind:

- Augmentation of additional enumerators in areas with concentration of houseless population to completely capture particularly in the big cities having expensive housing and better opportunities of livelihood.
- Advance information about the information on Raen baseras, shelter homes where houseless take shelter on the daily payment basis in the winter and so these are enumerated as houseless.
- All census staff of ORGI and DCOs may be deployed in the field as part of special squads to encourage enumerators. Presence of Supervisors should be made mandatory.
- Local police may be informed about the enumeration of Houseless population on the night of 28th February - 1st March, 2011 and take their help, if required, during the enumeration.
- Provision of petro lamps or alternate lighting along with requisite security arrangements of enumerators may be an important key to successful enumeration of houseless.
- DCOs to get idea of houseless population from the local authorities as it will help in formulating strategy of their complete coverage in PE
- Involvement of NGOs, demographers or other groups keen on the night enumeration especially in the big metropolitan cities may be considered.
- Imparting of a focused and thorough training to the Enumeration agency for counting houseless population by way of special module.
- In this endeavor to count houseless, it is to be ensured that there is no double counting. That the person has not been enumerated elsewhere during the entire

enumeration period, this could happen in case of those who sleep in the pavement in typical conditions under the influence of liquor or drug, who in fact might be having a house where enumeration has already been done.

7. I, therefore, suggest that you may systematically plan for identifying the areas inhabited by houseless population and ensuring the complete coverage of Houseless Households in your State/Union territory. I wish you all success in your efforts.

8. Please acknowledge receipt.

(C. Chandramouli)
Registrar General and
Census Commissioner, India

To

All Directorates of Census Operations

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