

THE CENSUS RULES, 1990¹

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 18 of the Census Act, 1948 (37 of 1948), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) These rules may be called the Census Rules, 1990.

(2) They shall come into force from the date² of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions.—In these rules unless the context otherwise requires:—

- (a) “Act” means the Census Act, 1948 (37 of 1948);
- (b) “Census Commissioner” means the Census Commissioner appointed under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Act;
- (c) “Census Schedule” means the schedule containing questions referred to in sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Act ³[, in paper form or in an electronic form and can be canvassed in the said modes including through self-enumeration.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause “electronic form” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (r) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000);]

- ³[(ca) “self-enumeration” means filling-up, completion and submission of census schedule by respondents themselves;]
- (d) “Charge Officer” “Additional Charge Officer” and “Sub Charge Officer” mean the census officers appointed as such under sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Act and includes Tehsildar, Mamlatdar, Block Development Officer, Chief Administrative Officer of a town, executive officer and other officers;
- (e) “Director of Census Operations” means the Director of Census Operations appointed under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Act to supervise the taking of census within a State or Union Territory;
- (f) “District Census Officer”, “Sub-divisional Census Officer” and “Additional District Census Officer” mean the census officers appointed under sub-section (4) of section 4 of the Act;
- (g) “Enumerator” means an officer appointed under sub-section (4) of section 4 of the Act;
- (h) “Joint Director of Census Operations”, “Deputy Director of Census Operations” and “Assistant Director of Census Operations” mean officers assisting Director of Census Operations;

1. *Vide* G.S.R 967(E), dated 31st December, 1990, published in the Gazette of India, Extra., Pt. II, Sec. 3(ii), dated 31st December, 1990.

2. Came into force on 31-12-1990.

3. Ins. by G.S.R. 194(E), dated 11th March, 2022 (w.e.f 11-3-2022).

- (i) "Principal Census Officer" means a census officer designated as such under sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Act;
- (j) "Supervisor" means an officer appointed under sub-section (4) of section 4 of the Act;
- ¹[(k) All other words and expressions used herein and not defined but defined in the Act, shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in Act.]

3. Appointment of Census Officers.—The State Governments and the Union territory Administrations in order to aid the taking of the census within their States or Union territories, may appoint officers from against the category mentioned in column 2 as census officers within their jurisdictions with such designation mentioned in column 1 of the Table below:

TABLE

	Designation	Officers to be appointed
	1	2
1.	Principal Census Officer	District Collectors/Magistrates/Commissioners of administrative heads of Corporations or any nominated Officer.
2.	District/Additional district/Deputy district/Sub-divisional district/City/Additional City Census, Officer	District Collectors/Magistrates/Officer assisting District Collectors/Magistrates/Commissioner/District Sub-divisional Officers or Revenue Divisional Officers.
3.	Charge Officer/Assistant Charge Officer/Additional Charge Officer and Sub-Charge Officer	Tehsildars/Additional Tehsildars/Mamlatdars/Block Development Officer/Chief Administrative Officer of towns/Executive Officers and other Officers.
4.	Supervisor	Officers generally of a rank higher than enumerators or any person.
5.	Enumerator	Teachers, Clerks or any official or any person.

4. Designating of Officers.—The ²[Central Government] may designate the Director of Census Operations, the Joint Director of Census Operations, the Deputy Director of Census Operations and Assistant Director of Census Operations as the Chief Principal Census Officer, Joint Chief Principal Census Officer, Deputy Chief Principal Census Officer and Assistant Chief Principal Census Officer ³[for the States and the Union Territories].

1. Ins. by G.S.R. 589(E), dated 19th July, 1994 (w.e.f 19-7-1994).

2. Subs. by G.S.R. 589(E), dated 19th July, 1994 for "The State Government and the Union Territory Administrations" (w.e.f 19-7-1994).

3. Subs. by G.S.R. 589(E), dated 19th July, 1994 for "within the Jurisdiction of the State or Union Territory concerned" (w.e.f 19-7-1994).

5. Functions of the Census Officers.—(1) The Census Commissioner shall,—

- (a) take, aid in and supervise the taking of the census within the country;
- (b) cause the Directors of Census Operations to be appointed for each State or Union territory, as the case may be;
- (c) devise the census schedules or questionnaires and provide to the State Governments or Union territory Administrations for publication in their respective Gazette in order to canvass in the census ¹[and to be used for self enumeration];
- (d) compile and provide guidance to the Directors of Census Operations of States and Union territories in taking the census and computation of results; and
- (e) publish the census statistics through publications or magnetic ²[or electronic or any other media].

(2) The Director of Census Operations shall,—

- (a) take, aid in and supervise the taking of the census within the limit of his State or Union territory;
- (b) prepare village or hamlet lists, classify places as towns according to demographic criteria, group places to form urban agglomeration, standard urban areas, etc. according to instructions from the Census Commissioner and coordinate the field work of house numbering and houselisting as per instructions from the Census Commissioner;
- (c) provide provisional population figures to the Census Commissioner, India through the District Census Officers within such time as is specified;
- (d) compile and provide assistance to Census Commissioner in compilation of the statistical data as per procedures laid down by the Census Commissioner;
- (e) publish statistics collected and computed during the census relating to the State or Union territory, as the case may be with the approval of the Census Commissioner;
- (f) provide the census material required in taking the census to census-officers in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Census Commissioner in this regard;
- (g) arrange to provide necessary publicity to census at the appropriate time; and
- (h) coordinate the work of appointment of census-officers and arrangements for their training.

1. Ins. by G.S.R. 194(E), dated 11th March, 2022 (w.e.f 11-3-2022).

2. Subs. by G.S.R. 194(E), dated 11th March, 2022, for “media” (w.e.f 11-3-2022).

- (3) The Principal Census Officer shall,—
- (a) cause the required number of District or Sub-Divisional Census Officers or Charge officers to be appointed for taking census in the district or municipal corporation or panchayat area, etc.;
 - (b) take, aid in and supervise the houselisting and taking of the census within the limit of the district or municipal corporation or panchayat areas, town area committee/notified areas and the like and forward the result alongwith the filled in schedules and blank forms to the Director of Census Operations within the period specified by him;
 - (c) arrange for the training to Enumerators, Supervisors and Charge Officers so as to enable them to perform their duties efficiently and within the time specified by the Director of census Operations; and
 - (d) take action and prosecute any defaulting person with the previous sanction of the State Government or of an authority authorised in this behalf by the State Government.
- (4) The District/Additional District or Sub-Divisional Census Officer shall,—
- (a)
 - (i) cause the required number of Charge Officers and other census officers in a district or sub-division to be appointed;
 - (ii) cause the entire area of a district to be divided into well demarcated census divisions, namely, charges, supervisor's circles and enumerator's blocks as per instruction issued in this behalf by the Director of Census Operations;
 - (iii) cause the upto date list of villages and towns to be compiled and their jurisdictional maps prepared;
 - (iv) assist the Director of Census Operations in compiling the related statistical data as per his requirement;
 - (v) give proper publicity to census programmes from time to time so as to get proper responses from the public;
 - (b) impart training to Charge Officers and cause proper training to be imparted to Supervisors and Enumerators through Charge Officers so as to enable them to perform their duties efficiently and to assist the Principal Census Officers to take, aid in and supervise the houselisting and taking of census within the limits of the districts, municipal corporations, panchayats etc.;
 - (c) collect the filled in and blank forms of the various schedules alongwith abstracts or any other statement that may be required to be prepared by the Enumerators;
 - (d) consolidate the summary of enumerator's abstract or statement for the entire district;

- (e) forward the filled in or blank forms of each schedule alongwith the consolidated summary of enumerator's abstract or statement for district and similar collected abstracts for each Charge Officer or census-officer, through the Principal Census Officer to the Director of Census Operations for the State or Union territory Administration; and
 - (f) carry out such other jobs necessary for the successful taking of the census;
- (5) The Charge Officer shall,—
- (a) cause the required number of Supervisors and Enumerators to be appointed within the jurisdiction of his charge;
 - (b) prepare basic documents like general village registers and charge registers as per instructions from the Director of Census Operations within the time schedule;
 - (c) familiarise himself with the enumeration instructions and cause the Supervisors and Enumerators to be trained so as to enable them to perform their duties efficiently;
 - (d) ensure that the work goes on according to the time schedule;
 - (e) ensure full coverage, accuracy and timeliness in taking census;
 - (f) collect the filled in and blank forms of the various schedules from all the Supervisors in the charge;
 - (g) provide provisional population figures to the Census Commissioner, through the Director of Census Operations within a week on completion of census operations;
 - (h) consolidate the summary of enumerator's abstract of various enumeration blocks and statements and forward these to the District Census Officers or Sub-divisional Officers alongwith the filled in and blank schedules; and
 - (i) carry out such other tasks as may be necessary for the successful taking of the census;
- (6) The Supervisor shall,—
- (a) help the Enumerators under his jurisdiction and ensure that work is done as per schedule and the coverage is complete; and
 - (b) collect the filled in and blank forms and statements from each Enumerator and forward the documents alongwith such statements he may be required to prepare, duly signed to the Charge Officer within two days of completion of census operations.
- ¹[(c) carry out such other tasks as may be necessary for the successful taking of the census.]

1. Ins. by G.S.R. 194(E), dated 11th March, 2022 (w.e.f 11-3-2022).

(7) The Enumerator shall,—

- (a) prepare Notional Map and layout sketch of the allotted enumeration block;
- (b) update the house numbering;
- (c) fill up the various schedules according to instructions issued to him;
- (d) undertake revisional round and updating of records;
- (e) prepare enumerator's abstract which shall consist of the location particulars of the enumeration block alongwith the total population by various characteristics asked for in the schedules and such other statements he may be required to compile; and
- (f) hand over all documents, filled in and blank, to the Supervisors.

6. Census schedules and questionnaires.—The census schedules or questionnaires shall be notified by the ¹[Central Government] through Official Gazette under sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Act:

²[Provided that the schedules or questionnaires canvassed in relation to conduct of pre-test, pilot studies, post enumeration check and evaluation studies or statistical surveys may not be notified in the Official Gazette.]

³**[6A. Declaration of the date and duration of Census.**—The Central Government may by a notification published in the Official Gazette declare the date for the commencement of the census and the period during which the houselisting operations and population census shall take place.]

³**[6B. Manner of serving the order of requisition of premises and vehicles.**—An order of requisition under section 7A, shall be served—

- (a) where the person to whom such order is addressed is a corporation or firm—
in the manner provided for the service of summons in rule 2 of order XXIX or rule 3 of order XXX, as the case may be, in the first Schedule to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Act V of 1908); and
- (b) where the person to whom such order is addressed is an individual—
 - (i) personally by delivering or tendering the order, or
 - (ii) by registered post, or
 - (iii) if the person cannot be found, by leaving an authentic copy of the order with any adult member of his family or by affixing such copy to some conspicuous part of the premises in which he is known to have last resided or carried on business or personally worked for gain.]

1. Subs. by G.S.R. 589(E), dated 19th July, 1994 for "State Government" (w.e.f 19-7-1994).

2. Ins. by G.S.R. 458(E), dated 30th June, 2009 (w.e.f 3-7-2009).

3. Ins. by G.S.R. 589(E), dated 19th July, 1994 (w.e.f 19-7-1994).

¹[6C. **Time for application for reference to arbitration under section 7B.**—The time within which any interested person, who is aggrieved by the amount of compensation determined under section 7B may make an application for referring the matter to arbitration shall be fourteen days from the date of determination of the amount of such compensation or where the amount of such compensation has been determined in the absence of the person interested or, as the case may be, the owner, fourteen days from the date on which the intimation of such determination is sent to that person or owner.]

¹[6D. **Filling-up of census schedule though self-enumeration.**—Without prejudice to any other provisions of these rules, a person may fill-up, complete and submit the census schedule through self-enumeration.]

7. Census data.—The Census Commissioner shall decide the items on which data may be released.

8. Notifications, Orders and Instructions to be issued by State Government.—The State Governments and the Union territory Administrations shall,—

- (i) republish the intention of taking a census notified by the Central Government in their State or Union territory Gazettes;
- ²[(ia) republish the census schedules and questionnaires notified by the Central Government in their States or Union Territory Gazettes;]
- (ii) publish a notification directing the public to cooperate in furnishing accurate and unambiguous information in respect of the questions that may be put to them through census alongwith an extract of penalties prescribed under section 11 of the Act;
- (iii) ³[republish] in the gazette the reference date for the census and the period during which houselisting operations and population census will take place under section 3 of the Act;
- (iv) freeze the administrative boundaries of districts, tehsils, towns, etc. from the date to be intimated by the Census Commissioner which shall not be earlier than one year from the census reference date and till the completion of the census;
- (v) nominate a senior officer of the State Government at State Head Quarters as Nodal officer to liaise between Director of Census Operations and other Officers in Census work;
- (vi) impose restrictions on the Head of Department/Officer on the transfer of officers/officials once appointed as Supervisor/ Enumerator, without the proper consent of Principal/District Census Officer; and

1. Ins. by G.S.R. 194(E), dated 11th March, 2022 (w.e.f 11-3-2022).

2. Ins. by G.S.R. 589(E), dated 19th July, 1994 (w.e.f 19-7-1994).

3. Subs. by G.S.R 589(E), dated 19th July, 1994 for “publish” (w.e.f 19-7-1994).

- (vii) give wide publicity of the census through radio, ¹[print media, electronic media, social media,] audiovisuals, posters etc.

²**[9. Custody of census schedules and connected papers.]**—After the completion of the taking of the census, the canvassed census schedules and filled in census schedules through self-enumeration, shall be kept in the office of the Director of Census Operations or at such other place the Census Commissioner may direct for processing of the data as so collected.]

10. Canvassed schedules.—The canvassed schedules shall after processing is over be preserved at the office of the Director of Census Operations or at such other place the Director of Census Operations may direct.

³**[11. Disposal of census schedules and other connected papers.]**—The schedules and other connected papers shall be disposed of totally or in part by the Director of Census Operations, after creating electronic record of such documents, in accordance with the general or special directions as may be given by the Census Commissioner in this behalf.

Explanation.—For the purpose of this rule, ‘electronic record’ shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (t) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000).]

12. General or special instructions.—The Census Commissioner and the Director of Census Operations may issue from time to time general or special instructions or such directions, to the Principal Census Officers and other census officers appointed under the Act, as may be necessary for the efficient conduct and timely completion of the census operations.

-
1. Ins. by G.S.R. 194(E), dated 11th March, 2022 (w.e.f 11-3-2022).
 2. Subs. by G.S.R. 194(E), dated 11th March, 2022, for rule 9 (w.e.f 11-3-2022). Rule 9 before substitution stood as under:

“9. Custody of census schedules and connected papers.—After the completion of the taking of the census the canvassed census schedules shall be kept in the office of the Director of Census Operations or at such other place the Director of Census Operations may direct for processing the data collected.”
 3. Subs. By G.S.R. 576(E), dated 19th June, 2018, for rule 11 (w.e.f 20-6-2018). Rule 11, before substitution stood as under:

“11. Disposal of census schedules and other connected papers.—The schedules and other connected papers shall be disposed of totally or in part by the Director of Census Operations a year before the next census in accordance with the general or special directions as may be given by the Census Commissioner in this behalf.”