



# ESTIMATED POPULATION BY CASTES, 1951

## 4. WEST BENGAL

**315.414**

**1951**

**Pop C**

*Office of the Registrar General, India*  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,  
1954

I N T R O D U C T I O N .

1. In pursuance of Government policy there was limited enumeration and tabulation of Castes in 1951 Census. Even in the case of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, the figures of each Caste were not separately extracted; only the group totals were ascertained. The Backward Classes Commission require the figures of population of each individual Caste. In order to assist them an estimate of population of each Caste in 1951 has been made on the basis of the figures of the previous censuses.
2. In the case of West Bengal, however, the figures of population of individual castes in 1951 were specially sorted for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes only at the initiative of the State Government. These figures have been published by the state Government in a special volume "Castes and Tribes of West Bengal" and are reproduced in the Tables included in this brochure.
3. The figures have been presented in four tables: (i) Scheduled Castes, Hindus only (ii) Scheduled Tribes (iii) Backward Classes, Hindus and Muslims and separately, (iv) Non-Backward Classes. The figures of the first two tables are reproduced from the published figures of 1951 Census as explained in paragraph 2 above. In the other two tables, the figures for 1951 have been estimated on the basis of the figures of previous censuses by applying the growth rate of the general population.
4. Extracts from previous Census reports of undivided Bengal explaining the causes for variation in the figures of individual castes have been given in an Appendix.

TABLE I - SCHEDULED CASTES.

The figures given in this table relate to the territory of West Bengal as in 1951.

2. The table presents the figures of 58 Castes (as specified in the President's Order of 1950) determined at the 1951 Census. The population of each Caste given in this table refers only to the population of Hindus.

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TABLE I.

POPULATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES (NOTIFIED UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S ORDER, 1950) IN THE CENSUS 1911-1931 AND 1951.

WEST BENGAL.

Name of Caste 1.	P o p u l a t i o n i n			Population in 1951 5.	Remarks. 6.
	1911 2.	1921 3.	1931 4.		
1. Bagdi	973,791	850,163	937,606	904,361	
2. Bahelia	957	*	1,900	369	
3. Baiti	194	*	6,981	4,393	
4. Bauri	310,701	299,777	328,540	333,531	
5. Bediya	5,720	*	4,351	11,043	
6. Beldar	4,752	*	3,132	1,089	
7. Bhuimali	14,659	17,156	19,286	19,399	
8. Bhuiya	60,308	51,773	44,522	64,063	
9. Bhumij	83,268	74,976	78,804	86,439	
10. Bind	18,911	10,437	16,591	18,881	
11. Chamar-	89,386	98,398	99,706	87,692	
12. Dhoba	98,184	95,923	92,639	70,570	
13. Doai	242	*	887	1,936	
14. Dom	147,758	131,219	128,593	110,348	
15. Dosadh	35,293	30,255	28,652	30,133	
16. Ghasi	4,731	*	5,006	3,534	
17. Gonrhi	8,582	*	4,739	2,253	
18. Hari	154,878	133,760	120,399	96,189	
19. Jalia Kaibartta	98,835	135,277	122,003	83,969	
20. Jhalo Malo or Malo	49,793	38,069	35,332	46,595	
21. Kadar	810	*	960	597	
22. Kandra	36,932	26,389	4,695	1,323	
23. Kaora	107,239	104,529	104,300	131,588	
24. Karenga	*	*	9,851	8,704	
25. Kastha	20,750	11,977	2,600	474	

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1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
26. Kaur	9	*	317	1,101	
27. Khaira	41,826	3,350	38,107	43,987	
28. Khatik	7	*	1,075	3,633	
29. Koch	48,677	54,327	12,071	931	
30. Konai	1,753	15,300	34,682	32,422	
31. Konwar	*	*	116	3,462	
32. Kora	44,815	29,881	46,252	43,454	
33. Kotal	*	4,930	7,627	7,810	
34. Lalbegi	36	*	4,326	435	
35. Ladha	7,362	*	10,960	8,346	
36. Lohar	44,939	65,413	48,182	63,680	
37. Mahar	590	*	1,666	4,206	
38. Mahli	14,900	*	15,462	26,331	
39. Mal	83,383	82,620	91,292	91,097	
40. Mallah	17,619	*	15,194	21,529	
41. Malpahariya	8,635	*	6,834	4,813	
42. Mehtor	1,632	*	18,657	35,803	
43. Muchi	285,348	263,639	267,576	281,669	
44. Musahar	9,250	*	9,213	9,732	
45. Nagesia	1,277	*	1,974	2,406	
46. Namasudra	160,304	5,027	161,804	324,723	
47. Nuniya	22,805	25,745	21,533	24,148	
48. Paliya	*	*	39,848	12,125	
49. Pan	1,461	*	762	1,337	
50. Pasi	11,901	*	16,377	22,761	
51. Patni	7,414	7,717	5,909	33,034	
52. Pod	393,168	431,327	476,589	593,093	
53. Rabha	722	*	3,015	5,113	
54. Rajbanshi	1,218,346	1,165,141	1,209,612	742,619	
55. Rajwar	19,508	*	16,674	25,701	
56. Sunri	2,799	82,766	73,978	45,153	
57. Tiyar	157,396	135,540	71,620	41,978	
58. Turi	14,155	*	13,127	18,040	

Note:- Figure not available.

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TABLE II - SCHEDULED TRIBES.

The table presents figures of 7 Castes  
(as specified in the President's order of 1950),  
determined at the 1951 Census.

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TABLE II.

POPULATION OF SCHEDULED TRIBES (NOTIFIED  
UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S ORDER 1950) IN THE  
CENSUSES 1911-1931 and 1951

WEST BENGAL.

Name of Caste	P o p u l a t i o n i n			Population in 1951.	Remarks.
	1911	1921	1931		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Bhutia	16,917	15,707	14,749	4,810	
2. Lepeha	9,842	9,669	12,719	13,430	
3. Mech	19,893	10,777	9,981	10,787	
4. Mru	*	*	46	4,696	
5. Munda	41,023	76,160	82,669	82,923	
6. Oraon	139,593	175,809	197,466	203,296	
7. Santal	636,900	762,615	753,663	845,395	

\* Figures not available.

TABLE III - BACKWARD CLASSES.

This table presents figures for 45 Castes included in the list of Backward Classes prepared by the State Government at the time of the last Census. Out of 45 Castes 43 are included under Hindus and 2 under Muslims.

2. The table has been presented in two parts -  
(i) Hindus (ii) Muslims.

3. Column 5 of the table gives the estimated population in 1951. This has been determined by applying the percentage increase of the general population of the state to the latest available census figures of each Caste. The total of the estimated population in 1951 of these Castes shows a decrease over the 1951 Census total of Backward Classes. On account of the wide variation in the two totals, no attempt has been made to adjust the estimated population figures.

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TABLE III.

POPULATION OF BACKWARD CLASSES (PROVISIONAL)  
IN THE CENSUSES OF 1911-1931 AND ESTIMATED  
POPULATION IN 1951 (i) HINDUS.

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W\_e\_s\_t\_B\_e\_n\_g\_a\_l.

Name of Caste.	P o p u l a t i o n   i n			Estimated Population in 1951.	Remarks.
	1911	1921	1931		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Agariya	*	*	126	177	
2. Baglas	*	*	*	*	
3. Berua	*	*	31	44	
4. Bhatiya	*	*	319	448	
5. Binjhia	689	*	203	285	
6. Birhor	*	*	*	*	
7. Brija	*	*	*	*	
8. Buddhists	*	*	*	*	
9. Bunnas	*	*	*	*	
10. Chacks	*	*	*	*	
11. Chains	82,774	71,718	*	108,491.	
12. Chakma	*	*	6	8	
13. Dhangar	*	*	*	*	
14. Dhasa	*	*	*	*	
15. Dhenuar	*	*	44	62	
16. Dulay	*	*	*	*	
17. Gains	*	*	*	*	
18. Garo	*	*	1,419	1,993	
19. Hajang	*	*	30	42	
20. Hadi	*	*	*	*	
21. Halal Khor	1,033	*	531	746	
22. Ho	583	*	22	31	
23. Jeoni	*	*	*	*	
24. Kahan	*	*	*	*	
25. Kan	*	*	20	28	

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
26. Kandh		564	*	112	1,149	
27. Karanis		*	*	*	*	
28. Kapuria		*	*	170	239	
29. Khandait		35,793	37,375	*	56,539	
30. Kharga		*	*	*	*	
31. Koiri		18,383	7,115	*	10,763	
32. Korangas		*	*	*	*	
33. Kuki		*	*	*	*	
34. Lushai		*	*	*	*	
35. Mahatos		*	*	*	*	
36. Magh		*	15	*	23	
37. Matial		*	*	*	*	
38. Matia		*	*	*	*	
39. Mugs		*	*	*	*	
40. Nat		2,020	*	203	285	
41. Rohangia or Roshangia		*	*	*	*	
42. Tippera		*	*	*	*	
43. Hill Tribes of Himalayas and Chittagong including Nepalis.		*	*	*	*	

Note:-

(a) \* Figures not available.

(b) The total estimated population of Backward Classes in 1951 (Hindus & Muslims both) according to above tables came 181,418 while the enumerated Census population of Backward Classes in 1951 is 1,359,350. As there is wide variation in the two totals no attempt has been made to adjust the estimated figures.

TABLE III.

POPULATION OF BACKWARD CLASSES (PROVISIONAL) IN  
THE CENSUSES 1911 - 1931 AND ESTIMATED POPULATION  
IN 1951 (ii) MUSLIMS.

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W\_e\_s\_t B\_e\_n\_g\_a\_l.

Name of Caste	P o p u l a t i o n i n				Estimated Population	Remarks.
	1911	1921	1931	1951.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	
1. Bhatiya	5	*	*	7		
2. Nat	45	*	*	66		

N o t e :-

\* Figures not available.

Please see note at page No.9.

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TABLE IV - NON-BACKWARD CLASSES.

This table presents figures for 32 Castes which comprise the 'Non-Backward Classes' i.e. the castes left after excluding Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes.

2. The estimate of 1951 population in this table has been made in the same manner as in Table III. The total of the estimated population in 1951 of all Castes shows a decrease over the 1951 Census total of Non-Backward Classes. On account of wide variation in the two totals no attempt has been made to adjust the estimated population figures.

TABLE IV.

POPULATION FIGURES OF NON-BACKWARD CLASSES  
IN THE CENSUSES 1911-1931 AND ESTIMATED  
POPULATION IN 1951.

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W e s t B e n g a l

Name of Caste.	Population in			Estimated	Remarks:
	1911	1921	1931	1951	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
1. Agrawala, Agarbaliā, Agarwar	17,413	6,826	13,534	19,010	
2. Baidya	28,527	35,361	40,943(a)	57,509	
3. Barui (Barai, Baraj, Baraji, Barjibi, Barujibi, Baishya, Barenjibi).	*	36,490	40,307	56,616	
4. Bhuinhar	*	*	459	645	
5. Brahman	805,430	822,806	923,637	1,304,373	
6. Gandha Banik	83,491	100,205	*	151,584	
7. Jadav (Gope, Goala)	493,286	447,669	464,836(b)	652,913	
8. Kangsha Banik	*	*	*	*	
9. Karan	52,603	50,495	*	76,386	
10. Karmakar	157,637	145,295	*	219,794	
11. Kayastha	323,601	367,769	455,658	640,022	
12. Kashatrija or Khetri	*	*	*	*	
13. Kumbhakar	*	*	*	*	
14. Mahishya	*	*	1,942,178	2,727,983	
15. Malakar	*	*	*	*	
16. Medak	*	*	*	*	
17. Nath (Jogi or Jugi)	53,837	51,153	50,501(c)	70,934	
18. Rajput	103,587	110,636	139,005	195,248	
19. Raju	61,064	52,091	56,732	79,685	
20. <del>Sabtr</del> brahman (Nayee Brahman, Paramanik, Napit)	185,495	171,977	178,753	251,078	
21. Satchasi (Chasa- dhoba)	48,650	5,971	*	9,036	
22. Satgope.	521,704	493,938	525,967(d)	738,773	
23. Shana	13,403	28,844	45,616	64,073	

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
24. Solanki	*	17,591	*	26,611	
25. Subarnabonik	76,607	76,155	*	115,203	
26. Sutradhar	63,926	57,266	*	86,829	
27. Swarnakar: (Senar)	*	41,773	*	63,192	
28. Tambuli	47,676	44,107	*	67,222	
29. Tanti (e)	260,338	257,446	269,247	378,184	
30. Tili	305,764	282,372	160,820	225,889	
31. Ugra Kshatriya	*	*	*	*	
32. Vaisya	78	*	*	115	

NOTE:-

\* Figures not available.

1. (a) Figures for Brahman-Badiya and Baidya Brahman are also included.
- (b) Figures for Abhir, Ahir, Gop, Jadap, Pallab, Yadav are also included.
- (c) Figures for Yogi, Yugi are also included.
- (d) Figures for Satgola, Satchasi, Satchasa and Satsudaa are also included.
- (e) Figure for Tatwa is also included.
2. The total estimated population of Non-Backward Classes in 1951 according to above table came 8,278,907 while the enumerated Census population of Non-Backward Classes in 1951 is 17,557,800. As there is wide variation in the two totals no attempt has been made to adjust the estimated population figures.

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B.K.MEHTA:  
16/8/54.

A P P E N D I X.

Extracts from the previous Census Reports of West Bengal for Censuses 1921 and 1931.

A-SCHEDULED CASTES.

Bhuinmali. The figures returned for the Caste amount to 72,804 compared with 81,952 in 1921 showing a decrease of 11.2 per cent. But as in 1921 on the present occasion also the figures are misleading owing to the fact that members of this group, which is one of the sweeper and scavenging castes, have continued to return themselves as Malis under the name claimed by them and have probably been included amongst them. The Malis show an increase of something approaching 50 per cent. over the figures of 1921 and this rate of increase is clearly not an accurate representation of the facts.

- 1931 Bengal Report . . . . Page 459.

Bagdi. Three quarters of the Bagdis, who now number 895,397, are to be found in Western Bengal and nearly all the rest in adjoining districts of Central Bengal. They appear to have been the aboriginal race whose habitat was the area **just** below the fringe of the uplands in Western Bengal. Their number was stationary between 1901 and 1911, but they have lost nearly 12 per cent in the last decade mainly due to the accident that their numbers happen to be greatest in the unhealthiest strip of country in the Province.

- 1921 Bengal Report, Page 350.

Chamar and Muchi. It is not an easy matter to separate these two castes, which both follow traditionally the occupation of leather workers. The Muchis generally belong to Bengal, while the chamars are more often

immigrants..... PTO

immigrants from Bihar and further west; but in considering the variations which have taken place in numbers from Census to Census it is better to take the two Castes together than separately. They were 548,913 in Bengal in 1901, 591,789 in 1911 and 569,966 in 1921 so that there has been a decrease of 5.7 per cent in the last decade against an increase of 7.8 per cent in the decade before. No doubt the contrast is partly due to the disabilities of the last decade, but it is also true that there has been a considerable falling of in the immigration of such people as these from the west in the last ten years.

- 1921 Bengal Report, page 353.

Dom. A decrease of 24,000 was returned in 1921 in the numbers of this caste and a further decrease of some 10 thousand is again recorded during the present decade, their numbers in 1931 amounting to 140,067. They are principally concentrated in the Burduan division which provides more than two thirds of the total numbers of the Caste and outside the Burduan division they are found in considerable numbers only in Mursmidabad, Chittagong, Calcutta and the 24-Parganas. Some part of the decline in numbers may be due to the return of members of this caste under the generic term Mehtar, but the total so returned is comparatively small (23,281) and it is more likely that on this as on the previous occasions the true caste has been concealed.

- 1931 Bengal Report, page 463.

Dom. The Doms in Bengal are some 150,000  
in number .....P.T.O.



in number 24,000 less than the number returned in 1911 and 24.8 per cent less than in 1901, and though this caste is often the very reverse of prosperous there seems little doubt that some of them must have taken deliberately to denying their true Caste at the time of enumeration especially in Chittagong.

- 1921 Bengal Report, Page 353.

Hari. The figures for Haris are 132,401 showing a decrease of 11 per cent from the figure for 1921, 148,847. The decrease has been continuous for several decades and as in 1921 is no doubt attributable to the fact that like other sweeper Castes many have concealed their true Caste whilst some few have possibly been returned under the generic name Mehtar

- 1931 Bengal Report, page 467.

Hari. Like the Doms the Haris have shown a remarkable decrease in the number returned since 1911 and probably for the same reason. The Caste is now returned just under 150,000.

- 1921 Bengal Report, page 354.

Jhalos and Malos. The Caste numbers 198,099 and shows a decrease of 10.4 per cent. from 221,198, the figure returned in 1921, due probably to some extent to the claim to a fresh nomenclature which has possibly resulted in some of them being lost in the ranks of undifferentiated Kshattriyas. They are most numerous in Mymensingh. Pabna, Dacca and Jessore. Their name is liable to be confused both with the Mals and with.....

and with the Malis, but although upto 1921 the aggregate of Mals and Malos had remained fairly constant since 1901, on the present occasion and it is unlikely that there has been any extensive confusion between the various names.

- 1931 Bengal Report, page 467.

Kastha. The number returned in Midnapore in 1901, 27,625, decreased to 20,719 in 1911 and at the last Census was 11,977, only 43.4 per cent. of the figures of 20 years ago. The reason for the reduction would appear to be that individuals of the Caste have returned themselves as Kayastha.

- 1921 Bengal Report, page 355 - 56.

Kochh. The Kochhes have declined from 131,273 in 1921 to 81,299 on the present occasion, and as has been mentioned already there is little doubt that, inspite of differences of Caste nomenclature, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep returns of Kochhes, who also claim to be Kshatriyas, Kochh Kshatriyas or Patti Kshatriyas and in some cases actually adopt or claim the title Rajbangshi, separate from those of Rajbangshis proper with whom both they and the Paliyas have ethnic affinities. The small numbers returned in Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar and Rangpur, and indeed in other districts of northern Bengal in general where it would be expected to find them in strength and where their greatest numbers were returned in 1911 and 1921, lend support to this supposition.

- 1931 Bengal Report, page 474.

Mahli. Their numbers were returned as 15,965 in 1901 and the increase is clearly due to emigration into Jalpaiguri where they numbered in that year only 3,267 or less than half their present numbers.

- 1931 Bengal Report, page 428.

Mal or Malo. Taking the figures for Mal and Malo together they have remained little changed since 1901, and the apparent increase of the Malos and decrease of the Mals shown by the Census of 1911 and reversed by the last Census may be taken to have been caused by the confusion of the Caste names. Mals are now shown as 117,557 and Malos as 211,198.

- 1921 Bengal Report, page 357.

Mali. The number of this Caste returned on the present occasion was 79,084 compared with 56,704 in 1921; but, as in 1921, the figures are misleading owing to the claim of the Bhuinmalis to be known by this name and the probability, supported by the decline in the figures of the Bhuinmalis, is that some of them have been returned as Malis. The claim of the Mali Caste <sup>to</sup> Veisya status was disallowed, but it is possible that some continued to return Vaisya and thus to reduce the inflation of the numbers of the Caste caused by the Bhuinmalis.

- 1931 Bengal Report, page 479.

Mali (Malakar). The confusion which affects the figures for Malis <sup>is</sup> between Mali and Bhumali, and it is probable that the increase of the Malis by 45.9 per cent. which the Census figures for 1921

show over those of 1911 is fictitious, and due to Bhumalis having been returned as Mali, a contraction in common use, where the real Mali Caste is not commonly found. The fact that the apparent increase has been greatest in Mymensingh and Tippera renders this the more probable.

- 1921 Bengal Report, page 357.

Rajbansi (Kshatriya). The total number has decreased by 4.5 per cent. since 1911 and 9.0 per cent. since 1901, and a decrease has undoubtedly taken place, but it has been exaggerated by the fact that a number of fishermen Caste, especially in Mymensingh, Nadia and Murshidabad, returned themselves as Rajbansis at former Censuses who were not permitted to do so at this. In 1901, moreover, many Koches in Northern Bengal were returned as Rajbansis. Many of the Rajbansis have now taken the sacred thread and at the time of the Census were prepared to use force in support of their claim to be returned as Kshatriyas.

-1921 Bengal Report, Page 358.

Patni. The Patnis, traditionally employed as ferrymen and boatmen, have been returned 30.7 per cent. less, than in 1911. The decrease has been most marked in Mymensingh, and there is no doubt that a number of them in that locality disguised their true Caste and were returned as Chasi Kaibrattas (Mahisya), for they claim the title of Mahisya along with the Jalia Kaibrattas as well as the Chasi Kaibrattas.

- 1921 Bengal Report, page 358.

Tiyar. The numbers of this Caste had declined from 215,270 to 175,721 between 1911 and 1921 and the present.....

present Census marks a further decrease of more than 45 per cent. to 96,413. The decrease is probably very largely, if not entirely, due to the claim of this Caste to such names as Mahishya and Rajbangshi and to their successful evasion of the restriction on the use of these names.

- 1931 Bengal Report, page 487.

Tiyar. The number of the Caste in Bengal was returned at 213,511 in 1901 and 215,270 in 1911, but at no more than 175,721 in 1921, for a movement of dissatisfaction with their position has been started among them of recent years and individuals seem to have returned themselves as Mahisya (Chasi Kaibartta) and Rajbansi, instead of using their correct Caste name.

- 1921 Bengal Report, page 360.

#### BACKWARD CLASSES 'C'.

Hadi. The Hadis numbered 14,334 all but 22 of whom are found in the Nymensingh district in which they numbered 19,016 in 1921. The decrease in numbers is perhaps partly accounted for by the claim of the Caste to be returned as Haihaiya Kshatriyas and the fact that it has been impossible to allocate any so returned to their correct caste owing to the fact that same name is also claimed by the Kalwars.

- 1931 Bengal Report, pages 465-466.

Kahar. Their number in Bengal has increased by 35.9 per cent., since 1911 and by 78.8 per cent. since 1901 and is now more than 120,000 among whom there is a large preponderance of males. Their increase since

1911 is the more remarkable in the face of the falling of immigration from Bihar generally. The reason is that as casual labourers they are eminently hard-working and they take up work which is generally too strenuous for the Bengali.

- 1921 Bengal Report, page 354.

Karan. Their number, 95,906, shows a decrease of 14.0 per cent. since 1911 and 16.2 per cent. since 1901, but the decrease is due very largely to the fact that many now claim to be Telis, oil merchants of a rather superior social position, and returned themselves so at the time of the Census.

- 1921 Bengal Report, page 355.

#### NON-BACKWARD CLASSES ' C '.

Agarwales. Complete figures for Agarwalas were obtained only for Calcutta in 1921. They then numbered 6,826 and in Calcutta their numbers have declined to 4,752 at the present Census. Throughout the whole of Bengal they number 19,347 and as many as 1,000 or more are found only in Malda (3,286), Jalpaiguri (1,329) and Rajshahi (1,239). In Calcutta some part of their decrease is probably due to the non-cooperation in parts of the city where they were particularly strong.

- 1931 Bengal Report, page 456.

Goala. The Goalas numbered 583,970 in 1921 and in that year they had lost 9.7 per cent. of the figure recorded in 1911 which again was 8.5 per cent. less than that of 1901. On the present occasion their numbers have increased by 2.6 per cent. to

599,283. They are most numerous in the districts of Western and Central Bengal but there are more than 31,000 in Dacca and more than 21,000 in Mymensingh and as many as 14,325 in Malda. The increase suggests that the recent adoption of the name Jadab and Yadava has checked the tendency of the well-to-do members of the Caste to return themselves as Sadgops.

- 1931 Bengal Report, page 466.

Kayastha. The Kayasthas have increased, from 1,297,736 in 1921 by 20.1 per cent. to 1,558,475 in 1931. With the Baidyas and the Brahmans the Kayasthas form the upper class of Bengali Hindu society, and they are the most numerous Caste in Bengal. Their greatest numbers are found in Chittagong (184,735), Calcutta (160,630), Mymensingh (151,116), Dacca (144,193), Bakarganj (137,310) and Tippera (133,741). The rate of increase is high but is less than the increase (16.5) per cent. recorded in 1921. Even so, however, it is probably exaggerated by an increasing number of other castes claiming to be Kayasthas and recording themselves as such.

- 1931 Bengal Report, page 471.

Kayastha. The Kayasthas now number 1,297,736 and, according to the Census returns, have increased by 16.5 per cent. since 1911 and by 31.8 per cent. since 1901, but this increase has been exaggerated for there is no doubt that individuals of other castes, especially Sudras and Baruis, returned themselves as Kayasthas who certainly were nothing of the sort.

- 1921 Bengal Report, Page 356.

Mahishya. The Mahishyas are the most numerous Caste in Bengal. They number 2,381,266 and have increased by 7.7 per cent. from 2,210,684 in 1921. They are most numerous in Midnapore (883,367) and the 24 Parganas(329,480), but they are found in every district except the Chittagong Hill Tracts and although their numbers have probably been swelled by the inclusion in some parts of Jalia Kaibarttas or possibly Patnis and other fishing Castes claiming to have taken to agriculture and to be entitled to the use of this name, there is no reason to believe that the caste has not substantially increased during the last decade.

-1931 Bengal Report, page 477.

Sadgops. The caste has declined in numbers in successive decades from 1901 to 1911 and 1911 to 1921 and the name covers groups in Northern, Western and Eastern Bengal said to be of entirely different origin. They were returned in the greatest strength in Western Bengal which contributed over two-thirds of their number and the adjoining districts of Malda, Murshidabad, 24-Parganas and Calcutta also contributed very nearly one fifth. The figures include those returned as Satchasis. This is a synonym of Sadgop in Western Bengal, but the Chasadhopas have also adopted it as a name. The inclusion of those returned under it was probably a mistake and it is quite possible that some part of the increase if not all is due to the inclusion of persons who ought to have been classed as Chasadhopas.

- 1931 Bengal Report, page 484.



Tanti and Tatwa. Tantis and Tatuas were 312,927 in 1901, 322,983 in 1911 and 319,613 in 1921, so that, though they have lost 1.0 per cent., since 1911, they are 2.1 per cent more than they were 20 years ago. This distinction between Tantis and Jugis have never caused any difficulty, and the fact that recently the Jugis have **increased** in numbers while the Tantis have decreased, is to be put down to the fact that <sup>the</sup> Jugis belong to the **progressive Eastern Bengal**, while the Tantis belong to the rather decadent (from the point of view of the Census figures) **Western Bengal**.

- 1921 Bengal Report, page 360.

Teli and Tili. The Telis and Tilis were 403,959 in 1901, 419,122 in 1911 and have now been returned at 395,926. There is no doubt that this number includes a contingent which should correctly have been returned as Kalus, and this and the fact that the returns show a decrease on this occasion points to a number of Telis having denied their true Caste. They seem to have put themselves down as Gandrabaniks.

- 1921 Bengal Report, page 360.