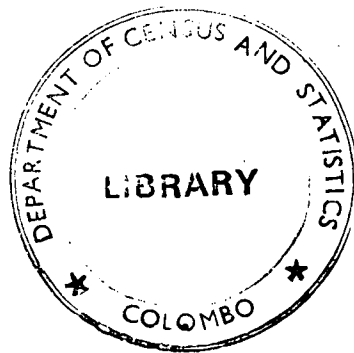


PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE 1981 CENSUS



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WORKSHOP ON THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE
1981 CENSUS

1.1 INTRODUCTION

As you are aware the Census of Population and Housing was held as scheduled on 17th March 1981. This was the twelfth Census taken in this country, in the current series of Censuses that commenced in 1871.

In a national statistical operation of this magnitude collection of the completed Census Schedules, the editing, coding and processing of information takes time. The detailed information collected at the Census for the whole population will accordingly be available by about the end of 1982. In view of the importance and urgency of the data for various administrative and planning purposes, I have made arrangements to release all basic data by February 1982 utilizing Schedules on a 10% sample.

To meet the most urgent demands of Government, and the other data users, Statistical Tables showing Sex, Age (under 18 years and 18 years & over) Religion, Ethnic Group classified according to Towns and A.G.A. Divisions were issued in June this year, as a "Preliminary Release No. 1" based on the summaries prepared by the Census Enumerators and Supervisors. This publication has been circulated amongst the participants of this Workshop and the comments I propose to make today have to be restricted to the information available therein.

1.2 RELIABILITY OF THE 1981 CENSUS TOTAL

The population enumerated at the 1981 Census was 14,850,001 compared to the 1971 Census Figure of 12,689,897. Starting from the 1971 Census Figure we can make an estimate of what the population should be on the 1981 Census date (17.3.81) by adding the births during the intercensal period, and deducting the deaths and net migration during the same period. Unfortunately the birth, death and migration figures for 1981 are not yet available and the birth, death and migration figures for the period 1st January - 17th March 1981 were estimated as $\frac{76}{365} = .208\%$ of the 1980 figures.

On this basis we have the following figures for the period 9th October 1971 - 17th March 1981.

Births	:	3,661,723
Deaths	:	967,200
Net Migration	:	495,158 (emigrants)

The estimated population as on 17th March 1981
= 12,689,897 + 3,661,723 - 967,200 - 495,158
= 14,889,262

This is more than the Census total population by 39,261. Hence the enumerated population falls short of the expected number by 39,261 or 0.26% which is a very small amount and therefore shows a high degree of consistency between the census figures and vital registration and migration data.

1.3 GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND GROWTH OF POPULATION

In Sri Lanka like in any other country the population is not uniformly distributed over its land area. Some districts are densely populated and even within the districts there are certain areas more densely populated than other areas. The uneven distribution of population is partly due to Geographical, Economic and Historical factors. Some of the more important features of population distribution evident from the Census Tables so far available to us are -

1. Throughout the period 1871 - 1981 Western Province, the smallest in land area has however maintained its pre-dominant position as the province having the largest population in the country. About 27% of the country's population is settled in this province. The second most thickly populated province is the Central Province.

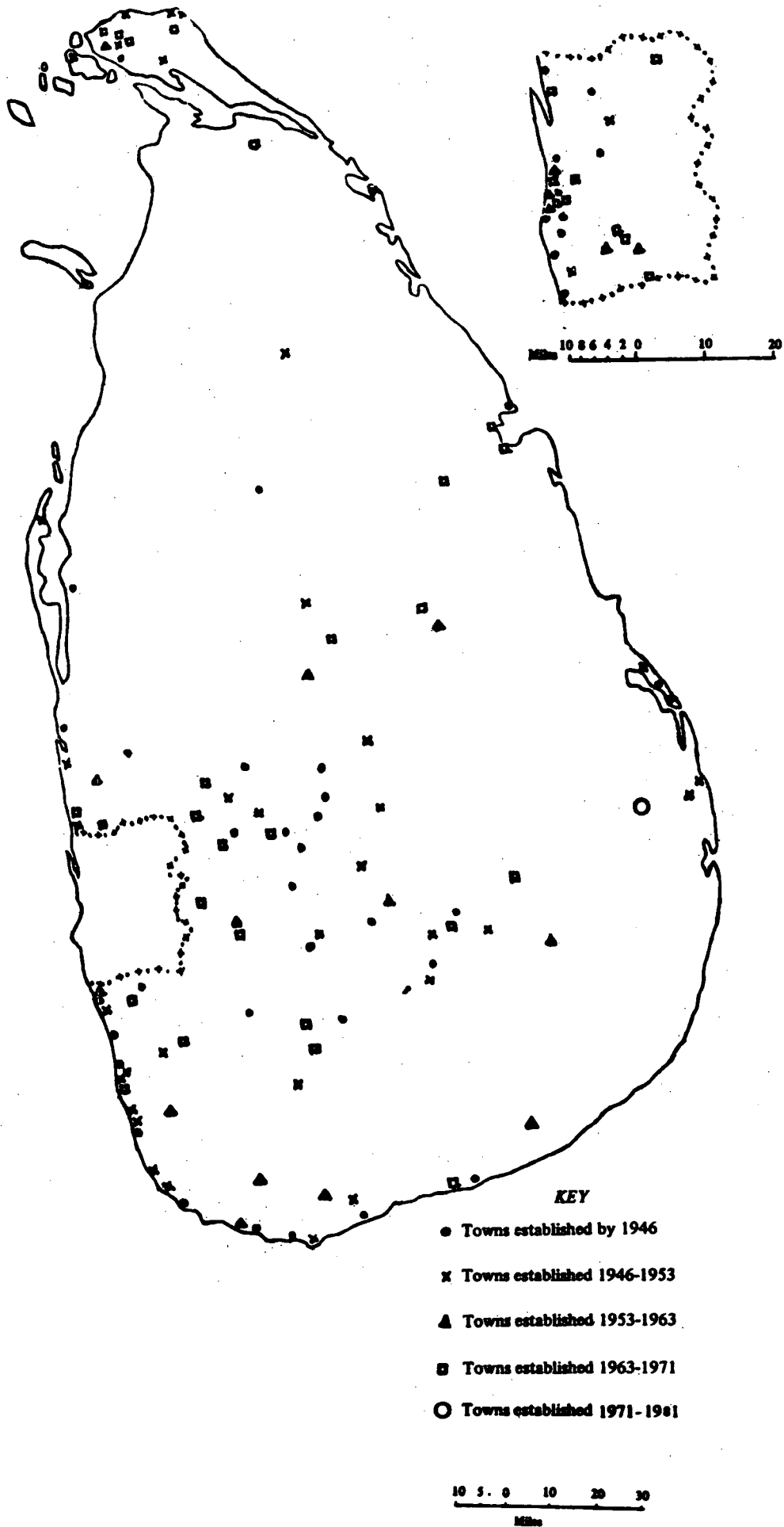
From 1871 Census, Western Province continues to be ranked first, while the other provinces have changed places throughout the 1871-1981 period. The Central Province and Southern Province ranked 3rd and 2nd respectively in 1871 and 1891 have changed places from 1901. (See Table 1) Similarly N.W.P. and Sabaragamuwa Province which occupied the 4th and 5th place from 1911 exchanged their places in 1931 and again went back to their original position in 1963. In 1981 the W.P., C.P., S.P., N.P., N.W.P. and Sabaragamuwa Province held the same positions as in 1971.

2. Apart from the inter-provincial disparity in respect of the population size, there is also uneven spread between districts within each province. For instance the Population of Colombo and Gampaha districts continue to be more than treble the population of Kalutara district. Similarly the population of Jaffna district is about 3 times more than the combined population of Mannar, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu. Sabaragamuwa Province continues to maintain an even spread between its 2 districts, Ratnapura and Kegalle without much disparity.
3. The most populated district continues to be Colombo and next comes Gampaha and Kandy. Kurunegala came a close 4th in 1971. However, in 1981 Kandy has exchanged places with Kegalle.

Jaffna has advanced from the 7th place it occupied in 1971 to the 5th place in 1981.

4. As mentioned earlier, according to the 1981 Census Sri Lanka has a population of 14,850,001. The population of Sri Lanka has been and still continues to be pre-dominantly rural. In 1971, 77.6% of its population (9,841,781) was recorded as living in some 18,000 villages, while 22.4% lived in 135 Urban areas. In 1981 78.5% of its population was still living in some 25,000 villages while 21.5% of the population lived in 134 Urban areas. (Vide Table 3 and Map 1).
5. The rate of population growth since independence in 1948 has been much greater than before, primarily because of improvements in health and nutrition and in particular due to the eradication of Malaria, which led to a rapid decline in mortality. The crude death rate which stood at 21 per 1000 immediately prior to 1946, dropped dramatically to 14 per 1000 by late '40s and then more gradually to 7.5 by the '70s and 6.1 in 1980. The crude birth rate, however remained high at around 37 per 1000 until early 1960s and then started declining. The high birth rate in the late '40s, '50s and early '60s and the fall in the death rate during this period led to what is described as a "Population Explosion". This led to near doubling of the population during the period 1946-71, from 6.6 million to 12.7 million.
6. The higher rate of population growth in the post independence period conceals a recent decline in population growth in the 1960s and 1970s. Population growth has declined from a peak rate of 2.8% per annum between 1946 and 1953 to about

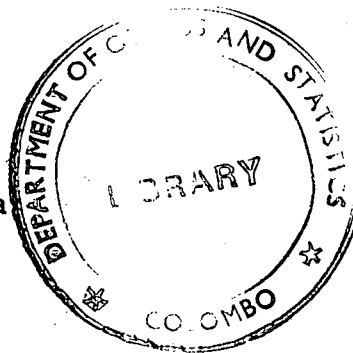
Spread of Urbanization in Sri Lanka, 1946-1981.



1.7% per annum between 1971 to 1981. In this connection it would be of interest to observe that this is the lowest rate of growth recorded in any inter-censal period since 1946. The annual rate of growth in the earlier periods were 2.8% in 1946-53, 2.6% in 1953-63 and 2.2% in 1963-71. (Vide Table 6).

7. The following districts have recorded fairly large percentage increases in their population which may be attributed to migration into these districts on account of the accelerated Mahaweli Development Programme and other Development Programmes undertaken in these districts as well as to other reasons.

	<u>Percentage Increase</u>
Mullaitivu	77.7
Polonnaruwa	60.6
Vavuniya	59.3
Anuradhapura	51.2
Amparai	42.6
Moneragala	44.9
Trincomalee	36.4



8. The following districts have recorded only a small percentage increase, showing that these are the main districts from which people are moving out :-

	<u>Percentage Increase</u>
Kandy	2.7
Badulla	4.5
Kegalle	6.7
Matara	9.9
Galle	10.8
Kalutara	13.5

9. Nuwara Eliya district is the only district to show a decrease in population. A decrease of 3.6% was recorded for this district. The reason for this is the decrease in the estate population due to the repatriation of Indian estate workers.

1.4 GROWTH OF POPULATION BY ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS

Apart from the unequal size of the population in the districts there has been different rates of population growth between 1871 and 1981 in the 24 districts. Table six gives the average annual rates of population growth in the districts for 4 periods - 1871-1901, 1901-1946, 1946-1971 and 1971-1981.

1871 - 1901

During the 30 years from 1871-1901 the rates of population growth in 8 districts i.e. Colombo, Kalutara, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Hambantota, Batticaloa, Puttalam and Kegalle were higher than the average annual rate of 1.3% for the country. Nuwara Eliya and Kegalle experienced very high rates. The phenomenal increase in the population in Nuwara Eliya District was due to migration. During this period a substantial proportion of the Indian labour that moved into the country was settled on estates in the Nuwara Eliya district - the only district where Indian Tamils out-numbered the indigenous races. The high rate of population growth in Kegalle district was due to the development of plantation crops (Tea and Rubber) and plumbago mining. Trincomalee district showed a low rate of population growth due to out-migration from the district following the collapse of the tobacco industry, which had attracted a large number of migrants into the district. Seven districts, Matale, Galle, Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Kurunegala and Anuradhapura had

rates of population growth averaging less than 1% per annum. These districts except Galle and Jaffna were subject to the Malaria epidemic and other diseases during this period. Galle and Jaffna which were relatively healthy districts were out-migration districts.

1901 - 1946

Colombo, Kalutara, Trincomalee, Kurunegala, Badulla, Ratnapura and Kegalle during this period had an annual average rate of population increase higher than the National average of 1.4%. All the other districts had a rate of population increase lower than the National average and in five of them, (Hambantota, Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya and Batticaloa) the rates average less than 1% per annum. Nuwara Eliya District during this period showed a significant decline in the annual average rate of growth in the population. The decline was from 3.28% to 1.25% and this was entirely due to the decrease in the emigrant Indian population which form a large and important portion of the population of this district.

Kurunegala, Trincomalee and Ratnapura recorded a substantial increase in their population during this period. Although Kurunegala district had a reputation for ill health, the development of the district with opening of the railway in 1894 and planting up of the land in coconut and rubber would have attracted immigrants into the district since the beginning of this century.

The high rate of population increase in the Trincomalee district during this period could be attributed to internal migration between 1931 and 1946. The inflow of people into this district during the 2nd World War period and the opening of the Railway in 1933 have to a large extent contributed to this growth.

The population of Ratnapura district grew due to the steady national increase and immigration from other districts. The Low Country Sinhalese migrated into this district and found

employment in the business and service sectors. Due to the Rubber boom there was an influx of Indian immigrant labour to the rubber plantations in the districts.

1946 - 1971

There is a distinct change in the pattern of population growth by districts from 1947 onwards. Between 1946 and 1971 the population of the country increased at an average annual rate of 2.56% which is almost double the rates of 1.33% and 1.4% experienced during the 2 preceding periods. In all districts the average annual rate of population growth exceeded 1.8% per annum. There was a doubling or more than doubling in these rates for 10 districts. i.e. Matale, Hambantota, Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, Kurunegala, Puttalam, Anuradhapura and Badulla. All these 10 districts fell within the Dry Zone.

The major factor responsible for the rapid increase in the population of the Dry Zone districts between 1946 and 1971 was the successful eradication of Malaria after 1946. Except for Jaffna district the other districts in the Dry Zone had been known to be areas affected by Malaria. The eradication of Malaria stimulated the growth of population of the Dry Zone districts by reducing mortality and increasing fertility and in-migration. Another factor responsible for the increase of the population in the Dry Zone districts is the Government-sponsored and Government-aided peasant settlement schemes. Over the years there was a steady flow of migrants into these districts, particularly from the more densely populated Wet Zone districts to be settled in the new colonization schemes as well as to engage in the expanding service occupation.

The crude birth rate in almost all the Dry Zone districts registered increases after 1947 and by 1950 reached levels very much higher than the Wet Zone and the National average. The increase in fertility was partly due to the

eradication of Malaria which lowered mortality enabling mothers to live through their full reproductive period. In part due to the in-migration of young families at their period of maximum fertility and in part due to change in the age structure of the Dry Zone population which resulted in a heavy concentration of females in the early reproductive age groups. Decline in Malaria would have caused a decline in the number of Malaria related pregnancy wastages and increase the incidents of marital coitus in a population no longer weakened by Malaria. Since 1960 the birth rate of the Dry Zone districts have declined gradually but are higher than the Wet Zone districts and the National average.

During this period the mortality rates in all Dry Zone districts registered a sharp decline. For example the crude death rate in Kurunegala district dropped by 15 points, in Mannar by 14 points, in Batticaloa by about 13 points and Hambantota by about 9 points. Since 1947, the crude death rate in the Dry Zone districts have declined faster than in the Wet Zone districts.

1971 - 1981

Between 1971 - 1981 rate of population growth for the country was 1.7% per annum while the population growth in districts such as Mullaitivu was 6.3%, Vavuniya and Polonnaruwa 5.1%. Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Badulla and Kegalle had a very low annual rate of population increase during this period. Nuwara Eliya has shown a negative growth and this could be attributed to large scale repatriation of Indian Estate workers as well as possibly to out-migration to districts such as Mullaitivu and Vavuniya. Until the full Census Results are known we will not be able to give conclusive information in this regard. These same reasons can be attributed to explain the low rates of growth in Kegalle, Badulla and Kandy districts. However, an additional reason for low growth rates in these districts is due to the out-migration of Sinhalese to the Mahaweli Development areas either as new settlers or engaged in service trades. (Table 7)

ETHNIC COMPOSITION

The percentage composition by ethnic groups as at the 1971 and 1981 Censuses are given below :-

	Census 1971	Census 1981	Percent Increase 1971-81	Average Annual Rate of Growth
Sinhalese	72.0	74.0	20.3	2.0
Sri Lanka Tamils	11.2	12.6	31.4	2.9
Indian Tamils	9.3	5.5	-29.2	-3.7
Sri Lanka Moors	6.5	7.1	27.6	2.6
Burghers	0.4	0.3	-15.7	-1.8
Malays	0.3	0.3	- 0.2	0.0
Others	0.3	0.2		
	100.0	100.0		

The Sinhalese, Sri Lanka Tamils and Sri Lanka Moors have increased their proportions in the total population while the Indian Tamils and Burghers have lowered their proportion. These decreases have occurred as a result of the emigration of Indian Tamils under the repatriation scheme. Burghers have also declined in numbers from 45,376 to 38,236 due to emigration.

According to the Census the Sri Lanka Tamils and Sri Lanka Moors show high rates of increase of 2.9% and 2.6% per annum respectively compared to a rate of 2.0% for the Sinhalese. In the case of the Sri Lanka Tamils this high rate may be attributed in part to some Indian Tamils, particularly those who have obtained Sri Lanka citizenship, reporting themselves as Sri Lanka Tamils.

An examination of the rate of natural increase for the major ethnic groups for the period 1972-78 (figures for

1979 and after are not yet available) derived from the birth and death rates is as follows:

Average for the Period 1972-78

	Birth Rate (Per 1000)	Death Rate (Per 1000)	Rate of Natural Increase(Per 1000)
Sinhalese	27.5	7.3	20.2 i.e. 2.02%
Sri Lanka Tamils	29.3	7.8	21.5 i.e. 2.15%
Sri Lanka Moors	33.1	8.0	25.1 i.e. 2.51%
Indian Tamils	28.2	8.1	20.1 i.e. 2.01%

The rate of natural increase of the Sri Lanka Tamils is 2.15% compared to 2.02% for the Sinhalese and cannot explain the growth rate of 2.9% shown by the Census. In the case of the Sri Lanka Moors the rate of natural increase is 2.5% compared to the census growth rate of 2.6%. Hence the high census growth rate recorded for the Sri Lanka Tamils may be mainly due to the erroneous inclusion of Indian Tamils as Sri Lanka Tamils. The actual census growth rate for the Sri Lanka Tamils is probably about 2.2%.

It may be possible to estimate the approximate number of Indian Tamils misreported as Sri Lanka Tamils once we are able to get data on the number of Indian estate labourers who have emigrated during the intercensal period. The data available shows that during the 7 year period 1972-78, 246,450 Indian estate labourers have left the country.

1.6 RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION

The percentage distribution by religion as at 1971 and 1981 are as follows :-

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1981</u>
Buddhist	67.3	69.3
Hindus	17.6	15.5
Muslims	7.1	7.6
Roman Catholics	7.1	6.8
Other Christians	0.8	0.7

The Buddhists and Muslims have increased their share in the population. The % of Buddhist has increased from 67.3 to 69.3 while the percentage of Muslims has risen from 7.1 to 7.6

On the other hand the Hindus have declined from 17.6 to 15.5 per cent. The percentage of Roman Catholics as well as other Christians too have fallen possibly because some of the emigrants are Catholics or Christians.

1.7 SEX RATIOS

The sex ratio defined as the number of males for 100 females, shows a decline to 103 in 1981 from a figure of 106 in 1971.

This ratio has shown a declining trend since 1946 as shown by the figures given below.

<u>Census Year</u>	<u>Males per 100 Females</u>
1946	113
1953	111
1963	108
1971	106
1981	103

This may be due to the changes in the sex pattern of mortality. Prior to the sixties the expectation of life at birth for males was higher than that of females and females had higher mortality rates than males. After the 1960's this pattern has changed and now females have a higher expectation of life and generally lower mortality rates than males. This has led to more females surviving than in the past and hence lowering of the ratios. These ratios for 1981 may also be affected to some extent due to the migration for employment to the Middle East because this migration is predominantly male.

More detailed examination of this sex ratios by Age Groups, Ethnic Groups etc. will have to await the release of the detailed tables from the Census.

Districts which show sex ratios much higher than the national figure are Polonnaruwa (130), Mullaitivu (123), Moneragala (117), Trincomalee (115), Mannar (114), Vavuniya (114), Anuradhapura (113), Colombo (111) and Amparai (109) all of which except Colombo are in-migration districts. On the other hand Galle (94), Matara (94), Jaffna (98), Kalutara (98), Kegalle (98) and Kandy (99) have low sex ratios. Male out-migration from these districts is a factor resulting in the low ratios.

1.8 UNDER 18 AND 18 & OVER

The only age data available so far from the 1981 Census relates to the under 18 years category and the 18 years and over category. The percentage under 18 years shows a drop from 45.3% in 1971 to 42.3% in 1981. This is to be expected in view of the declining birth rate.

1.9 COMPARISON OF MIGRATION TRENDS BETWEEN 1946-71 AND 1971-81 PERIODS

In his paper on Population Re-distribution Policies and Measures in Sri Lanka, Dr. Wickrema Weerasooria has used the percentage difference between national and district annual growth rates as an indicator of the direction and rate of migration between 1946 and 1971. His analysis shows that generally migration has been from the Wet Zone to the Dry Zone. Using the same measure to provide an indication of the direction of migration between 1971 and 1981 (Vide Table 8) we see that the pattern of migration still remains from the Wet to the Dry Zone. In fact the rate of in-migration to the following districts shows an increase.

Vavuniya, Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, Trincomalee
Mannar, Hambantota, Puttalam.

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The rate of out-migration of the following districts also shows increases.

Kegalle, kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya.

The only districts which show a reversal of the pattern of migration are Jaffna and Matale.

Jaffna which was an out-migration district in 1946-71 has become an in-migration district in 1971-81.

Matale on the other hand which was an in-migration district in the earlier period has become an out-migration district.

1.10 PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS

At the 1981 Census persons with one or more physical disability/ies were identified and information collected in a special 'Physical Infirmary Schedule'. This information was not collected at the 1971 Census although it had been collected in the earlier Censuses. This information gained in importance this year as 1981 was declared the 'Year of the Disabled' and also due to a special request from the Ministry of Social Services.

For the purpose of this Census, totally blind, totally deaf and/or dumb persons with a disability in one or more legs or hands were considered as physically disabled. 1981 Census revealed 61,824 persons as physically disabled.

At this Census 9,331 were found to be totally blind while 3,459 were totally deaf 11,845 were reported dumb and 9,341 were both deaf and dumb.

Persons having disability in their hand/s numbered 13,554 and those with disability in their legs numbered 25,573, out of which nearly 12% suffered from loss of both legs.

Detailed findings on disabled persons will be released shortly. The basic data in respect of this category is given in Table 9.

TABLE 1 - NUMERICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION BY PROVINCE AND REVENUE DISTRICT^{a/} SRI LANKA, 1871-1981

Province and Revenue District	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981
Sri Lanka	2,400,380	2,759,738	3,007,789	3,565,954	4,106,350	4,497,854	5,306,863	6,657,339	8,097,895	10,582,064	12,689,897	14,850,001
Western Province	575,721	671,500	762,533	920,683	1,106,321	1,246,847	1,445,034	1,876,904	2,232,276	2,838,877	3,401,779	3,915,001
Colombo & Gampaha	429,980	506,479	578,901	690,826	828,828	923,143	1,081,249	1,420,332	1,708,726	2,207,420	2,672,265	3,087,812
Kalutara	145,741	165,021	183,632	229,857	279,493	323,704	363,785	456,572	523,550	631,457	729,514	827,189
Central Province	365,559	473,669	474,487	622,832	672,258	717,739	953,368	1,135,290	1,366,685	1,697,018	1,953,044	2,005,956
Kandy	232,156	288,332	288,353	377,591	408,429	433,993	587,916	711,449	840,382	1,043,632	1,187,925	1,126,296
Natale	75,199	86,655	76,514	92,203	108,367	116,584	129,697	155,720	201,049	255,630	314,841	357,441
Nuwara Eliya	58,204	98,682	109,620	153,038	155,462	167,162	235,775	268,121	325,254	397,756	450,278	522,219
Southern Province	398,604	433,520	489,799	566,736	628,817	671,234	771,204	961,418	1,129,308	1,430,740	1,661,870	1,882,912
Galle	194,417	209,680	222,895	258,116	291,001	313,118	363,553	459,785	524,369	641,474	735,173	814,579
Matara	143,336	151,923	177,586	203,750	227,308	238,509	283,292	351,947	413,431	514,969	586,443	644,231
Hambantota	60,851	71,917	89,318	104,870	110,508	119,607	124,359	149,686	191,508	274,297	340,254	424,102
Northern Province	281,666	302,500	319,296	340,936	369,651	374,829	398,874	479,572	570,650	741,341	874,626	1,111,468
Jaffna	246,063	265,583	279,284	300,851	326,712	330,541	355,425	424,788	491,849	612,596	701,603	831,112
Mannar	20,258	21,348	24,511	24,926	25,603	25,582	25,137	31,538	43,689	60,124	77,760	106,940
Vavuniya & Mullaitivu	15,345	15,569	15,501	15,159	17,336	18,706	18,312	23,246	35,112	68,621	95,243	173,416
Eastern Province	112,569	127,555	148,444	173,602	183,698	192,821	212,421	279,112	354,410	546,474	717,571	976,475
Batticaloa	93,120	105,358	122,699	145,161	153,943	156,709	174,929	203,186	270,493	496,189	656,721	830,899
Amparai	19,449	22,197	25,745	28,441	29,755	34,112	37,492	75,926	83,917	211,732	272,605	388,786
Trincomalee	19,449	22,197	25,745	28,441	29,755	34,112	37,492	75,926	83,917	138,553	188,245	256,790
North-Western Province	276,052	293,327	320,070	353,626	434,116	492,181	546,966	667,889	855,228	1,155,207	1,404,063	1,706,099
Kurunegala	207,942	215,173	230,187	249,429	306,807	354,197	397,239	485,042	626,336	852,661	1,025,633	1,212,755
Puttalam	68,110	78,154	29,652	29,779	39,665	35,610	35,087	43,083	58,820	302,546	378,430	493,344
Chilaw			63,231	74,418	87,644	102,374	114,640	139,764	170,072			
North-Central Province	63,743	66,146	75,333	79,110	86,276	96,525	97,365	139,534	229,282	393,759	552,423	850,575
Anuradhapura	63,743	66,146	75,333	79,110	86,276	96,525	97,365	139,534	229,282	279,788	388,770	587,822
Polonnaruwa										113,971	163,653	262,753
Province of Uva	128,981	165,692	159,201	186,674	216,692	233,864	303,243	372,238	466,896	654,105	808,425	922,636
Badulla	128,981	165,692	159,201	186,674	216,692	233,864	303,243	372,238	466,896	521,845	615,405	642,893
Moneragala										132,260	193,020	279,743
Province of Sabaragamuwa	197,485	225,829	258,626	321,755	408,521	471,814	578,368	745,382	893,160	1,124,543	1,316,096	1,478,879
Ratnapura	92,219	105,874	107,999	132,964	165,992	202,975	263,801	343,620	421,555	546,037	661,344	796,468
Kegalle	105,266	119,955	150,627	188,791	242,529	268,839	314,567	401,762	471,605	578,506	654,752	682,411

Source : Reports relating the relevant censuses.

Notes : a/ Between 1871 and 1981, there have been changes in the number of districts. The Chilaw District in the North-Western Province which was created about the time of the 1891 Census was after 1953 merged with the Puttalam District in the same province. Between 1953 and 1963 Censuses the Batticaloa District in the Eastern Province was divided into the Batticaloa and Amparai Districts; the Anuradhapura District in the North-Central Province into the Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa Districts; and the Badulla District in the Province of Uva into the Badulla and Moneragala Districts. Between 1971 and 1981 Colombo district was divided into two, Colombo and Gampaha. Mullaitivu district was also created combining parts of Vavuniya, Mannar and Jaffna districts.

b/ Excludes a miscellaneous population of 751 not distributed among districts.

TABLE 2 - RANK DISTRIBUTION OF PROVINCES BY POPULATION SIZE, SRI LANKA, 1871-1981

Province	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981
Western Province	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Central Province	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Southern Province	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Northern Province	4	4	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Eastern Province	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7
North-Western Province	5	5	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	4
North-Central Province	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Province of Uva	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8
Sabaragamuwa Province	6	6	6	6	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	5

TABLE 3 - DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN POPULATION BY TYPE OF AREA AND DISTRICT - 1981

District	Municipal Council		Urban Council		Town Council		Total Population	Percentage of the Total Urban
	No. of M.CC.	Population	No. of U.CC	Population	No. of T.CC	Population		
Sri Lanka	12	1,309,041	39	896,618	83	989,220	3,194,879	21.5
Colombo	02	760,161	04	292,333	06	209,504	1,261,998	74.3
Gampaha	01	61,376	06	115,693	09	208,988	386,057	27.8
Kalutara	-	-	04	96,747	06	80,238	176,985	21.4
Kandy	01	101,281	04	40,835	02	5,320	147,436	13.1
Matale	01	29,745	-	-	03	8,163	37,908	10.6
Nuwara Eliya	01	21,319	02	14,666	01	1,881	37,866	7.3
Galle	01	77,183	01	15,605	07	75,332	168,120	20.6
Matara	-	-	02	57,034	02	14,513	71,547	11.1
Hambantota	-	-	02	18,126	04	23,290	41,416	9.8
Jaffna	01	118,215	03	48,709	09	103,677	270,601	32.6
Mannar	-	-	-	-	01	14,469	14,469	13.5
Vavuniya	-	-	01	18,511	-	-	18,511	19.3
Mullaitivu	-	-	-	-	01	7,202	7,202	9.3
Batticaloa	01	42,934	-	-	02	36,631	79,565	24.0
Amparai	-	-	01	16,531	02	37,072	53,603	13.8
Trincomalee	-	-	01	44,913	03	38,349	83,262	32.4
Kurunegala	01	26,519	01	5,810	03	11,569	43,898	3.6
Puttalam	-	-	02	42,293	05	19,481	61,774	12.5
Anuradhapura	-	-	01	36,248	01	5,427	41,675	7.1
Polonnaruwa	-	-	-	-	02	20,759	20,759	7.9
Badulla	01	32,954	02	7,373	04	11,151	51,478	8.0
Moneragala	-	-	-	-	01	6,048	6,048	2.2
Ratnapura	01	37,354	01	10,263	03	11,582	59,199	7.4
Kegalle	-	-	01	14,928	06	38,574	53,502	7.8

TABLE 4 - POPULATION OF SRI LANKA IN CENSUS YEARS 1871 TO 1981, INTERCENSAL INCREASE,
PERCENTAGE INCREASE AND AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATES

Year and Date of Population Census	Enumerated Population	Intercensal Increase	Percentage Increase	Average Annual Growth Rates (Percentage)
1871 March 27	2,400,380	-	-	-
1881 February 17	2,759,738	359,358	15.0	1.42
1891 February 26	3,007,789	248,051	9.0	0.86
1901 March 01	3,565,954	558,165	18.6	1.72
1911 March 10	4,106,350	540,396	15.2	1.42
1921 March 18	4,497,854	391,504	9.5	0.91
1931 February 26	5,306,863	809,009	18.0	1.68
1946 March 19	6,657,339	1,350,476	25.4	1.52
1953 March 20	8,097,895	1,440,556	21.6	2.84
1963 July 08	10,582,064	2,484,169	30.7	2.65
1971 October 09	12,689,897	2,107,833	19.9	2.20
1981 March 17	14,850,001	2,160,104	17.0	1.68

Source : Government of Sri Lanka, Census of Population 1971, Vol. II. All Island Tables, Part I, General Characteristics of the Population (Colombo, Department of Census and Statistics, 1975), Table 1.

TABLE 5 - INTERCENSAL INCREASE, NATURAL INCREASE AND MIGRATION INCREASE, SRI LANKA,
1871-1981

Period	Total Intercensal Increase	Natural Increase		Migration Increase	
		Number	Percentage of Total Increase	Number	Percentage of Total Increase
1871-1881	359,358	119,792	33.3	239,566	66.7
1881-1891	248,051	144,260	58.2	103,791	41.8
1891-1901	558,165	225,406	40.4	332,759	59.6
1901-1911	540,396	356,147	65.9	184,249	34.1
1911-1921	391,504	319,410	81.6	72,094	18.4
1921-1931	809,009	656,990	81.2	152,019	18.8
1931-1946	1,350,476	1,280,916	94.8	69,560	5.2
1946-1953	1,440,556	1,363,175	94.6	77,381	5.4
1953-1963	2,484,169	2,513,248	101.2	-29,079	-1.2
1963-1971	2,107,833	2,208,061	104.8	-100,228	-4.8
1971-1981	2,160,104	2,694,523*	124.7*	-534,419*	-24.7*

Sources: A.G. Ranasinha, Census of Ceylon 1946, vol.I, part I, General Report (Colombo, Department of Census and Statistics, 1950), table 5; H.E. Peries, Census of Ceylon 1953, vol.I, General Report (Colombo, Department of Census and Statistics, 1957) table 2; CICRED, The Population of Sri Lanka (Colombo, Department of Census and Statistics, 1974), table 1.2; Government of Sri Lanka, Census of Population 1971, vol.II, All Island Tables, part I, General Characteristics of the Population (Colombo, Department of Census and Statistics, 1975), table 1.

Note: Net migration was assumed to be the difference between intercensal increase and natural increase.

* Estimated.

TABLE 6 - AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF POPULATION GROWTH BY PROVINCE AND DISTRICT, 1871 TO 1981

Province/District	1871-1901	1901-1946	1946-1971	1971-1981
Sri Lanka	1.33	1.40	2.56	1.68
Western Province	1.58	1.59	2.35	1.50
Colombo & Gampaha	1.60	1.61	2.50	1.54
Kalutara	1.53	1.54	1.85	1.34
Central Province	1.80	1.34	2.15	0.28
Kandy	1.64	1.42	2.03	0.28
Matale	0.68	1.17	2.79	1.35
Nuwara Eliya	3.28	1.25	2.05	- 0.38
Southern Province	1.18	1.18	2.16	1.33
Galle	0.95	1.29	1.85	1.09
Matara	1.18	1.22	2.02	1.00
Hambantota	1.84	0.79	3.27	2.36
Northern Province	0.64	0.76	2.38	2.57
Jaffna	0.67	0.77	1.98	1.88
Mannar	0.70	0.52	3.60	3.96
Vavuniya & Mullaitivu	- 0.04	0.75	5.67	5.58
Eastern Province ^{a/}	1.46	1.06	3.76	3.31
Batticaloa	1.49	0.75	3.82	2.72
Trincomalee	1.28	2.20	3.62	3.34
Amparai	-	-	-	3.83
North-Western Province	0.83	1.42	2.95	2.08
Kurunegala	0.61	1.49	2.97	1.79
Puttalam ^{b/}	1.43	1.26	2.89	2.85
North Central Province	0.72	1.27	5.53	4.68
Anuradhapura ^{c/}	0.72	1.27	5.53	4.47
Polonnaruwa				5.14
Uva Province ^{d/}	1.24	1.54	3.08	1.41
Badulla	1.24	1.54	3.08	0.46
Moneragala				4.01
Sabaragamuwa Province	1.64	1.88	2.25	1.24
Ratnapura	1.23	2.13	2.60	1.79
Kegalle	1.97	1.69	1.93	0.63

Source : Based on data in Table 13.

- Notes : ^{a/} Includes present Amparai District.
^{b/} Includes former Chilaw District.
^{c/} Includes present Polonnaruwa District.
^{d/} Includes present Moneragala District.

TABLE 7 - POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY DISTRICTS.
AS AT THE CENSUSES OF 1971 & 1981.

DISTRICT	POPULATION		INTER CENSUS INCREASE 1971 - 81	AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF POPULATION INCREASE.
	1971 *	1981 **		
SRI LANKA	12,689,897	14,850,001	17.1	1.7
COLOMBO	1,498,393	1,698,322	13.3	1.3
GAMPAHA	1,173,872	1,389,490	18.4	1.8
KALUTARA	729,514	827,189	13.5	1.4
KANDY	1,096,737	1,126,296	2.7	0.3
MATALE	314,841	357,441	13.5	1.4
NUWARA ELIYA	541,466	522,219	- 3.6	-0.3
GALLE	735,173	814,579	10.8	1.1
MATARA	586,443	644,231	9.9	1.0
HAMBANTOTA	340,254	424,102	24.6	2.4
JAFFNA	696,664	831,112	19.3	1.9
MANNAR	74,125	106,940	43.2	3.9
VAVUNIYA	60,212	95,904	59.3	5.1
MULLAITIVU	43,625	77,512	77.7	6.3
BATTICALOA	256,721	330,899	8.9	2.7
AMPARAI	272,605	388,786	42.6	3.8
TRINCOMALEE	188,245	256,790	36.4	3.3
KURUNEGALA	1,025,633	1,212,755	18.2	1.8
PUTTALAM	378,430	493,344	30.4	2.9
ANURADHAPURA	388,770	587,822	51.2	4.5
POLONNARUWA	163,653	262,753	60.6	5.1
BADULLA	615,405	642,893	4.5	0.5
MONERAGALA	193,020	279,743	44.9	4.0
RATNAPURA	673,283	796,468	18.3	1.8
KEGALLE	642,813	682,411	6.7	0.7

* 1971 Population is shown according to current boundaries.

** Provisional.

**TABLE 8 - PERCENT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NATIONAL AND
DISTRICT ANNUAL GROWTH RATES**

Wet Zone	1946 - 71*	1971 - 81
Kalutara	- 27.7	- 20.2
Galle	- 27.7	- 35.1
Kegalle	- 24.6	- 60.9
Kandy	- 20.7	- 83.3
Matara	- 21.1	- 40.5
Nuwara Eliya	- 19.9	-122.8
Colombo (Including Gampaha)	- 2.3	- 8.0
Ratnapura	+ 1.6	+ 7.1
 <u>Dry Zone</u>		
Jaffna	- 22.7	+ 12.5
Matale	+ 9.0	- 19.6
Puttalam	+ 12.9	+ 69.6
Kurunegala	+ 16.0	+ 6.5
Badulla (Including Moneragala)	+ 20.3	+ 16.0
Hambantota	+ 27.7	+ 40.5
Mannar	+ 40.6	+135.7
Trincomalee	+ 41.4	+ 99.4
Batticaloa (Including Amparai)	+ 49.2	+ 97.1
Anuradhapura	+116.0	+166.7
Vavuniya (Including Mullaitivu)	+121.5	+232.6

Source: 1946-71 figures taken from 'Population Redistribution Policies and Measures in Sri Lanka' by Dr. Wickrema Weerasooria.

1971 - 81 figures computed from the published Census Reports.

TABLE 9 - PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS

	1981		1963	
	Number	Rate per 10,000 Population	Number	Rate per 10,000 Population
Blind (Totally)	9,331	6.3	10,341	9.8
Deaf (")	3,459	2.3	n.c.	-
Dumb	11,845	8.0	n.c.	-
Deaf Dumb	9,341	6.3	9,356	8.8
Disabled in Hands (Total)	13,564	9.1		
Loss of one Hand	1,708	1.2	n.c.	-
Paralysis of one Hand	7,571	5.1	n.c.	-
Loss of both Hands	204	0.1	n.c.	-
Paralysis of both Hands	4,081	2.7	n.c.	-
Disabled in Legs (Total)	25,573	17.2		
Loss of one Leg	2,832	1.9	n.c.	-
Paralysis of one Leg	11,062	7.4	n.c.	-
Loss of both Legs	646	0.4	8,804*	8.3
Paralysis of both Legs	11,033	7.4		

Notes: n.c. = not collected in the 1963 Census. Only the Deaf and Dumb (Deaf-Mute)

* In 1963 only the crippled in both legs were included as Physically Disabled.