Counting people in a country to the last digit in a more accurate way is an unavoidable exercise, but it will happen today between 6 in the evening and midnight thus requesting people to be at their homes. The country is in line with that recommendations of the UN that a national census be taken at least once in every 10 years. The value of census data increases if it can be compared internationally Therefore, the UN has stated that countries may only undertake a census in years ending in ‘0’ or near to those years as possible.

Sri Lanka is a country having a reliable demographic structure. The 13th Population Census conducted in 1991 in 182 Districts in the country was completed in 1997. The 28th anniversary of the Information Broadcasting and Announcers’ Workshop was celebrated at Sri Dalada Maligawa, Kandy.

The preliminary census was carried out during 8th June to 29th June 2003. During the preliminary census some valuable information or population statistics were collected under household and housing enumerations, occupation, sex, date of birth, marital status, citizenship, place of birth, any disability, cause of such disability, age at which disability occurred, educational qualifications, qualification in an occupation, nature of work, number of dependants, number of personal servants, number of personal servants in vehicles etc.

The preliminary census was carried out in 4 stages; mapping, listing and household and housing enumeration. The mapping operation yielded a complete set of maps showing the GN division boundaries, subblocks and to some extent the road network as well. An enumerator has been appointed for each subblock.

The listing operation was completed at the listing stage of the census. Listing includes demographic characteristics (name, relationship, sex, age at which marriage took place), economic activities), fertility (total live births, number of children ever born, number of children born alive and surviving at different ages), occupation, industry, employment status, non-economic characteristics, health, education qualification, religion, any disability and cause of such disability, age at which disability occurred, housing characteristics, living arrangements, current living arrangement, number of household members, number of personal servants, number of personal servants in vehicles etc.

Census data will be made available to data users: public, the private sector, government agencies, the private sector, government agencies, research communities in the form suited to their needs.

The counting office’s major task at this stage is to get information from those who were expected to be counted in the preliminary census and to get the information of all visitors who are present at the time of the counting operation. The census data will be made available on the website of the Department of Census and Statistics as well as the website of the Annual Population Census.

The census data will also be published in the department’s website, research communities in the form suited to their needs.