

M.S.
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Census 2011

The first census in Sri Lanka was conducted as far back as in 1981. From that time every ten years except during the second world war a countrywide census was taken upto 1981. So the country was relying on the 1981 statistics and 2001 statistics for half of the Island. Accordingly, 2011 census was to be a very important one. It is a period during which many changes have taken place demographically and otherwise. So, the discerning public is anxiously waiting to see the findings of the 2011 census.

It seems that the countrywide census would not be possible before the end of the year and no time frame has been given. According to media reports billions of rupees have been set apart for this exercise. Now we are told that a firm entrusted with the task has been found to be lacking in proficiency. In the first place, was the Department incapable of handling it unlike in the past? In India census 2011 covered 35 States/Union Territories, 640 districts, 5,924 sub-districts, 7,935 towns and 6,40,867 villages. In census 2001, the corresponding figures were 593 Districts, 5,463 sub-Districts, 5,161 towns and 6,38,588 villages.

The Department of Census and Statistics owes an explanation to the public as regards the Census 2011.

C. B. Punchibandara

Trishaw is a very economical passenger transport system now available throughout the country. However, without a proper authority to regulate that service, the people who run this service and their passengers face problems. As a result, this service which is of great service to the middle income people in particular will come to a halt as the drivers are now looking for alternative jobs owing to poor returns. They are faced with two problems of not having places to park particularly in the city and also not having a pricing system for their passengers.

The government keeps telling them to fix meters. The cab services are charging around Rs.50 per km and hence trishaws have to charge less and that is not enough to cover the cost of fuel because these vehicles have to keep on running looking for passengers unlike cabs which are controlled centrally. Why can't this be done in the same way by appointing an authority to see that several co-ordinating centres are opened and get the passengers to call for a three wheeler from these cen-