

## National Census to commence in October

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CENSUS AND STATISTICS

Although the islandwide National Census of Sri Lanka is to be held after 30 years and the data would be released in stages in the first half of next year, the final report would be published only in mid-2012, Director General, Census and Statistics Department, Suranjeana Vidyaratne said yesterday.

Mrs. Vidyaratne said the training of over 500 officers for the National Census would commence in October and concluded in November.

"They will train over 75,000 enumerators who will collect data visiting house to house in all 25 districts starting in December. This is the first National Census conducted island-wide since the census held in 1981. We have also included more variables than previous census in the information form. The census in 2011 will be a comprehensive record of social, religious, industrial, economic and demographical information that could be used for any study research or project in Sri Lanka," Mrs. Vidyaratne said.

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She added that data on buildings, houses, factories, public and private institutions, religious places, public utilities, family income, employment and living standard etc. under about 25 variables are to be gathered by enumerators for analysis and record.

The data would be gathered and analyzed from grass root level under Grama Niladhari divisions to national level. The data will be released in stages starting next January, she added.

### CENSUS

⊙ A census is the procedure of systematically acquiring and recording information about the members of a given population. It is a regularly occurring and official count of a particular population.

⊙ The term is used mostly in connection with national population and housing censuses; other common censuses include agriculture, business, and traffic.

⊙ The census in Sri Lanka is carried out by the Department of Census and Statistics every 10 years, with the next one being planned for 2011.

⊙ The 2011 one being the first post-war census in three decades. The census will cover all Grama Niladhari (GN) divisions of the country.

⊙ The last four were in 1963, 1971, 1981 and 2001 with a census estimate in 1989.

⊙ The 2001 census was only carried out in 18 Districts due to the War.

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