

## Fill census form in language of your choice: Department says

By OLINDHI JAYASUNDERE

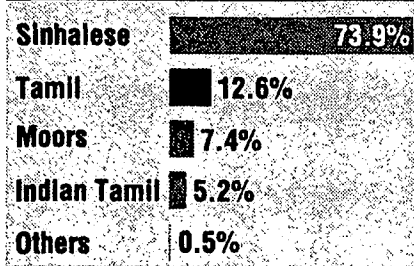
While there were complaints that there were not enough Tamil enumerators for the ongoing country-wide population and housing census, the Census and Statistics Department yesterday advised the public to fill the census forms in a language of their preference.

A resident of Wellawatte, K Ponniah yesterday complained that an enumerator who had visited his home spoke only Sinhalese and had provided him with a form that was in Sinhalese, a language he was not familiar with, and as a result he said that he had been unable to complete the questionnaire given to him. "I told him that I could speak in Tamil and English but he could not understand either of the two languages so

I didn't fill the form or provide information about my family," he said. He said that it was sheer negligence on the part of the department to issue the forms in Sinhalese and send enumerators that only spoke Sinhalese to a largely Tamil speaking area.

Department sources however said that this complaint was baseless as there were a number of Tamil speaking enumerators who had been recruited for the census. However they re-iterated that if the enumerator who visits their home does not speak the language that they are fluent in the census forms were

### ETHNIC GROUPS IN SRILANKA

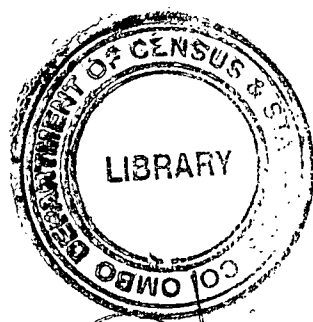


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available in all three languages and that people could fill the form in the language they preferred.

Department sources said that if anyone has a complaint or an inquiry about how the census was carried out

they could call the Department of Census and Statistics during working hours on any week day. All enumerators would be required to carry an identification card to prove their credibility to home-owners. The census, which began on February 27 would end on March 19, at which time each home would have been visited at least once, while a follow-up visit would be carried out on March 20 and 21, it was revealed.



Handwritten signature and date: 2012/03/02