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Industrial and Agricultural census next year

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Sri Lanka moving towards an economic boom sees a necessity of having the first ever economic census in place of the Industrial and Agricultural census which is usually conducted after the population and housing census. While the census will be conducted in four stages the summary of each stage will be available within a month's time. However the entire census will be made available within around six months after all data has been scanned and processed to an optimum level of consistency.

"The four main steps include listing of all estates in Sri Lanka. This includes the agricultural sector extending into two main categories depending on the land processed. The first stage of listing data of large states is in the process of completion while the entire listing is said to be completed by the end of August," Director General, Department of Census and Statistics, D. C. A Gunawardene said.



Director General, Department of Census and Statistics D. C. A Gunawardene and Additional Director General, Department of Census and Statistics, Dr. Amara Satharasinghe at the conference. Picture by Nissanka Wijeratne

Listing of all units engaged in industry and trade will be completed within the months October and November, while the collecting of details and information from all agricultural holdings will be done in January next year.

The economic census will be completed after the collecting of details and information from units engaged in listed industry, trade and servicing activities which will be done in the months of July and August 2014. Gunawardene also said that after the listings have been done they can identify whether the collecting of detailed information needs to be conducted from door to door.

"The census can be made available as it comes if the details provided are consistent, our department is a technical department and we depend on the information provided by our respondents. Thus our plea is for the respondents to realize how valuable such a survey is for the development of the country," Gunawardene said.

Additional Director General, Department of Census and Statistics, Dr. Amara Satharasinghe said the economic census will be held every 10 years as the process is too expensive to conduct every three years.

