

E1/Div.3

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The Secretary,
Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Sri Lanka's Census of Agriculture 2002

The Department of Census and Statistics has recently concluded the Census of Population and Housing and the following activities have been successfully completed, during that operation.

- (a) Mapping of GN divisions and carving out census blocks.
- (b) Preparing the list frame of all the buildings in the Island, other than a very few areas in certain districts in the Northern Province.

The systematic listing approach followed in the Census of Population and Housing 2001 formed the basis to conduct the Census of Agriculture which is scheduled for the year 2002. The last five Censuses of Agriculture were undertaken in the years of 1946, 1952, 1962, 1973 and 1982 respectively. In the Census of Agriculture 1982, the last in the series, about 1.8 million agricultural holdings, both large and small were covered on a complete enumeration basis. Since then there was no proper information on the structure of the agriculture sector other than those generated on an adhoc basis by different agencies. The Census of Agriculture which was due in 1992 was not conducted as a result of prolonged internal conflict experienced specially in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country.

Due to the long gap of 20 years, since the last Census of Agriculture the users are undergoing various difficulties due to the absence of data, specially on the structure of the Agricultural Sector. As such, it extremely important to conduct the Agriculture Census in the Year 2002. As mentioned earlier, conducting the Census of Agriculture just after the Census of Population, the cost incurred would be minimum because the frame built in the Census of Population could be utilized with minimum changes.

The preparation of the Questionnaires and Instruction Manuals of the Census of Agriculture is almost complete. For the preparatory work a sum of Rs. 2 million was set a part, during the year 2001.

It is proposed to conduct the Agricultural Census during the year 2002, by deploying around 17,000 enumerators, through-out the Island. Each enumerator will be assigned the data collection activities within a GN division. In most of the cases enumerators would be government officers. However, a reasonable re-numeration need to be paid to them in order to get a quality work done. The total cost for the year 2002 for the activities related to the Census of Agriculture would be Rs. 67,000,000, which will cover the cost of Printing of 2 million questionnaires, Training of Census staff, Distribution of forms, Publicity, Payment of enumerators, Traveling/Subsistence Communication etc.

A request was made to the Treasury for funds for this purpose and I was informed that your approval is necessary to allocate the necessary funds.

Considering the importance of this operation your approval is sought to conduct the Census of Agriculture in 2002.


A.G.W. Nanayakkara
Director General

DD(Di.3)

I spoke to ST regarding this matter and he said we should do the Census of Agriculture - 2002 as planned and he will somehow other provide the necessary funds. pl.

Mr. D. K. 11