

8. Housing Characteristics.

Not only information on persons, but also information on their occupied housing units was collected in HIES 2006/07 survey. This information was based on housing units in the island excluding Northern Province and Trincomalle district in Eastern province. According to the survey results the estimated households are about 4.5 million in Sri Lanka.

8.1 Availability of bed rooms

Table 8.1 shows number of bed rooms (for sleeping purposes) in housing units by sector. The table shows that 2.6 percent of housing units haven't any single room for sleeping purpose. Those houses are not separated or not covered as rooms. Therefore the occupants in those housing units use the whole house for all routine activities i.e. sleeping, eating, sitting, etc. Occupied housing units which have only one bed (sleeping) room, are reported as 23.2 percent in Sri Lanka. In estate sector, housing units without any bed (sleeping) rooms, and housing units which have single bed (sleeping) room are comparatively higher than that of other two sectors, which records 50 percent (half) of total housing units. Line rooms and raw houses are famous type of housing units, which are mostly seen in estate sector. In terms of limited space of floor area those housing units are usually built as one room houses.

Table 8.1 Percentage distribution of number of sleeping rooms in housing unit by sector – 2006

Sector	Availability of bed rooms					
	Total (%)	No rooms (%)	1 room (%)	2 rooms (%)	3 rooms (%)	4 rooms or more (%)
Sri Lanka	100	2.6	23.2	33.6	26.6	14.0
Urban	100	3.9	26.8	35.2	20.5	13.5
Rural	100	2.1	21.1	33.4	28.8	14.6
Estate	100	6.1	44.4	32.9	10.2	6.4