Census 2021 to include third gender

The Upcoming Census Is Important For AP, T As Last One Was Before Bifurcation

Sribala.Vadlapatla@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad:

Do you have a mobile phone connection? Do you use bottled water at home?

These two questions are likely to be included in the Census 2021 questionnaire when the elaborate exercise finally kicks in. Sources in the government confirmed to TOI that the exercise to test the new questions has started across the country with nearly 300 enumerators currently being trained to record responses from citizens in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Testing is meant for understanding the difficulties in obtaining answers from citizens. “A final questioner will be prepared after the pretesting operations are completed,” an official said.

Going by the pre-testing questionnaire, the census is also likely to add a question for the first time on whether people use solar energy in any form. Besides, census officials are considering asking questions on whether you are a member of the third gender community. Census 2011 had three options on gender – ‘male’, ‘female’ and ‘other’. Sources said that this is for the first time that a specific third gender question is likely to be included.

Interestingly, for the first time, the census may also ask if you are an acid attack survivor under the disability column. Officials said that the attempt in the latest census is to reflect the changes that have taken place in society in the past decade. For instance, using bottled water would reflect both on the quality of water available in that region as well as the affordability of a particular family.

The pre-testing exercise will be rolled out in three mandals in of Telangana, including Veluru in Warangal district, Nawabpet in Mahbubnagar district and Nizamabad municipal corporation area. In Andhra Pradesh pretesting will be done in mandals of Vizianagaram, Anantapur and Guntur districts.

For both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, this census is important as Census 2011 was readied three years before the bifurcation of the two states.

The current exercise will test 55 questions which have been selected under the household schedule. This includes details of individuals. The house listing parameters enumerates the number of houses in each block, which includes a population 600 to 800.