

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 420**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2025/ AGRAHAYANA 11, 1947  
(SAKA)**

**TIMELINE FOR DECADAL CENSUS**

**420. SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details and tentative timelines of the key procedural steps to prepare for the decadal Census including the preparation of questions, setting schedules;**
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to publish the draft Census questions and seek inputs from the General Public or People's Representatives on these questions; and**
- (c) whether the Government is taking into consideration best practices from previous exercises, including the caste surveys conducted in various States and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

- (a): The Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases namely Phase I – House Listing and Housing Census from April to September, 2026 in a period of 30 days as per the convenience of the State/UT Governments followed by Phase II – Population Enumeration (PE). Population Enumeration will be done in February 2027 with reference date 00:00 hours of 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2027 except for the Union territory of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union territory of Jammu and**

**Kashmir and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where it will be done in September, 2026 with reference date 00.00 hours of 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2026.**

**(b): The Census questionnaire is finalized on the basis of inputs/suggestions from different Ministries, Departments, Organizations, and Census data users, etc. before each Census. The draft Census questionnaires are pre-tested in the field to assess their feasibility before finalization of the same. As per Rule 6 of Census Rules, 1990, the census questionnaires are notified by the Central Government through Official Gazette under sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Act.**

**(c): Census has a history of more than 150 years. Learnings from previous census are taken into consideration for conducting next census. Before each census the inputs are also taken from concerned stakeholders.**

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