

APPENDIX V

SACHAR FORMULA

Proposals on language question in East Punjab.

I. There are two spoken languages in the East Punjab namely, Punjabi and Hindi and there are also current two scripts namely, Gurmukhi and Devnagri.

Punjabi shall be the regional language in the Punjabi-speaking area and Hindi shall be the regional language in the Hindi-speaking area. The Provincial Government will determine such areas after expert advice.

Punjabi shall mean Punjabi in the Gurmukhi script and Hindi in the Devnagri script.

II. Punjabi shall be the medium of instruction in Punjabi-speaking area in all schools upto the Matriculation stage, and Hindi shall be taught as a compulsory language from the last class of the Primary Department and upto the Matriculation stage and in case of girls in the girls schools in the middle classes only.

There will, however, be cases where the parent or guardian of the pupil may wish him to get instruction in Hindi on the ground that Hindi and not the regional language is his mother tongue. In such cases, without questioning the declaration of a parent or a guardian arrangements will be made for instruction in Hindi during the primary stage, provided there are not less than forty pupils in the whole school wishing to be instructed in Hindi or ten such pupils in each class. Under these arrangements Hindi will be the medium of instruction for the pupils in the primary stage, but the regional language shall be taught as a compulsory language from the fourth class and to girls in girls schools from the 5th class. In the secondary stage also the medium of instruction for these pupils will be Hindi if one-third of the total number of pupils in a Government, Municipal or a District Board school request for instruction in Hindi. Government will also require aided schools to arrange for instruction in Hindi, if desired by one-third of the pupils, provided that there are no adequate facilities for instruction in Hindi in the area. If this condition of one-third is not satisfied then in order to facilitate the switching over to the regional language as medium in the secondary stage, Hindi speaking pupils will be given the option of answering questions in Hindi for the first two years of the secondary stage. The regional language would, however, be a compulsory subject throughout the secondary stage.

III. Hindi shall be the medium of instruction in Hindi speaking area in all schools upto the matriculation stage, and Punjabi shall be taught as compulsory language from the last class of the Primary Department and upto the Matriculation stage and in case of girls in the girls schools in the middle classes only.

There will, however, be cases where the parent or guardian of the pupil may wish him to get instruction in Punjabi on the ground that Punjabi and not the regional language is his mother-tongue. In such cases without questioning the declaration of a parent or a guardian arrangements will be made for instruction in Punjabi during the primary stage, provided there are not less than forty pupils in the whole of school wishing to be instructed in Punjabi or ten such pupils in each class. Under these arrangements, Punjabi will be the medium of instruction for the pupils in the primary stage, but the regional language shall be taught as a compulsory language from the fourth class and to girls in girls schools from the 5th class. In the secondary stage also the medium of instruction for these pupils will be Punjabi if one-third of the total number of pupils in a Government, Municipal or a District Board School request for instruction in Punjabi. Government will also require aided schools to arrange for instruction in Punjabi, if desired by one-third of the pupils, provided that there are no adequate facilities for instruction in Punjabi in the area. If this condition of one-third is not satisfied then, in order to facilitate the switching over to the regional language as medium in the secondary stage, Punjabi-speaking pupils will be given the option of answering questions in Punjabi for the first two years of the secondary stage. The regional language would, however, be a compulsory subject throughout the secondary stage.

IV. To meet unforeseen situations arising out of the demand for imparting education in a language other than the regional language, Government may issue further necessary directions.

V. In an unaided recognised school, the medium of instruction will be determined by the management. It will not be obligatory on them to provide facilities for instruction in any other medium but it will be incumbent on them to provide for the teaching of Punjabi or Hindi as the case may be, as a second language.

VI. English and Urdu will, for the present, continue as official and court languages; these will be replaced progressively by Hindi and Punjabi in the light of the principles laid down in the resolution adopted by the working Committee of the Indian National Congress at its meeting held on 5th August, 1949.

VII. These proposals do not apply to those pupils whose mother-tongue is neither Punjabi nor Hindi. Suitable arrangements will be made for the education of such pupils in their mother-tongue if there is a sufficient number of such pupils at one place to make these arrangements possible.

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