

APPENDIX VII

No. F. 48/1/56-SRI

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(S. R. I. SECTION)

An Outline of the Scheme for Regional Committees in the Punjab State.

(Laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 3rd April, 1956).

1. There will be one legislature for the whole of the reorganised State of the Punjab, which will be the sole law-making body for the entire State, and there will be one Governor for the State aided and advised by a Council of Ministers responsible to the State Assembly for the entire field of administration.

2. For the more convenient transaction of the business of Government with regard to some specified matters, the State will be divided into two regions, namely, the Punjabi-speaking and the Hindi-speaking regions.

3. For each region there will be a regional committee of the State Assembly consisting of the members of the State Assembly belonging to each region including the Ministers from that region but not including the Chief Minister.

4. Legislation relating to specified matters will be referred to the Regional Committees. In respect of specified matters proposals may also be made by the Regional Committees to the State Governments for Legislation or with regard to questions of general policy not involving any financial commitments other than expenditure of a routine and incidental character.

5. The advice tendered by the Regional Committees will normally be accepted by the Government and the State Legislature. In case of difference of opinion, reference will be made to the Governor whose decision will be final and binding.

6. The regional committees will deal with the following matters:—

- (i) Development and economic planning, within the framework of the general development plans and policies formulated by the State legislature;
- (ii) Local Self-Government, that is to say, the constitutional powers of municipal corporations, improvement trusts,

district boards and other local authorities for the purpose of local self-government or village administration including Panchayats;

- (iii) Public Health and sanitation, local hospitals and dispensaries;
- (iv) Primary and secondary education;
- (v) Agriculture;
- (vi) Cottage and small-scale industries;
- (vii) Preservation, protection and improvement of stock and prevention of animal diseases, veterinary training and practice;
- (viii) Pounds and prevention of cattle trespass.
- (ix) Protection of wild animals and birds;
- (x) Fisheries;
- (xi) Inns and Inn-Keepers;
- (xii) Markets and Fairs;
- (xiii) Cooperative societies; and
- (xiv) Charities and charitable institutions, charitable and religious endowments and religious institutions.

7. Provision will be made under the appropriate Central statute to empower the President to constitute regional committees and to make provision in the rules of business of Government and the rules of procedure of the Legislative Assembly in order to give effect to the arrangements outlined in the preceding paragraphs. The provisions made in the rules of business and procedure for the proper functioning of regional committees will not be altered without the approval of the President.

8. The demarcation of the Hindi and Punjabi regions in the proposed Punjab State will be done in consultation with the State Government and the other interests concerned.

9. The Sachar formula will continue to operate in the area comprised in the existing Punjab State, and in the area now comprised in the PEPSU State, the existing arrangements will continue until they are replaced or altered by agreement later.

10. The official language of each region will, at the district level and below, be the respective regional language.

11. The State will be bilingual recognising both Punjabi (in Gurmukhi script) and Hindi (in Devnagri script) as the official languages of the State.

12. The Punjab Government will establish two separate departments for developing Punjabi and Hindi languages.

13. The general safeguards proposed for linguistic minorities will be applicable to the Punjab like other States.

14. In accordance with and in furtherance of its policy to promote the growth of all regional languages, the Central Government will encourage the development of the Punjabi language.