

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS

131. In recommending adjustment of the boundary, due consideration must undoubtedly be given to the effective maintenance of irrigation and power distribution systems. The proposed division of the State of Punjab necessitates division of the irrigation and power distribution systems, and that must be done keeping in mind the paramount purpose of ensuring linguistic homogeneity. The points of division suggested by the Chief Engineer (Projects) which may avoid serious dislocation of the irrigation system is to fix the boundary line at certain points indicated by him, but acceptance of the scheme would completely upset the principle of linguistic homogeneity. Another Engineer suggested that the canal systems should be located intact, canal by canal, in the State they serve and not cut, particularly not towards or near the tail ends, for the effect of such cutting on the inhabitants depending on canal irrigation in the tail end areas of another State may result in serious consequences. He said that if it is not at all practicable to leave the whole canal system in one State, the division should be at only those points from below which fairly high discharge still flows, so that satisfactory distribution of water to cultivators served by the irrigation canals beyond these points may be ensured. He then suggested that in respect of the Upper Bari Doab Canal from Ravi river, the Eastern Canal from Beas River and Sirhand Canal no division was necessary. He suggested that division of the Bhakra Main branch should be made at certain points near Tohana. About Narwana Branch, he suggested that a suitable point for division could be at Tangri south of Ambala. He also said that electric power supply Grids should be cut, if necessary, at certain fixed points to ensure that no untoward results would ensue therefrom, and since there were two Grids in Punjab (i) 132000 Volts Jogindernagar, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Rupar and Bhakra Grid and (ii) 220000 Volts Bhakra, Ganguwal, Kotla, Dhulkot, Panipat and Delhi Grid, to ensure effective supplies to consumers it would be advisable to retain the first Grid in one State as a whole and to divide the second Grid at any of the sub-stations Ganguwal, Kotla, Dhulkot or Panipat. He suggested that division at any other point will greatly complicate the supplies of power to the State for which the control of the Grid line is in other hands. These suggestions which contain several alternatives may also seriously upset the linguistic principle.

132. The Chief Engineer, Electricity Board, was of the view that the proposed reorganisation of the present State of Punjab was likely to create serious impact on the future set up of the Punjab State Electricity Board, and recommended that Joint Electricity Board with separate Chief Engineers for Distribution System for the consuming

States and a common organisation for planning, execution and operation of major works, (not covered by Distribution System) should be constituted. In his opinion, broadly speaking, there should be a common Board with subjects like generation, transmission works, their planning, design, procurement, execution, research and operation etc. under Central Agencies, and distribution works and their operation should be dealt with by respective Chief Engineers who would be ex-officio members of the Board, but responsible to the respective States for carrying out the works according to the budget requirements. The Joint Board as proposed, in the view of the Chief Engineer, would meet all the technical requirements of the Region and be in the interest of co-ordinated power development and power consumption, and meet the regional interests of the respective States.

133. The sources of water supply and power lie in a majority of cases within the hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh, and the beneficiaries of water and power will hereafter in respect of some channels of supply, be the Punjabi speaking, the Hindi-speaking States, Delhi and Rajasthan. Though Himachal Pradesh derives no direct irrigation benefit from the waters of the rivers having their sources in its territory, its claim to have a voice in the maintenance of reservoirs, disposal of waters and distribution of power cannot be ignored.

134. A legalistic approach to a complex problem on the just solution of which depends the prosperity of many territorial units, would be impermissible. Having carefully considered the problem, we are of the view that constitution of Joint Boards, one for Irrigation and another for power, of the beneficiary States and the State which is the source of supply of water and power, having authority to lay down policies and execute them, consistently with the legitimate needs of the States concerned, under the supervision of the Central Government may be a practical solution of the problem raised by the division of the territory into separate units in which the canal and power supply lines are situate.

135. We recommend that:

1. (i) The Districts Simla, Kulu, Kangra, Lahaul-spiti;
 - (ii) Development Blocks Gagret, Amb and Una (excluding the villages Kherabagh, Samipur, Bhabhaur and Kalseh and village Kosri from Tehsil Una (District Hoshiarpur);
 - (iii) Tehsil Nalagarh (District Ambala);
 - (iv) Enclaves Dalhousie, Balun and Bukloh in Chamba District which are hill areas and have cultural affinity with the people of Himachal Pradesh;

should be merged with Himachal Pradesh.
2. That Districts Gurdaspur (excluding Dalhousie, Balun and Bukloh), Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jullundur, Ferozepore, Bhatinda, Patiala, Ludhiana, and Tehsils Barnala, Malerkotla and Sangrur (District Sangrur), Tehsil Rupar (District Ambala) Tehsils Dasuya, Hoshiarpur and Garhshankar, and Development Blocks Anandpur, Nurpurbedi and villages Kherabagh, Samipur, Bhabhaur and Kalseh from Una Block and village Kosri in Una Tehsil will form the Punjabi-speaking State; and

3. That District Hissar, Mohindergarh, Gurgaon, Rohtak and Karnal, and Tehsils Narwana and Jind (District Sangrur) and Tehsil Kharar (including Chandigarh Capital Project), Naraingarh, Ambala, and Jagadhri will form the Hindi-speaking State.

Adjustments of the boundaries of the three States should be made on the division of territory as set out.

136. In conclusion we would like to make a few general observations.

Agitation for setting up separate linguistic States in the territory of Punjab raised its head more than 18 years ago, and it is unfortunate that strong passions have been aroused on that problem. The Punjab has been at the forefront among the States of India in war and peace. It has been the sword arm of the country in times of war, and in times of peace it has led all other States in agricultural production, and parts of the State are humming with small scale industry. We fervently hope that after the dust of conflict has settled, the people of Punjab to whichever State they belong will in healthy rivalry achieve higher targets of production, agricultural and industrial, and bring about all-round prosperity and contribute to a higher standard of living for all our people. The people of Punjab share the common aspirations and ideals with the rest of our people, and we trust that nothing will be done in either State to prejudice the linguistic preferences of the minorities residing within their territory. It is on the cultivation of a tolerant attitude towards the claims of others within the Constitutional framework that democracy flourishes, and we share the optimism with many others that the people of Punjab will maintain the democratic ideal.

31-5-1966.

Sd/- (J. C. SHAH),
Chairman,

Punjab Boundary Commission

*Sd/- (S. DUTT),
Member,

Punjab Boundary Commission

Sd/- (M. M. PHILIP).
Member,

Punjab Boundary Commission

*Subject to my note on Kharar-Chandigarh.

ltd. S. DUTT.