

CHAPTER V
DISTRICT KOLHAPUR

Chandgad Taluka

The States Reorganisation Commission taking into consideration the gravity of the language complexion in the taluka of Chandgad recommended the transfer of the whole of the taluka from the District of Belgaum to the State of Maharashtra. It remarked that it will be quite convenient for the State of Maharashtra to administer this taluka and that the State of Mysore should have no objection to this.

5.2. During the last ten years this taluka as included in the State of Maharashtra is being administered by that State. It is included in the District of Kolhapur.

5.3. The State of Mysore for the first time in its memorandum submitted to this Commission on 31st March, 1967, laid claim to this area on the ground of economic considerations and facility of communications. It said that the people of Chandgad taluka for purposes of their business, daily requirements, trade, education, etc. have to come to Belgaum. For litigation purposes they have to go to Kolhapur which is about 96 miles from the taluka. For their medical requirements, etc. they have also to come to Belgaum.

5.4. The State of Mysore on its own initiative has tried to advocate the cause of these people and has mentioned the hardships and inconveniences they are suffering at the moment. It is significant that of the large population of this taluka only a handful have come to the Commission asking it to review the decision of the S.R. Commission. If the people of the taluka had any complaints to make because of their having been allotted to the State of Maharashtra, nothing stood in their way to meet the Commission which was sitting quite near to that taluka. It is only the State of Mysore out of the goodness of its heart is feeling for their sufferings and wants to include it in the State of Mysore for the sake of their happiness.

5.5. Shri Nambiar who argued the case for the State on 10th June, 1967, at Ooty, was asked by me whether there was any evidence from the people of those areas in support of the contention of the State of Mysore. He could not refer to any except the statement of a solitary witness recorded at Kolhapur.

5.6. It may be mentioned that the percentage of Marathi speakers in the taluka has gone up by another two per cent and the taluka is predominantly Marathi-speaking area and is contiguous to the district of Kolhapur. I have, therefore, no hesitation in disallowing this belated additional claim of the State of Mysore, for which there is no foundation whatsoever.