

CHAPTER VI

SHIROL TALUKA

The Government of Bombay offered to transfer 19 villages to the State of Mysore in 1957. This offer was withdrawn before arguments started at Ooty. In my opinion this withdrawal is justified and is in accordance with the line of approach I have indicated in settling these disputes.

6.2. The linguistic complexion of this taluka has considerably changed by 1961. Out of the 19 villages that were originally offered, only four have absolute Kannada majority, six out of these have 12 per cent Kannada speakers and in the other nine Kannada is below 50 per cent. In no compact area Kannada predominates except in the four villages. The Kannada population of these villages does not exceed 6,000. This does not fulfil the tests laid down by me. I, therefore, cannot recommend the transfer of any of these villages to the State of Mysore.

6.3. A look at the language map prepared in the 1961 Census shows that the Kannada majority villages are surrounded on all sides by Marathi-speaking areas and these form a kind of wedge in the middle of these areas, touching Belgaum district to the south. Both on linguistic and administrative grounds, it is not possible to recommend the inclusion of the 19 villages in Shirol taluka in the State of Mysore in spite of the original offer. The scene has changed considerably since 1957 when the offer was made. The learned counsel arguing for the State of Mysore argued that in view of the offer and acceptance by the State of Mysore it led no evidence in support of this case. The State was allowed to adduce evidence by means of affidavits and the State of Maharashtra was allowed to rebut this evidence. Nothing tangible, however, has come to the notice of the Commission to alter its decision.