

CHAPTER III

CLAIMS

The dispute I have been asked to resolve concerns the following areas claimed by the Government of Bombay in its memorandum submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs in the year 1957:

- (i) 84 villages of the taluka of Belgaum in the District of Belgaum with a population of 2,20,389;
- (ii) 206 villages of the taluka of Khanapur in Belgaum District with a population of 68,522;
- (iii) 10 villages in Athni taluka of Belgaum District with a population of 20,858;
- (iv) 41 villages in Chikodi taluka of Belgaum District with a population of 1,07,856;
- (v) 18 villages in Hukeri taluka in the District of Belgaum with a population of 15,094;
- (vi) 50 villages in Karwar taluka of North Kanara District with a population of 67,107;
- (vii) 131 villages of Supa taluka in North Kanara District with a population of 17,451;
- (viii) 120 villages in Haliyal taluka of North Kanara District with a population of 31,122;
- (ix) 28 villages in Humnabad taluka of Bidar District with a population of 22,303;
- (x) 49 villages in Bhalki taluka of Bidar District with a population of 47,879;
- (xi) 69 villages in Santpur taluka of Bidar District with a population of 46,669; and
- (xii) 8 villages in Aland taluka of Gulbarga District with a population of 4,978.

3.2. As already stated, the Government of Maharashtra offered the transfer of the following areas to Mysore:

- (i) 65 villages in South Sholapur taluka of Sholapur District with a population of 74,679;
- (ii) 9 villages in Mangalwedha taluka of Sholapur District with a population of 8,479;
- (iii) 99 villages in the Akkalkot taluka of Sholapur District with a population of 1,06,403;

- (iv) 44 villages in the Jath taluka of South Satara District with a population of 51,863;
- (v) 19 villages in Shirol taluka of Kolhapur District with a population of 46,807; and
- (vi) 24 villages in Gadhinglaj taluka of Kolhapur District with a population of 37,029.

3.3. In the statement submitted by the State of Mysore on 31st March, 1967, it laid claims to the following areas which had not been mentioned earlier as disputed ones even before the Four-Member Committee.

- (1) the town of Sholapur;
- (2) the whole of the taluka of Jath;
- (3) the whole of the taluka of South Sholapur; and
- (4) the taluka of Chandgad in the District of Kolhapur.

3.4. As suggested by the two Mysore members on the Four-Member Committee, the Government of Mysore reiterated its claim to the whole of the taluka of Akolkot.

3.5. The Government of Maharashtra also added some additional villages to their claim at the close of the first round of arguments and withdrew their original offer to transfer areas in certain talukas to Mysore. They also suggested certain additions and withdrawals during the final arguments at Ooty.

3.6. These disputes have neither been resolved by the Zonal Council nor by the Government of India, nor by the Four-Man Committee appointed by the State Governments concerned or by the meetings held by the Chief Ministers of the States concerned. On the other hand, the tentative claims made became rigid and have been added to by the people of the areas and the Governments concerned. By efflux of time and delay in resolving the disputes, emotions have run very high on either side. It is difficult to separate the grain from the chaff. Public opinion is sharply divided and the evidence produced by the two Governments and the witnesses interviewed by the Commission did not give an objective of the situation.