

## CHAPTER X

### RAJASTHAN

494. We have in the preceding Chapter disposed of the claims for territorial readjustments between Rajasthan and Madhya Bharat. We now proceed to deal with the other major proposals bearing on the future of Rajasthan as well as its territorial limits.

495. The State of Rajasthan was brought into existence as a result of the integration of nineteen former princely states between March, 1948, and May, 1949. It has been claimed in some of the memoranda that the Union which was ultimately brought into being has no integral character and that, in the interests of more efficient administration, it would be better to split up the existing State into two or even three units, namely,

- (i) Western Rajasthan (to be called "Maru Pradesh") which will be a border province;
- (ii) Eastern Rajasthan which may include certain areas bordering on Delhi and Uttar Pradesh; and
- (iii) Southern Rajasthan which may be bounded by the Aravalli range in the west, the Sambhar lake in the north and by the borders of the proposed Madhya Pradesh State in the east.

496. The formation of these three units, it has been stated, will be necessary if all the areas are to be effectively administered; and it will incidentally meet the criticism that the public offices of the new State have not been located in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee which went into this question soon after the formation of the present State and that development expenditure is not being equitably distributed.

497. We should like to make it clear, before we take up the question of disputed areas, that there seems to be little justification for the disintegration of Rajasthan. There was a substantial measure of agreement in 1948 and 1949 in support of the mergers which then took place. Indeed, the Government of India were so anxious to associate public opinion with the changes which were being made that, in the last stage, namely, before the Matsya Union was merged in Rajasthan in May, 1949, a Committee with Shri Shankarrao Deo as Chairman was appointed to ascertain the wishes of the people of

this area. There is no reason to believe that public opinion has changed in the last five or six years or that any significant advantages, either from the point of view of the country as a whole or from that of the areas concerned, will result from partition on the proposed lines.

498. We should like to say a few words, in particular, regarding the proposal to form a Maru Pradesh along the Indo-Pakistan border. If this State is formed, it is unlikely to have adequate resources in manpower or material to police a seven-hundred mile frontier, and financially it will be a weak unit. Moreover, if a comprehensive scheme for the control of the Rajputana desert is to be taken in hand, the proposed State of Western Rajasthan will not be able by itself to implement the scheme. We can see no advantage in forming a unit, the major portion of which will be an unreclaimed desert.

499. Having indicated our reasons against the disintegration of Rajasthan, we now pass on to the consideration of the major claims and counter-claims for territorial readjustments. The Government of Rajasthan has claimed the following areas, namely, the whole of the Ajmer State, the Abu Road taluk of the Banaskantha district of Bombay, the Mandstaur district and small portions of the Guna and Rajgarh districts of Madhya Bharat, the Loharu sub-tehsil of the Bhiwani tehsil of the Hissar district of the Punjab and the Mohindergarh district of PEPSU. In the paragraphs which follow these claims are discussed in the order mentioned.

500. Ajmer is a one-district Part C State surrounded on all sides by territories of Rajasthan. It has retained its separate existence so far because of historical reasons. The question of its merger in a larger unit has been agitated from time to time since 1921, when a Committee went into it. The fact that Ajmer was a convenient British outpost in Rajasthan and that it could not very well be included in the then United Provinces, from which it was far removed, accounted for the State's separate existence in British days.

501. Ajmer is no longer geographically isolated. Nor does it any longer play the role of a sentinel. We, therefore, agree with the Rajasthan Government that the linguistic, cultural and geographical links of Ajmer with Rajasthan must be respected, and that, for several reasons, for example, the likelihood that the law and order situation may improve as a result of the elimination of dual control, the proposal to merge Ajmer will be justified. It may be recalled that the representative of Ajmer on the Committee on the Chief Commissioners' Provinces, which was appointed by the Constituent Assembly in 1947, had himself envisaged the joining of this area with the contiguous unit "at no distant future".

502. The controversies regarding Abu Road taluk are much more real. This portion of the former Sirohi State was merged in Bombay in January, 1950, in the belief that the partition of the State on the lines mentioned in the States Merger (Bombay) Order, 1950, would be acceptable to the people. Unfortunately, however, the decision to break up Sirohi has not been welcomed either in Gujarat or in Rajasthan.

503. The Rajasthan Government seems to attach very great importance to the retransfer of this area to Rajasthan. We have now reconsidered the position very carefully and, after a great deal of deliberation, we have come to the conclusion that Rajasthan has a legitimate claim to the Abu Road taluk and that this claim should be recognised.

504. In making this recommendation we have taken into consideration the fact that arguments based on trade affiliations or on the need for more effective control of the Western Banas river have been advanced on behalf of both the parties and do not appear to be conclusive. Rajasthan's claims to the area which is now in Bombay, however, rest, in the last resort, on two main grounds, namely, local feeling, and the fact that Rajasthani is the mother-tongue of 65 per cent. of the population of the Abu Road taluk.

505. It may be argued that no clear case has been made out either on administrative or economic grounds for the separation of the Abu Road taluk from the district of which it forms a part. There are, however, two important facts bearing on this question, which cannot be overlooked. Firstly, this area was only recently separated from an administrative unit with which it had a long association and which now forms part of Rajasthan. Secondly, apart from the fact that a majority of the people of this area have not so far reconciled themselves to this separation, the Government of India had decided in 1952 to reopen this question and they had also set in motion the process contemplated in Article 3 for readjustment of state territories. After taking all this into consideration we have reluctantly been compelled to recommend a review of the decision taken in 1950.

506. Loharu is now part of the Hissar district, having been merged in 1948. It has been represented to this Commission that, for at least three and a half centuries after the State was founded, it had intimate links with Rajasthan and that, even in the period which immediately preceded the merger, the association with Bikaner was

very close. Loharu, it has also been stated, has rather intimate trading connections with Rajasthan, the wool trade being particularly important. The area is geographically contiguous to Rajasthan, and it would, perhaps, be easier to administer it from Jhunjhunu, with which town Loharu is incidentally intimately connected, than from Hissar. On a review of all the circumstances in which the claim has been made we recommend that Loharu should be transferred to Rajasthan.

507. Rajasthan's claim to the Mohindergarh district of PEPSU seems to us to be much less reasonable than the claim to Loharu. Apart from the fact that Mohindergarh is outside Rajasthan from the linguistic point of view, the primary ground on which the claim is made, namely that Mohindergarh is an enclave cut off from its parent State, will no longer be valid if our recommendation regarding the amalgamation of PEPSU with the Punjab is accepted. Mohindergarh, incidentally, may benefit in future from the Punjab Government's scheme for the utilisation of the waters of the Sutlej or the Jumna. There is, therefore, no case for disturbing the *status quo*.

508. We have already dealt with Rajasthan's claims on Madhya Bharat in the preceding Chapter.

509. We now pass on to a brief examination of the claims made on Rajasthan by other States. The demands are various and conflicting. But, for all practical purposes, we need consider only two proposals which have been made, namely, the suggested transfer of Banswara and Dungarpur to Bombay and the inclusion of Bharatpur and Alwar either in Greater Delhi or in Brij Pradesh. The claim to Banswara and Dungarpur rests on two main arguments. Historically, this so-called Vagad area used to be part of Gujarat. This historical connection with Gujarat, it has been stated, has now been reinforced by the fact of Gujarat's interest in the Mahi river which flows through the Vagad area and the utilisation of which is of very great importance from Gujarat's point of view.

510. In view of the recent history of Banswara and Dungarpur, we are not inclined to attach undue importance to the ancient affiliations of the Vagad area. As far as the utilisation of the Mahi river is concerned, both Gujarat and Rajasthan are interested, and while it is not necessary to anticipate any difficulties, such problems as may arise can be dealt with independently of territorial adjustments.

511. As regards Alwar and Bharatpur, apart from the fact that we have not recommended the formation of the proposed Greater Delhi or Brij Pradesh, we do not think there has been any appreciable change in the state of opinion since the Shankarrao Deo Committee went into the question in 1949, which may justify the disturbance of the *status quo*.

512. It does not seem to be necessary to enter into the details of various other claims and counter-claims which have been made. Public opinion has not expressed itself clearly in favour of these minor changes.

513. The State of Rajasthan will include, according to the recommendations which we have made, the present State less the Sironj sub-division of the Kotah district, plus the Sunel town of Mandsaur district, the Abu Road taluk of the Banaskantha district, the Loharu sub-tehsil of the Hissar district and the State of Ajmer. The area of this unit will be about 132,300 square miles and its population about 16 millions. The financial position and economy of the existing State will be more or less unaffected.