APPENDIX-IV

PUNJAB BOUNDARY COMMISSION REPORT/ 1966

Terms of Reference

On 23 April 1966 a three-member Punjab Boundary Commission (Chairman Justice Jayantilal Chhotalal Shah; Members: S. Dutt and M.M. Philip) was set up to recommend:

(i) The adjustment of the existing boundaries of the Hindi and Punjabi regions of the present State (Punjab) to secure linguistic homogeneity; and also

(ii) To indicate boundaries of the Hill areas of the present State which were contiguous to Himachal Pradesh and had cultural and linguistic affinities.

The Commission was required to apply the linguistic principle with regard to the census figure of 1961 and other relevant considerations. The Commission was asked to take into consideration other factors, namely:

1. Administrative convenience.
2. Economic well-being.
3. Geographical contiguity; and
4. Facility of communication.


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 point 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 Sirhind Canal the 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 result would ensure therefrom, and since there were two Grids in Punjab: (i) 132000 Volts Jogindernagar, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Ropar and Bhakra Grid, and (ii) 220000 Volts Bhakra, Ganguwal, Kotia, 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, Kotia, 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 reorganisation for planning/ execution and operation of major works (not covered by Distribution System) should be constituted. In his opinion, broadly speaking there should be common Board with subject like generation, transmission work, their planning, design, procurement, execution, research and operation, etc. under Central Agencies and distribution workers 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 coordinated 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 State, 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 Board 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 need of the State 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 situated.

135. We recommend that:

(i) The Districts, Simla, Kulu, Kangra, Lahaul-Spiti;

(ii) Development Blocks, Gagret, Amb and Una (excluding the village Kherabagh, Samipur, Bhabhaur and Kalseh and village Kosari from Tehsil Una (District Hoshiarpur);

(iii) Tehsil Nalagarh (District Ambala); and

(iv) Enclaves Dalhousie, Balaun and Bukloh in Chamba District which are NU 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/ Ferozcapore,
Bhatinda, Patiala, Ludhiana, and tehsils Barnala, Malerkotia and Sangrur (District Sangrur), Tehsil Ropar (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.

3. That District Hissar, Mohindergrah, 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 State in the territory of Punjab raised its head more than 18 years ago. 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 being 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)
Sd/- S. Dutt.

Note on Kharar-Chandigarh by S. Dutt

I regret that I am unable to agree with the recommendations which my colleagues proposed to make about Kharar tehsil including Chandigarh. In my view, Kharar tehsil as a whole, with the exception of Kalka Police Station, should be merged with the proposed Punjab State; the area of Kalka Police Station should be merged with Himachal Pradesh. I give my reasons below:

Kharar is a Tehsil of Ambala District with a total population of 332,361 according to the 1961 census, of whom 183,452 (55.2 percent) are Hindi-speaking and 148,908 (43.9 percent) are Punjabi-speaking. The total rural population of the tehsil is 200,425 of whom
112,723 (56.2 percent) are Punjabi-speaking and 867/777 (43.3 percent) are Hindi-speaking. The urban population totals 231,936—15.1 percent Punjabi-speaking and 73.3 percent Hindi speaking. The majority of the urban population belong to Chandigarh capital project area (89,000). The other three towns are Kharar with a population of 8,216, Kurali (6,390), Manimajra (9,901) and Kalka (18,668). It will thus be seen that while in the whole of Kharar tehsil the Hindi speaking people are in a majority (55.2 percent) in the rural areas the Punjabi-speaking people hold the majority (56.2 percent).

Under the Sachar Formula of 1949, Kharar tehsil was placed in Punjabi region. It did not then include Pinjore Police Station which in 1961 had a population of 28,635. Pinjore which formally formed part of PEPSU, was included in the Kharar tehsil after PEPSU’s merger with the Punjab. Under the Punjab Regional Committees Order 1957, Chandigarh was made bilingual and therefore it was not included either in the Punjabi-speaking or in the Hindi-speaking region. The rest of the Kharar tehsil was divided between the two regions.

Indeed, Kharar is the only tehsil in Punjab which was divided into Hindi and Punjabi regions under the Regional Committee order. The Hindi areas of tehsil Kharar consist of 17 villages in Zail Mubarakpur and the areas of the Pinjore Police Station and Kalka Police Station; the rest of the tehsil exclusive of the Chandigarh Capital Project area forms part of the Punjabi-speaking region. Both the language areas of the tehsil are contiguous with the Chandigarh capital, but it appears that the latter is surrounded on three sides by the areas included in the Punjabi region and on the remaining side on the south-east by the area included in the Hindi region. A further point
need to be mentioned. Although Chandigarh Capital Project is bilingual for the purpose of election of the Legislative Assembly it forms part of the Chandigarh Assembly constituency. This constituency includes besides Chandigarh the area of the Kharar tehsil also.

**Presidents Assent to the Recommendations of the Boundary Commission**

The recommendation of the Punjab Boundary Commission with some modifications were incorporated into the Punjab Reorganisation Bill which was duly approved by both Houses of Parliament. The President gave his assent on 18 September, 1966. As per recommendations of the Boundary Commission, the Punjabi-speaking areas went to Punjab—that Districts of Gurdaspur (excluding Dhalhousie, Balum and Bukloh), Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jullundur, Ferozepur, Bhatinda, Patiala, Ludhiana and Tehsils Bamala, Malerkotia and Sangrur (District Sangrur), Tehsil Ropar (District Ambala), Tehsils Dasuya, Hoshiarpur and Garhshankar and Development Blocks Anandpur, and villages Kherabagh, Samipur, Bhabhaur and Kalseh from Una Block and village Kosri will form the Punjabi-speaking States.

The Hindi-speaking areas that went to Haryana were— 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. The Hilly areas were given to Himachal Pradesh. These were:

(i) Districts Shimla, Kulu, Kangra, Lahaul-Spiti.
(ii) The 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, Balum 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.