APPENDIX 11

II. OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS AND CONCEPTS

PARTITION

Partition has various meanings attached to it. The Chamber’s Dictionary calls it an act of dividing or a state of being divided. This division refers to the 1947 constitutional division of territories into India and Pakistan: an agreed-upon Partition of territories. This process was first identified in the Lahore Resolution of March 1940 when the demand for a separate Muslim state was made. It is also referred to as a civil war as there were well organized forces on both sides to strike terror and create mayhem which made a concerted attempt to wipe out entire populations. It has also been termed a holocaust – a great or completed devastation.

The word Partition conveys all the above meanings. Nevertheless, it is a very bland term which does not fully capture the pain and trauma that accompanied the country’s vivisection. The term does not convey the fact that people were unwittingly caught up in the cross-fire of religious hatred; that it led to the irreparable loss of family and friends; and that families were divided; nor does it discuss the breakdown of social mores and structures. It does not cover the violence and trauma that accompanied the enforced migration of huge populations because of religious differences nor does it fully explain the tearing apart of the social fabric which severed and fragmented cultural ties that undermined a composite, intellectual tradition.

For the purposes of this research, Partition will mean not only the political Partition of India but all the meanings given above including the violence, the destruction, and the dislocation that accompanied the division of the country, as also the psychological scars that left their mark on people.