CONCLUSIONS.

The Inter-State Chandigarh Region has a peripheral location between the states of Punjab and Haryana, and at the same time a transportational nodality for practically the whole of north western India. It has undergone significant changes in its socio-economic structure during 1951-71. This is accompanied by changes in its various population attributes, giving a unique character to the region.

The key factor influencing the geographical characteristics of the region is the emergence of the new city of Chandigarh as the capital of the undivided state of Punjab in the early years. In 1966, it also became the capital of the reorganized states of Punjab, Haryana and the subsequent headquarters of the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Among other things there has been:-

i) an influx of workers into the region;
ii) dense network of transport and urbanization of the tract;
iii) extension of irrigation facilities with the implementation of the package programme
of agricultural inputs; and
iv) development of education and increased social
and political awareness among its inhabitants.

The original intention was rapid development of
the city of Chandigarh and its environs but the impact of
these measures in the region has been tremendous, though
not uniform. The development in the I.S.C.R. has been
greater than in the parent states. However, there are
significant spatial variations in the population
characteristics of the region and the consequent changes in
various attributes of the populace.

The growth of population in the region has been
phenomenal (136.87 per cent) during 1951-71. It is
unprecedented for the states of Punjab and Haryana during
their recorded history. The growth has largely been due
to Chandigarh City bringing an influx of migrants from
various parts of Punjab, Haryana and other nearby states.
The natural increase in population has also been large.
There has been a disparity between the growth rates of
population during 1951-61 and 1961-71. The growth rate of
the region, during 1951-61 was 63.69 per cent as against
44.70 per cent during 1961-71. In absolute numbers, however, the increase in the second decade was more.

The coming up of four new urban centres (Chandigarh being of regional and extra-regional importance) during 1951-71 has brought about a phenomenal increase in the urban population: 788.30 per cent. This is more than ten times the increase in the rural population 71.04 per cent during the corresponding period. The actual growth in absolute numbers of both urban and rural population during the same period was 264,572 and 235,985 persons respectively. The staggering growth in total population of the region has increased the density of population by 200 persons per sq km, raising it from 145 persons in 1951 to 345 persons per sq km in 1971. The accelerated growth of population has been observed because of a high proportion of immigrants into Chandigarh; a sharp drop in the death rate of the region whereas the birth rate has not declined so rapidly. Various health care centres and better living conditions have brought down the mortality rate appreciably, but the gap between the birth and death rates is widening, though not in Chandigarh City proper, where the people are aware of family planning. In the rural areas, however, the
landless, the Scheduled Castes and the poor could be made aware of and helped to have small families through long-term and short-term measures. There is some awareness already of the need for a planned family but the acceptance of the idea is not yet widespread.

In the spatial context, the high growth of population has been recorded in: (i) the villages located on the fringe of urban centres, particularly Chandigarh; (ii) along major arteries of transport; (iii) areas which had an influx of migrants; and (iv) areas with increased irrigation facilities. Non-agricultural workers migrated to the first three areas in a big way and agricultural workers to the irrigated areas. In the first category, Chandigarh has been the growth pole and has absorbed predominantly male non-agricultural inmigrants.

There has been a deficiency of females in the region. There has been a further decline of 26 points in the sex ratio in 1971; from 836 in 1951 the ratio dropped to 810 females per thousand males in 1971. This is attributed to

*1. Long term and short term measures are the family welfare/planning programmes. The former aim at improving the social, economic and demographic structure of the people through increasing the marriage age, preventing children from entering labour market; compulsory education, adult literacy campaigns etc. Short term measures aim at bringing down the birth and death rates immediately through contraceptives, voluntary compulsory sterilization etc.
the continuing male selective immigration from within and outside the region in search of jobs. However, in 1971, the rural sex ratio was higher than the urban, being 825 females (rural) against 781 (urban) per 1000 males. In the rural tracts of the hilly area and dissected plain of the region, the sex ratio is higher than the average as there has been an outflow of male workers. The backward economy and poor resources compel many to leave their homes. But the villages very close to Chandigarh and other towns have a low sex ratio due to immigration of male workers. The town of Chandigarh has the lowest sex ratio (752) in the region. These immigrants, in the initial years, came without their families but when houses were built by the Government and allotted to them, they were joined by their families. Thus the sex ratio of this nodal centre rose from 625 in 1961 to 752 in 1971. Other small towns like Dera Passi and Morinda have recorded little change in the sex ratio.

Education in the region has improved significantly especially in the case of females. During the span of 1951-71, many new schools were opened and primary education made free and compulsory. The landless peasants have
become aware of the need to educate their children so that they can make a living from non-agricultural pursuits. The town of Chandigarh being an educational centre, has played an important role in the spread of learning.

The literacy rate of males and females in the Inter-State Chandigarh Region which was 13.32 per cent of its total population in 1951 rose to 41.55 per cent in 1971. There has been six and a half times increase in the literacy rate of females (from 5.07 per cent in 1951 to 32.36 per cent in 1971), as against two and a half times increase for the males (from 20.22 per cent in 1951 to 49 per cent in 1971). The growth in female literacy is a sensitive index to the progress of a region.

The development of literacy in the urban areas has been more marked than in the rural areas. In 1971, 62.25 per cent of the urban population (males 68 per cent and females 54.88 per cent) and 30.69 per cent of rural population (males 38.78 per cent and females 20.89 per cent) were literate. The literacy rate among Scheduled Castes and agricultural labourers continued to be low despite the incentives given to them by the government.

In the spatial context, the north western tract of the region and the peripheral villages around the urban
centres recorded the highest literacy rates compared to the low rates in the eastern and south-eastern section of the hilly and dissected zones. The flat alluvial lands in the north-west are well connected with schools. They have a better and diversified economy with growing emphasis on female education while the hilly area has a backward subsistence economy and is poorly connected.

The town of Chandigarh showed the highest rate of literacy in the country (66.3 per cent) in the 1971 census. The villages in its immediate vicinity had moderate literacy growth because only the migrants who settled here for secondary and tertiary activities were educated. Other towns like Banur, Kurali and Morinda have had slow growth of literacy. A paradoxical phenomenon is that the high literacy growth rate of the region is being neutralized by the high rate of population growth.

There was an overwhelming dominance of males in the working population of the region. Working females constituted only 1.1 per cent of the total workforce in 1971. Within the working population, the rural and urban areas present different pictures in their occupational structures. In the urban areas, tertiary and secondary
activities far surpass the primary activities (the percentage being 76.7, 19.1 and 4.2 respectively). The work force in the tertiary activities has greatly increased during 1961-71 while the secondary and primary activities have declined. On the other hand, in the rural areas, primary activities are far more important than secondary and tertiary activities (68 per cent, 13.5 per cent and 18.5 per cent respectively).

During 1961-71 there has been a marginal increase in primary and tertiary activities among the villagers, while the percentage recorded in the secondary activities has dropped because of a marked decline in household industries. Increased outmigration of the educated males from the peasant families in pursuit of non-agricultural work, has led to a decline in the percentage of cultivators in the villages. But there are more agricultural labourers in the well irrigated areas and in flood plains where reclamation of culturable waste land and new cropping systems have created more demand for farm work.

There was a significant decline in the number of rural workers engaged in household industries (from 11.4 per cent in 1961 to 3.9 per cent in 1971) and an increase (3.7 per cent in 1961 to 6.9 per cent in 1971) in manufacturing
The percentage of workers engaged in tertiary activities in the rural areas changed little.

The eastern and south-eastern section constituting the hilly and upper dissected plain has not developed as fast as the western and north-western section. This is on account of its dissected terrain, apathy of the government and general backwardness of the people. Despite all these factors, the Inter-State Chandigarh Region has made considerable progress. This has been achieved through the development of transport system and the execution of the Five Year Plans.

To conclude the population patterns of the region have changed due to the rapid transformation of its geographical character. There is need for an integrated development of the three physical components of the region: the hilly zone, dissected undulating plain and the upland plain, which fall in the administrative domain of Haryana, Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh so that the regional development of Inter-State Chandigarh Region fits well in the spirit of the planned city of Chandigarh because if anything is dominant in the geographic personality of the I.S.C.R., it is the vigorous accelerating change.