



of India in 1951 identified the total number of 845 languages or dialects spoken in India. But, the 1961 census of India mentions 1652 tongues of which 103 were foreign tongues. [Census of India 1961] These 1652 mother tongues were grouped into 144 languages in the census report of 1991, sharing a orderable reduction in the number of actual languages spoken, and thus reflecting the loss of minority language to the majority languages [Abbi, (2010) 299]. But the makers of Indian Constitution have identified 14 languages and included them in the Eighth Schedule.

At Present, there are twenty two languages in the Eighth Schedule. The demand from various language groups for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule has been increasing. Manipuri, Konkani, Nepali, Dongari, Maithili and Santhali were added through amendments of Constitution. Many linguistic groups have been agitating for their inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. This has led to rise of language politics in India.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF LANGUAGE AND POLITICS IN INDIA

In ancient period, Language, Religion and State were three centers of power in the state. But day by day importance of the Religion and king is decreasing. At that time, many folk languages were spoken by the people. In the 9th century, the folk languages were strongly established in the society. Therefore, in medieval period, local languages and literature provided the important base for the unity of people. The linguistic literature was based on the religion. After the advent of British rule, Indian social and political reformers felt the need of establishing nation-state in India. However their opinion differed on what basis the state has to be organized. They did consider language as the basis of organizing the state.

The British rulers adopted the policy of 'divide and rule' in order to continue their power in India. In 1901 British government declared the decision of partition of Bengal in which the feeling of nationalism was at the peak. Hence Bengalis resented this decision and started agitating. After the partition of Bengal the issue of language became sensitive in India. This agitation took violent form, and ultimately the British government was forced to cancel the decision. On August 25, 1911, the Government of India, sent a dispatch to the secretary of state for India in London recommending that His Majesty's Government reunite the province of Bengal and separate it from Assam, Orissa and Chota Nagpur. It was suggested that simultaneously the capital of India be shifted from Calcutta to Delhi, the historic seat of Hindu and Moghul empires. Governor General agreed the proposal and the decision was announced at George V's great Durbar in December of that year.

The first movement was launched in the Telugu-speaking area of Madras Linguistic state known historically as Andhra or Andhradesha. Andhra intellectuals in May 1913 convened a conference from which an organization known as the Andhra Mahasabha emerged. Although the advancement of Telugu culture was its primary aim, the Andhra Mahasabha ultimately became a political organization dedicated to the formation of a separate Telugu-speaking state. In 1915 they called upon the Congress to recognize Andhra's ambitions by granting it separate status in the administration of Congress affairs. Both Mahatma Gandhi and Annie Besant opposed the proposal, but it was finally accepted by the Congress in 1917, and separate Provincial Committees for Andhra and Sind were established. In 1918 Montagu suggested that this was an appropriate time to propose the redrawing of provincial boundaries. In 1927 the legislative council of Madras passed a resolution by a vote of forty to thirty two, which called upon the Governor General to constitute a separate Andhra province. However in 1929 Sir John Simon Commission report was published. The Simon Commission was not unfavorable to the idea of Linguistic redistribution. On the recommendation of Simon Commission, British Parliament has passed the Government of India Act of 1935, it created 4 new provinces. Thus the total number of provinces was 11. At the time of independence there were eleven states and 564 Princely states in India. In 1948 most of the Princely States merged with India. Indian state was divided in four categories. In the Part A there were nine states, in Part B there were five large Princely states and Part C there were five small states and there were two states in Part D [Basu, (1997), 429].

In December 1946, when the Constituent Assembly met for the first time to draft independent India's Constitution, the movement for Linguistic Provinces sprang to life again. To deal with the question of linguistic states the government appointed as different Commissions.

DAR COMMISSION

On the recommendations of drafting committee of the constituent assembly, Rajendra Prasad appointed the linguistic provinces Commission popularly known as the Dar commission on 17th June 1948. This Commission was set up to recommend whether the states should be recognized on linguistic basis or not and also fixing boundaries if Indian Union. According to Dar Commission the redistribution of provinces might wait till India become a nation and was fully integrated. It recommended that states need not be created on Linguistic basis.

The supporters of the demand for linguistic provinces were shocked by Dar Commission's recommendations. The widespread opposition which greeted the publication of the Dar Commissions Report promoted the Congress party, meeting in its annual session in Jaipur in December 1948, to appoint its own linguistic Provinces Committee known as JVP Committee.

JVP COMMITTEE

The Committee included Jawaharla Nehru, Vallabhabhai Patel and Congress President Pattabhi Sitaramayya. This committee was appointed to study the recommendations of the Dar Commission in the light of the decisions taken by the Congress in the past and the requirements of the existing situation [Indian National Congress, (1920-56) 2]. The committee submitted its report to Congress working committee within three months and was published on 1st April 1949. However this committee did not favor to the formation of new states on Linguistic basis. The JVP committee recommended creation of Andhra according to which the process of creating Andhra started.

FORMATION OF ANDHRA-FIRST LINGUISTIC STATE

Intense agitation was launched by the Telugu speaking people in Madras province. During the agitation, leader of the Telugu speaking people Potti Shriramallu died. Realizing the intense feeling among the Telugu speaking people, in 1953 Andhrapradesh, a State of Telugu speaking people was created as the first linguistic state by the Government. This decision influenced the other linguistic groups. Consequently they began demanding reorganization of states on the basis of language.

STATE REORGANIZATION COMMISSION

In October 1953, Andhra state was created on linguistic basis. Pressurized by the agitation, Government constituted Fazal Ali Commission in 1953. The Commission included of Shri. Sayyed Fazal Ali, (Governor of Orissa) Shri. Hridaynath Kunzuru and Shri. Kavalan Madhava Pannikar. Fazal Ali was the chairman of the Commission. The Commission was to submit their recommendations to the Government of India by 30th June 1955. The Commission suggested that the Government was in favor of the reorganization of states on a rational basis and the task of the Commission was to recommend what should constitute the rational basis. [Sharma, (2010) 108] The Commission suggested 16 states and 3 territories.

STATE REORGANIZATION ACT 1956

State Reorganization act was passed by Government of India on the recommendations of Fazal Ali commission. In 1956 Central ministry after a serious thought, enacted States Reorganization Act for creating 14 States and 6 Union Territories. As a result of this reorganization, areas belonging to the former Princely States and those belonging to the former British Indian Provinces were merged together. 14 states; Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Kerala, Madhyapradesh, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir were created. The Commission had recommended the creation of Vidarbha and Hyderabad states. But it was not accepted by State Reorganization Act and Vidarbha was merged into Madhya Pradesh. The Commission had

recommended creation of three union territories but State Reorganization Act created 6 Union Territories viz. Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Laccadive Minicoy and Amindivi (Lakshadweep) Islands and Tripura.

The state of Mysore, Rajasthan and Travancore-Cochin (Kerala) were organized into larger and more compact units. The state of Hyderabad was divided into three parts and its territories were merged with the adjoining states of Andhra, Bombay and Mysore. The state of Saurashtra was merged with the reorganized bilingual state of Bombay. The State of Madhya Bharat became a part of the reorganized state of Madhya Pradesh. The state of PEPSU was merged in the state of Punjab. The territories of all Part A states except those of the state of Assam, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh were also reorganized. Six Centrally administered areas created they were Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Laccadive Minicoy and Amindivi (Lakshadweep) islands. The political map of India, especially in the South was drastically changed by the States Reorganization Act of 1956.

DEVELOPMENTS AFTER STATES REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1956

The national question of the Indian states was settled by the States Reorganization Act of 1956. But the states of Bombay, Punjab and Assam remained bilingual. In Mumbai, Marathi and Gujarati speaking people were fighting for the establishments of two separate linguistic states. A separatist movement arose among the Nagas living on the Assam Burma border. In Punjab, as regards religion, the population of the Punjab was divided into Sikhs and Hindus. Therefore, the linguistic movement continued to expand even after the reorganization of states.

The Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti launched a strong movement for the Establishment of separate state of Maharashtra. The movement succeeded and the bilingual state of Bombay was divided in May 1960 into Maharashtra and Gujarat. Goa became Union Territory in 1962. In 1966, Punjab was reorganized and its several parts were distributed among three units; the core Punjabi Suba, the new state of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

Throughout the Colonial period, the North East was treated separately and differently from other regions of British India. The reorganization focused on the state of Assam in northeast India which posed a diverse set of issues for Indian Leaders and had been Left largely untouched by the SRC [Chada, (2002) 50]. Decades of missionary conversions among the tribal population had enlarged the gulf between people residing in the plains and those residing in the hills. The overlapping of the Naga and Mizo Tribes across India's border with Burma and China exemplified the close link between issue of ethnic autonomy, National security and territorial control in this area [Ghani, (2010) 4].

In 1970s the Northeast was split up and several new states were created following the establishment of Nagaland in 1963. Statehood was conferred upon Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura on January 21, 1972. The Kingdom of Sikkim joined the Indian Union as a state on April 26, 1975. Over a decade later, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram became states on February 20, 1987. Himachal Pradesh became State in 1971. This was followed by Goa on May 30, 1987.

In the first phase states were reorganized on linguistic basis but after 1980s a need was felt to divide large states into smaller, to address the issue of under development. In the year 2000, three new states were created; Chhattisgarh (November 1) was created out of eastern Madhya Pradesh; Uttarakhand (November 9) which has since been renamed Uttarakhand, was created out of the hilly regions of northwest Uttar Pradesh; and Jharkhand (November 15) was created out of the southern districts of Bihar.

In 2013 Telangana state was separated from Andhra Pradesh on the basis of under development. Therefore many groups or tribal people are demanding separate state. These include Gorkhaland to be carved out of West Bengal, Maru Pradesh from Rajasthan, Vidarbha from Maharashtra and Harit Pradesh, Purvanchal and Bundelkhand from Uttar Pradesh. All these demands are identity based on dialect, and yet they are economically and administratively viable. It remains to be seen how the situation pans out, but suffice it to say that current demands for reorganization of Indian states comes from a complex picture involving religion, language, ethnicity and economics.

CONCLUSION

Languages originated during ancient period and during medieval period, the developed considerably. Many linguistic groups in India emerged in 12th century. During British period these linguistic groups development separate identity and hence they demanded separate state for each language. In 1905, Bengal Partition has declared. Six years later the Partition of Bengal was annulled by the pressure of people, Although, Assam and Bihar was separated from Bengal in 1911. It was a seeds planted of linguistic states in Indian politics. Indian National Congress adopted the principle of linguistic province and repeated the same during British period.

British Government supported the formation of provinces on the basis of language and culture. After Independence linguistic movements were developed in India. Dar Commission and JVP Committee did not favor the formation of state on the basis of language. But after the death of Potti Shriramulu, a leader from Andhra, Indian Government had no option but to accept the demand of Andhra, Prime Minister Nehru announced that Andhra was a first state formed on the basis of language. After that Fazal Ali Commission was appointed which recommended creation of 16 states and 3 Union territories. These recommendations were accepted by Government of India and the State Reorganization Act, 1956 was passed. Government of India created 14 states and 6 Union territories through State Reorganization Act. After 1956, many states were created on the issue of development, ethnicity and culture. At Present there are 28 states and 9 Union territories in Indian federal system.

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