



end of 1953 the Government created a states reorganization commission to consider further re-drawing of state boundaries. The Commission was composed of Mr. S. Fazl Ali, the then Governor of Orissa, as Chairman; Mr. K. M. Panikkar, former Indian Ambassador to China, who was then Ambassador to Egypt, and Mr. H. N. Kunzru, a member of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and a prominent liberal.

After an exhaustive programme of interviewing witnesses, studying briefs and touring the country, the Commissioners presented their 250-page report in October 1955. As a work of scholarship this document ranks high and its comprehensiveness and erudition will make it a standard text book in Indian political science for many years to come. It is a major state paper equivalent in importance to the Rowell-Sirois Report in Canada. By applying a mainly linguistic measure the Commissioners pared down the twenty-eight states set up in the post-partition period to sixteen states of equal status and seven centrally-administered "Union Territories". After some months of negotiations with political groups and consultations with state governments and legislatures, the Government accepted most of the Commission's recommendations and implemented them by legislation and constitutional amendments during the Monsoon Session of Parliament in 1956.

The Government made two major changes, affecting the States of Andhra and Bombay which had not been included in the Commission's recommendations. Instead of creating a separate state of Telengana for the Telugu-speaking portion of the former princely state of Hyderabad, as the Commission had recommended, the Government merged this portion of Hyderabad with the