

# TOWARDS FURTHER BALKANISATION OF INDIA

(SACHAR COMMITTEE REPORT : AN ASSESSMENT)

COMPILED & EDITTED

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## INTRODUCTION

The Sachar Committee Report and the acceptance of the same by the UPA Govt. without placing the Report before Parliament for a debate and Prime Minister's 15-point programme for the Muslim students and community have pushed the country to a position where pursuit of knowledge, enlightenment of the mind and development of the genius of the young generation is no longer the prime objective of the government. The policy is characterized by naked and shameless appeasement of the Muslim community which has all along resisted every effort to achieve national integration. They never felt an attachment to, nor any emotional bond with the soul of India. In fact the community is never interested in national integration. They have never given up their game even after wresting Pakistan and are making attempts to extract further pounds of flesh. The Govt's policy has only provided a fillip to the pursuit of their aim further balkanizing the country. In effect the policy has driven the final nail into the coffin of national integration and Hindu –Muslim unity. The UPA Govt. has once again brought the country to the precipice of a fearful calamity reminiscent of the pre-partition days.

(1)

Muslims and Christians were not only ruling classes for a thousand years but they, during their reign, discriminated against Hindus and reduced many forward castes, which refused to convert, to poverty and deprived them of social standing. During Islamic rule Muslim rulers imposed higher taxes on Hindus and regarded them as jimmies, i.e. fit to do menial and dirty degrading work. Christians practiced the same in a more subtle and

sophisticated way as did Macaulay by demeaning Hindu religion and culture. During the last 1000 years there was no discrimination against the Muslims. In fact since the 1920s, colonial policy gave preferential treatment to Muslims in a (largely successful) attempt to wean them away from joint action with Hindus. Unlike in Pakistan where minorities were and are being persecuted, in India they have been given benefits not enjoyed by Hindus, e.g. in education and in practicing their faith. Hence, there can never be any question of regarding Muslims and Christians as communities that suffered historically acquired and imposed disabilities to merit any preferential treatment to-day through reservations and quotas.

The UPA plan divides and discriminates the people of this country and the initiatives the ruling conglomerate has undertaken are akin to the 14-point demands of the pre-1947 Muslim League. ABRSM wants to forewarn the nation how under the guise of secularism the national government has become a tool in the hands of destructive and divisive elements and how it has acquired an unprecedented anti-Hindu agenda. Secularism in India has all along been an eye-wash and a smoke-screen to camouflage appeasement of the Muslim community. Under Indira Gandhi it became vote bank politics. Rajiv Gandhi and his successors made it appeasement. Under the UPA secularism is interpreted as brazenly anti-Hindu to the extent of denigrating Hindu ideals and is pursued as state policy.

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Dr. Rafiq Zakaria in his book 'Indian Muslims : Where have they gone wrong?' says, "The British got naturally worried and they did what they could to disrupt that (Hindu-Muslim) unity. They engineered riots, they played politics by giving separate electorate to the Muslims, they devised various methods , both political and social, to keep the two communities apart. They dangled grants and concessions alternately to both the religious groups. Ultimately, they saw to it that the country was divided, through the distrust that they had so assiduously built up between the two over the decades. To perpetuate their rule they followed the Roman policy of ' Divide and

Rule'. The blame rests as much on our joint leadership as on the British. However, in the last stage it was Jinnah's obduracy which struck the final blow to our unity."

The UPA under Sonia Gandhi is playing the role of the British, to divide and rule.

The historic parallels are strikingly similar and ominous. Take this instance, "Before he opted for Pakistan, Muslim League leader Surahwordy had decided to stay in India and lead the Bengal Muslims in India. His letter to Chaudhury Khaliquzzaman on September 10, 1947 was eloquent and made interesting reading. He was faced with the dilemma that unless Muslims derived their strength on account of group solidarity they would not be respected by the Hindus. At the same time solidarity and strength would raise suspicion about their bonafides. Hence he suggested formation of strong Muslim pockets dotted all over the country. His other alternative that both India and Pakistan should strive to destroy the complex of superiority of their majority populations and they should accept their minorities as their own was a cry in the wilderness so far as Pakistan was concerned." ( 'Islam : in India's Transition to Modernity.' by M.A. Karandhikar.)

Dr. Manmohan Singh seems to have entirely adopted Surahwordy's advice in the last five years as Prime Minister.

The Union budget for 2008- 09, along with some policy statements by the UPA Government and particularly by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh , is certainly an exercise in brinkmanship which betrays a certain desperation on the part of the UPA Govt. to hang on to power even if that required stoking the desire of the Muslim community to work towards further balkanization of the country. The UPA Govt. is playing with fire, deliberately ignoring the murderous politics pursued by the Muslim community during the pre-Independence days for securing Pakistan.

The nation is in peril today and on the brink of committing suicide, after the declaration at the National Development Council meeting that 15 per cent of development funds would be set aside in the 11<sup>th</sup> plan for "minorities" meaning Muslims and the Christians in every state of India.

Hindus are not, therefore, minorities in the reckoning of the UPA government whether in Kashmir or the North-East or anywhere in the country. Minority arithmetic applies only to those who forcibly ruled India for 1000 years, i.e. Muslims and Christians and who had reduced the nation from the most developed nation of the world, by the then contemporary standards, to the poorest nation by 1947. That is the new politics of minority appeasement to secure their vote bank.

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The 15-point programme of Prime Minister Dr. Mammohan Singh is a repudiation and stark violation of the policy of his and his party's political Guru Jawaharlal Nehru. In a speech from the Delhi station of All India Radio on December 31, 1952 Nehru said after a visit to Kanyakumari :

"From that southern trip of India I pictured this great country spread out before me right up to the Himalayas in the north and thought of her long and chequered history. Ours is a wonderful inheritance but how shall we keep it? How shall we serve the country which has given us so much and made her great and strong?"

"We look at our country and find both good and ill, powerful forces at work to build her and also forces which would disrupt and disintegrate her. We cannot do much to affect the destiny of the world as a whole but we can surely make a brave attempt to mould the destiny of our 360 (then) million people . In India the first essential is the maintenance of the unity of the country, not merely a political unity but a unity of the mind and the heart, which precludes the narrow urges that make for disunity and which breaks down the barriers raised in the name of religion or those between State and State or, for that matter, any other barrier. We must aim at a classless society." He added, "Of course you must plan for everybody. No planning, which is not for all, is good enough. You must always have that view before you and you must prepare the foundations for the next step towards the final goal. And so, you ultimately start a process which grows by itself." ( Speech in Parliament, New Delhi, December, 15, 1952 ). This shows how flawed Manmohan Singh's approach is.

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There is an interesting survey conducted by the Left leaning socio-scientific NGO 'Shastra Sahitya Parishad', Kerala : How it lives, How it thinks, released in December, 2006. According to the survey, it is not minority Muslims or Christians but Hindus comprising 54.47 per cent of Kerala's 3.2 crore population who are at the economic downslide. The survey by the Marxist NGO says Hindus in the state form the major chunk of the State's poor with over 39 lakhs living below poverty line. The condition of Hindus is worse than that of the Christians and Muslims in employment, land holding and income. The survey further says that the condition of the so-called forward castes is more pathetic than that of the backward caste Hindus.

In March 2007, the CPM released a Charter of demands for the Advancement of the Muslim Community—a dangerous document reminiscent of the Muslim League demands under Md. Ali Jinnah. Apart from focussing on a communal quota for Dalit Muslims – a term that violets the basic tenets of Islam, which professes equality of all members of the faith the Charter demands introducing a sub-plan only for Muslims for allocating separate development funds on communal lines. The party was not satisfied with the 2007-08 budget allocation of Rs 500 crores for Muslim welfare. The wholesale adoption of the Sachar Committee Report by the CPM appears notorious considering the record of the party in Kerala and West Bengal in the social uplift of the Muslim community, as underlined in the report.

Encouraged by the indulgence of the UPA, Muslim outfits organized a procession in the capital in March, 2007 demanding statewise quotas in proportion to their population. Almost all the Muslim organizations came on one platform to seek full implementation of religion- based reservation in jobs, education and growth fund allocation all over the country. The UPA and the Sachar Committee report have clearly released the jinn from the bottle of pre-partition communal virus.

The UPA has cynically injected a vicious brand of communalism in the Indian policy with the hope that en block Muslim votes will permanently

become its captive preserve. On ameliorating the genuine grievances of the Muslims both the Congress and Communist ruled states project a dubious record. Similar is the attitude of more virulent votaries of vote bank politics like Mulayam Singh and Laloo Prasad Yadav.

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Following the report of The Sachar Committee the Prime Minister is again working on reservations based on religion. This is ultra vires and goes against every tenet of the Constitution. The Constitution does not allow this kind of discrimination on caste or religious lines. A constitutionally formed government is duty bound to treat everybody equal on legal and policy issues.

Even by Congress standards Manmohan Singh's prime ministership has touched a new low. Earlier our Prime Ministers used to exhort the countrymen to rise above caste, religion, region and be Indians first and everything else afterwards. Here is a Prime Minister who works overtime to violate the letter and spirit of the Constitution to divide and discriminate the countrymen on communal lines. And he, like his party, by no means appears contrite over such dangerous perversion. His government is aggressively working towards a polarization of votes by pursuing a policy of minorityism, encouraging social tension and disquiet.

On the Republic Day 59 years after India became a secular, democratic republic, we are inquiring as to how will this politics of appeasement affect national unity? Will it create contrived and bogus grievances deepening divisions in society or will it strengthen our sense of oneness and belonging? The politics of appeasement started by the Congress under Mahatma Gandhi in early 1920s resulted in the country's vivisection. The tragic history is not forgotten. The wounds of partition have not yet healed. But the UPA has embarked on a course that mocks at those who talk of national integration. The UPA is provoking a divide through dubious machinations.

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The Planning Commission reports that 26 per cent of India's population

is living below poverty line. If emancipation of this deprived section is the priority why talk only of 13 per cent Muslims and in any case not all of them are below poverty line? Moreover, learned Maulanas of Muslim Personal Law Board have decreed that Muslims cannot take to banking or insurance, polio drops or Yoga classes, as these militate against their religious dogmas.

The Sachar Committee claims that only 3 per cent of Muslim children go to Madrasas . The Report was an attempt to tell social scientists that the “Missing Muslims” in jobs was not the result of Madrasa education. Sachar was trying to emphasize on a chimera of conspiracy against Muslims for their backwardness. At another place the report stated that the condition of Muslims is worse than that of Dalits.

By introducing the Sachar Committee and Ranganath Misra Commission to devise communal quota, by soft-peddling on terrorist outfits and Islamising the foreign policy the UPA has created a cantankerous mess of governance. The UPA gives the impression that it is working on an agenda for national disintegration.

Bibek Debroy, a well-known economist writing in the Indian Express ( June 12, 2007) said, “A 21<sup>st</sup> century government should recognize deprivation as an individual issue and defuse collective tension based on caste or religion. Whenever there is an attempt to segregate, mainstreaming never occurs and deprivation becomes permanent. Caste and religion are attributes that should remain in the private domain, irrelevant for public policy purposes. What should be relevant for policy is deprivation based on economic condition. Government permitting, that is precisely what should have happened... But Governments won’t permit and will intervene to encourage this caste – cum – religious identity. It is a mindset that the UPA government has encouraged across the board.”

The National Sample Survey Organisation ( NSSO ) which undertook a study in June, 2006 concluded that unemployment rate among Hindus and Muslims is almost equal. Its report of March 30, 2007 shows that it differs by just 0.5 per cent and that 755 Muslims per 1000 were in self-employed category against only 427 Hindus per 1000 in 2004-05. This sample survey

shatters the myth being created by Congress and Communist parties that far more Muslims are unemployed than the Hindus.

## WHO IS A MINORITY?

Strange as it may sound, there is no definition of minority in the Indian Constitution ( although Art. 29&30 make provisions for minority right to run separate education), nor is there a definition in UNO resolutions, or an universally accepted definition in international law.

Some countries, such as Thailand and Brazil, refuse to accept that there are minorities in their country. These nations have told the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities that they have no minority to notify, despite being a multi-religious, multi-racial society.

Therefore, before we can even discuss minority rights, we need to be clear about the concept of minority itself. The word ‘minority’ has a substantive meaning only if special protection in the Constitution is to be provided. And if so, then a further question would arise as to who these minorities are, that would require a definition of minority to identify them and also what constitutional protection is to be provided.

Such protection is required for the minority only to be compensated for some historically acquired disability.

So, the present practice in India of regarding any non-Hindu group of less than 50% of the population as minorities is ridiculous. The Whites of South Africa are numerically a small number, but they are not as ‘minorities’ deserving special protection or reservations. Parsis in India, despite being a microscopic minority numerically, have consistently refused to ask for any Constitutional safeguards. They are, therefore, not a minority in the Constitutional or statutory dimension.

In 2001, an 11-judge Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court delivered a judgement on the question of minority rights in education (T.M.A. Pai Foundation case) but did not define the term ‘minority.



Subsequent judgements of the Supreme Court, such as delivered by a five-judge Constitutional Bench in 2003 in the Islamic Academy case, and the seven-judge Constitutional bench in 2005 in the Inamdar case have also not defined the concept of minority.

In 1992, India's Parliament enacted the National Commission for Minorities Act, but did not define a minority in it. Section 2(C) of the Act merely states that minority is what the Govt. of India will notify in the Gazette. The Govt. have notified without or explanation Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Parsis as religious minorities. Why they are so has not been explained. Even the State Minorities Commission have not bothered to define minorities.

In other words, the nation has been discussing minority rights for the last sixty years without defining what and who can be the minorities. How can we identify minorities if we do not have a definition of the term? Lack of proper definition will seriously and deleteriously impact our democracy and national integrity. It is appropriate to quote from the three-judge Supreme Court bench in *Bal Patil vs. the Union of India* case, delivered by Justice Dharmadhikari in 2005: "Such claims to minority status based on religion would increase the fond hope of various sections of the people in getting special protections, privileges and treatment as part of the Constitutional guarantee. Encouragement to fissiparous tendencies would be a serious jolt to the secular structure of constitutional democracy. We should guard against making our country akin to a theocratic state on multinationalism."

### **DEFINITION OF MINORITY**

Based on the circumstances arising out of the Indian legacy and in recognition of defining of Indian history Justice Dharmadhikari said, "I will define a minority in India as follows :

"A collective of Indian citizens, constituting a numerical minority and situated in a non-dominant position in society, endowed with characteristics which differ from those of the majority, having suffered from imposed deprivation over a long period and thus have acquired disabilities, are a minority if these debilities cannot be removed except by providing special

constitutional protection such as reservations in jobs and educational institutions."

By this definition Muslims and Christians cannot be considered as minorities in Indian Society because their disabilities, if at all, are not acquired from deprivation imposed on them. In fact Muslims and Christians, like the Whites of South Africa , have been ruling classes in India for a long period. Sequentially, these two religious groups have ruled India for over a thousand years, during which period they practiced religious apartheid against the Hindus.

Hence, for national integrity patriotic Indians should resist with all their might any attempt to introduce quotas in jobs and education or for anything else such targeted plan allocation for the benefit of Muslims and Christians. Those Muslims and Christians who consider themselves as patriotic Indians should also, like the Parsis, reject any offer by mischievous politicians to introduce quotas for them.

The goal of minority rights has to be to further social justice. Towards this end, we must strive for equal and high quality educational opportunity and create a mind set for national unity and integration. Quotas reservations are essential for Scheduled Castes and Tribes, but here too the concept the concept of creamy layer must operate. But we cannot accept special rights for religious minorities like Muslims and Christians, just as we cannot for Brahmins although they are as poor a community as and in many cases much poorer than the Muslims and Christians.

The logic is the same — those who have been ruling classes cannot claim minority status in the constitutional matrix of the nation. Muslims and Christians can become part of Hindustan's 'mool dhara' (mainstream) if they reject reservation and quota offer of the UPA and identify themselves with Hindus by declaring that they proudly accept that their ancestors were Hindus.

### **BEHIND THE PRIME MINISTER'S DECLARATION**

For decades an unsubstantiated myth has been propagated across the country that Muslims are economically more disadvantaged than the Hindus.

And this falsehood is being unabashedly used by the UPA to provide unmerited benefits and concessions in pursuance of the divisive vote bank politics, enunciated in the Prime Minister's famously notoriously "Muslims first" proclamation of December 2006.

In flagrant violation of the Right to Equality enshrined in the Constitution this community-specific concession is being bestowed on Muslims on the ground that they are economically more disadvantaged than Hindus. The convoluted findings contained in Sachar Committee Report is being cited in support of the decision.

The 15-point programme of the Prime Minister is not only a naked attempt of the Congress to pose as the only friend of the Muslim community to use them as their exclusive vote bank but the programme also exposes his diabolical anti-Hindu nature under the garb of a well-meaning gentleman.

The Ranganath Misra Commission for Linguistic and Religious Minorities in May, 2007 has recommended sub-quota of 8.4 per cent for minorities within the 27 per cent OBC quota and reservation to Dalit minorities by including such converts under SC category within the 15% SC quota. The Commission said that in the 27 per cent OBC quota, a 8.4 per cent sub-quota could be earmarked for the minorities with an internal break-up of 6 per cent for Muslims and 2.4 per cent for other minorities. If Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians are clubbed into the 15 per cent quota they will squeeze out SC Hindus. Misra has been a Congress member of Rajya Sabha.

The basic premise of this Commission report is to ensure 15% representation, proportionate to the minorities in Government jobs and educational institutions. "The break-up within the recommended 15% earmarked seats in institutions shall be : 10% for Muslims and the remaining 5% for the other minorities. However, if the Muslims cannot avail the 10% quota, it should go to the non-Muslim minorities and in no case shall any seat within the recommended 15% go to the majority community," the Misra report said.

So, the grand secular agenda of the Congress and the Communist parties and various socialist parties is to reduce percentage of Hindus below

85% in all public services and in all educational Institutions. Those Hindus who oppose this grand agenda are dubbed as communal Hindus. As we know, at present Hindus constitute 95% of all public services. So, all those Hindus who have school-going children must wake up to protect the interests of their son and daughters.

### **ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE DEFENCE AND POLICE FORCES**

According to Press reports of November 26, 2006 the National Commission For Minorities (NCM) asked the Union Home Ministry to ensure a fair representation of religious minorities in the police and para military forces.

The Sachar Committee even asked for statistics about the religion-wise representation in the country's Armed Forces. The Indian Army was the first to raise objection to this demand of the Committee. Although the Navy and the Air Force passed on the information to the Committee, Gen. J.J. Singh, the then Chief of the Army Staff, sharply reacted to the style of functioning of the Sachar Committee and admirably withstood the pressure and refused to pass on the information to the committee. The Army made it clear to the Committee that it was not possible for them to supply the information and they even instructed the Committee that it should under no circumstances include the information supplied by the Navy and the Air Force in its report.

Although Sachar did not include any information on the three Armed Forces, he did not forget to include information on the proportionate representation of Hindus and Muslims in the CRPF, CISF,BSF and SSB.

Pleading innocence under pressure Sachar said, " His innocuous purpose of seeking such information was " to know if Muslims were under-represented in some departments or any other sphere." Further he said, " Such an approach is not divisive but is positive, an essential requirement for impartial and caring administration in its commitment for instilling confidence in the fairness of the government's functioning...."

Gen. J.J. Singh reacted saying, “ What every soldier finds most objectionable in the exercise is Sachar’s notion of equating the armed forces with any other department of central government. Could Mr. Sachar please tell us in which organization is dying for the country a part of the job?”

Suppose there are 10,000 vacancies to be filled up. So, seats reserved for SC Hindus as per existing formula will be 1500, for ST Hindus 750 and for OBC’s 2700. Now if 15% jobs are reserved for minorities as per recommendation of Justice Misra, general category seats for which a Hindu can compete will come down to 8500. So, number of seats for SC Hindus will get reduced to 1275, for ST Hindus the number will get reduced to 637 and for OBC’s the number will come down to 2295. If Misra’s recommendation of 8.4 % sub-quota within quota is also accepted, only 1591 seats will be left OBC Hindus. More minority candidates will naturally spill over into general category seats.

Under the PM’s 15-point programme a minority student will get cheaper educational loans at 3% interest per annum whereas a Hindu student has to pay 12.5% to 14% interest per annum from banks. Minority students are required to repay educational loans in five years after completion of his course, but in case of Hindu students repayments starts just one year after completion of course.

In 2007- 2008 the UPA Govt. has introduced 20,000 special scholarships for minority students. For minority students studying in top 50 institutions ( like IIMs, IITs etc.) full course fee is reimbursable . For those studying in other institutions course fee up to Rs. 20,000 per annum is reimbursable. Hostellers will get maintenance allowance of Rs.1000 per month. In addition, minority candidates appearing for competitive exams.of civil services etc. will be paid for attending coaching classes of their choice. No such facility is available for Hindu students.

Congress and Communist parties have, thus, imposed such a system where a Muslim candidate has all the legal rights to compete on equal footings with a Hindu candidate for employment, but there are thousands of posts paid from government funds for which Hindus just cannot apply, such as Chairman Minority Commission, Principal, Vice-Principal of St.

Stephen’s College etc.

Minority Commissions have been set up to ensure that minorities are not discriminated but there is no Commission to ensure that Hindus are not victimized in India by minorities.

Such ill treatments a Hindu voter has invited for himself and for his children by giving his vote to pseudo-secular parties or by abstaining from voting. Every vote given to any pseudo-secular party is going to humiliate the Hindu youth. A faithful and firm handling of this inequality imposed by pseudo-secular parties upon the Hindu youth will change the politics of India.

### **CLOSE SCRUTINY OF SACHAR COMMITTEE REPORT REVEALS A DIFFERENT PICTURE**

It is painful to see how the class of ‘secular, progressive and liberal’ Hindu politicians right from the days of the 1916 Congress-Muslim League Lucknow Pact till date in the form of the Sachar Committee Report, Ranganath Misra Commission and the 15-Point Programme of the Prime Minister have been systematically concocting false and fabricated justifications to reduce bit by bit the educational, employment and economic ( E- 3) opportunities of all Hindu boys and girls including SC, ST and Leftist Hindu boys and girls, pushing them to second and third class status vis-à-vis minority boys and girls.

The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) report of March 30,2007 shows that unemployment rate among Muslims and Hindus of both sexes in urban areas differs by just about 0.5 per cent and 755 Muslim per 1000 were in self-employment category against only 427 Hindus per 1000 in 2005-06. This sample survey shatters the myth being created by Congress and Communist parties that far more Muslims are unemployed than The Hindus.

It may come as another rude shock to those Hindu intellectuals who have made it their business to plead concessions after concessions for Muslims on the pretext of Muslim backwardness that as per Census Report of 2001 Muslim males have higher literacy rate than Hindu males in eleven states : Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Chhastishgarh, Gujrat,



Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Pondichery and Tamil Nadu.

In thirteen states, Muslim women enjoy higher literacy rate than Hindu women.( Andhra Pradesh, Andaman& Nicobar, Chhattisgarh, Daman & Diu & Nagarhaveli, Gujrat , Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Pondichery and Tamil Nadu.) Statement 8a & 8b, Census Report 2001.

The Sachar Committee (Page-53) also admits that in ten states literacy rate among Muslims are higher than even that of the Upper Caste Hindus and also higher than SC/ST Hindus.

In Karnataka literacy for Muslims as per Sachar Committee (Table at page-287) is 70.1 per cent, Hindus( 65.6 per cent) and SC/ST ( 80.8 per cent). In Kerala Muslim literacy rate is 89.4 per cent, Hindus (90.2 per cent) and SC/ST (80.8 per cent). Still the Congress manifesto of 2004 declared all Muslims as educationally backwards in Kerala and Karnataka to reserve jobs for Muslims with a view to implement its core agenda of reducing job opportunity of Hindu young men and women by hook by crook.

Not to be left behind in reducing percentage of Hindus in government services, Karunanidhi is also harping on educational backwardness of Muslims in Tamil Nadu.

The Sachar Committee ( Table at page-287) reports that literacy of Muslims in Andhra Pradesh is 68 per cent followed by Hindus (59.4 per cent) and SC/ST (48.9 per cent) but Chief Minister Y.S. Rajsekhar Reddy (a Christian) reserved 5 % seats for Muslims in educational institutions and in Government jobs on the false plea of educational backwardness of Muslims in Andhra Pradesh just to cheat the Hindu youth of their seats in colleges and their jobs in Government services.

According to the 2001 Census of India (Report on Religion Data) Christian Community enjoys higher literacy rate than Hindus; all India literacy rate for the Christian community was 64.4 per cent compared to 76.2 per cent of Hindus.

Right from 1954 the Congress party Prime Ministers at the Centre

have been issuing instructions to all Central Ministries as well as to State Governments to give special considerations to recruitment of religious minority candidates in public services with implied intention to reduce percentage of Hindus in public services. In 1983 Prime Minister Indira Gandhi became the first Prime Minister to issue instructions to include minority members in all Selection Boards and Departmental Promotion Committees. The circular was again issued by Rajiv Gandhi and Viswanath Pratap Singh Government. Manmohan Singh Government re-issued the circular in January,2007 with added condition of making quarterly reports on progress of minority candidates actually recruited and promoted. After all , the communally appointed members of the Selection Boards will have to show some result of their being added to the Boards and, thus, the intake of minority candidates will go up and percentage of intake of Hindu candidates , whether Leftists or Rightists, whether forward or backward, whether upper caste or scheduled caste Hindus will automatically come down. This is happening when overall unemployment situation is worsening in India day by day.

### **WHAT SACHAR COMMITTEE ITSELF SAYS**

1) In chapter- 4 ( Part -2) the Report says, “External valuations indicate that many so-called literates did not have the ability to apply their reading and writing skills to real life situations and a substantial portion reverted to illiteracy within 4-5 year after leaving school.”

This is a problem faced by all the communities in the country and is not specific to the Muslims. There is no bias against the Muslim Community. It is a failure at the administrative level to retain the students and the suggestion of deliberate deprivation is utterly mischievous and deserves to be condemned.

2) “The literacy rate among Muslims in 2001 was below the national average.”

This is not surprising considering the fact that development activity has not proceeded equally in each state. The Report says in pp. 52 &53 :

“The low literacy level of Muslims and SC/STs is well documented

in research studies. In the mid 1960s the literacy level of both these groups were low and far below that of 'All others'. In many states, however, the position of SC/STs was worse than that of the Muslims. The literacy rate among Muslims 2001 was 59.1%. This is below the national average of (65.1%). It is important to note, however, that SC/STs are still the least literate group in both urban and rural India. Although the literacy levels of 64% and 58% among male SC/STs and Muslims respectively are not low, they are below the level for 'All Others' which is 81%. In contrast, Muslim women with a literacy level of 50% have been able to keep up with women of other communities and are much ahead of the ST/ST women in rural India.

General analysis at the state level presents a better picture for Muslims. In as many as 10 out of 21 selected states literacy rates among Muslims are higher than the state average. These include Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat."

"In Andhra Pradesh, for instance, 68% of Muslims are literate, compared to 61% in the state as a whole and 63% for 'All Others'. When aggregate literacy levels among males and females are considered, Muslims (77% 54%) are better off than 'All Others' (73% and 54%)."

Surprisingly, the Report says in the same paragraph: "Andhra Pradesh highlights the fact that the constant dimensions of human development (like literacy) should not be analysed at the state level."

This shows the biased attitude of the Committee as Andhra Pradesh nullifies the claim of deprivation of the Muslims.

The mischievous intention of the Committee becomes further clear when it says in page 53 :

"It is, therefore, necessary to undertake disaggregated analysis at appropriate levels. In general, the state level estimates suggest that the literacy gap between the Muslims and the general average is greater in urban areas and for women. However, there are states like Tamil Nadu where Muslims do better in all sub-groups and states like Kerala where the differences across SRCs ( Socio-religious Communities) are minimal. Since both place of residence ( rural-urban) and gender ( male- female)

identities can be a focus of policy instruments, it is advisable to look at the disaggregated picture before taking decisions regarding allocation of financial resources."

It amply proves that the existing conditions do not warrant a reservation of seats and preferential allocation of funds for the Muslims depriving the other more economically handicapped communities.

On page 57 the Report says, "In 2004 the Muslim enrolment rate for the population was slightly better than in 1999-2000 than that of the OBCs but was somewhat lower than the average enrolment rate of children. This is a positive trend consistent with the increasing of the Muslim community on education."

"State-wise analysis reveals reasonably high enrolment rates amongst Muslim children in most states. In Kerala, Karnataka, Delhi, Maharashtra and some other states the enrolment rates among Muslims are higher than the state average. In fact the increase in enrolment has been highest among SC/STs followed by Muslims. In 2004 -05 the Muslim enrolment rate was slightly higher than that of the OBCs. This is a positive trend. In Kerala, Karnataka, Delhi, Maharashtra and some other states the enrolment rate among Muslims are higher than the state average."

Page – 58 :- "Overall, while the share of drop-outs and children who have never attended school is still higher among Muslims than most other SRCs, enrolment rates have risen significantly in recent years. In a recent study it has been found that school enrolment for different communities is significantly affected by the local level of development.

Interestingly, once the children are placed in 'more favourable' circumstances inter –community ( Hindus/ SC-ST/ Muslims ) differences in enrolment rates become insignificant ..... Muslims seem to be overcoming barriers to enrolment arising out of parental illiteracy and other socio-economic constraints."

Page- 60 :- "The first striking feature is that the probability of completing different levels of school education ( primary, middle, secondary etc.) has increased for all communities during 1983- 2000. The sharpest rise has been in the probability of completing middle school for all

communities, including Muslims. But differences still exist and the Muslims and SCs/STs are behind others..... However . once children complete primary education, the proportion of children completing middle school is the same (65%) for Muslims, STs and SCs but lower than ‘All Others’(75%). The next transition also shows a similar pattern; about 50% of Muslims and SC/ST children who have completed middle school are likely to complete secondary school as well, which is lower than ‘All Other’group (62%). Interestingly, in the transition from secondary to college education, Muslims perform somewhat better than SCs and STs ; while only 23% of the SC/ST students who complete secondary education are likely to complete college education.

Page-75:- “While the chances of eligible Muslims completing graduate studies are still significantly lower than those of Hindu-Gen. persons, the gap narrows down. Besides, in many situations the chances of eligible Muslims completing graduate education are not very different from those of eligible OBCs and other minorities. In other words, once the Muslims cross the hurdle of the minimum qualification and are placed in the same situation in terms of location, economic status etc, differences between Muslims and other SRCs narrow down and are often not very different.”

Such examples can be gleaned from the ‘Report’ to show that the charge of deliberate deprivation of the Muslim Community is a myth and has only been highlighted for the narrow aim of garnering Muslim votes. If the administration is streamlined the differences that have been blown out of proportions can be easily removed.

### **PARTICIPATION IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IIMs AND IITs**

“As a special case the Committee has considered the enrolment of Muslim students in two sets of elite institutions — the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Efforts were made to collect data on enrolment for recent years— 2004-05 and 2005-06. The process of admission to IIMs is complex and needs to be understood

differently from the straight forward procedure of university departments. As these are national level institutions of higher learning, the process of admissions starts from holding a ‘Common Admission Test (CAT) for all IIMs. Therefore, the final admissions are dependent upon the initial number of test seekers, followed by those who qualify to be interviewed and the third stage at which the candidates are selected. The final number which joins a particular institution depends upon the choice of institutions provided to a selected candidate.

It is important to note that data on candidates taking CAT examinations and respective scores according to SRCs were not made available to the Committee as these are not compiled by these institutions. Stage -2 data on the number of Muslim students called for interview and those selected at Stage-3 was used to calculate the rate of success. About one out of three Muslim applicants is selected, which compares favourably with, in fact is somewhat better, than the success rate of other candidates. Despite a better success rate Muslims constitute only 1.3% of students studying in all courses in all IIMs in India, and in absolute number they were only 63 from out of 4743.

One needs to understand as to why a small number of Muslim students reached the interview stage. One possible factor could be low levels of achievement in the CAT examinations while another could be that although the achievement levels are similar across SRCs , not many Muslim candidates took the CAT examination in the first place. It needs to be re-emphasized that once the Muslim students reach the interview stage (which is essentially based on the scores obtained in a written admission test ) their success rate is quite high.”

In case of IITs Muslim’s share in Ph. D. courses is somewhat better compared with other courses. .... Apparently, Muslims are able to compete better in the examination taken after completing graduation.”

Thus the Sachar Committee Report itself proves that the charge of discrimination against Muslims is false. It is totally mischievous and the clamour for reservation is a dirty attempt to enter these institutions through the back door of reservation.

## BANK LOANS FOR MUSLIMS

One is surprised by UPA's move to direct the banks to reserve 15 per cent funds for loans to Muslims. The justification for such a direction can be found in the ill-conceived Sachar Committee Report which given a figure that Muslims, though they constitute 13 per cent of the population, have received only 1 % of bank credit. Anybody will naturally feel that there must be practice of religious discrimination in the banking sector.

When it was checked up with the Indian Banks Association whether there were any complaints of discrimination on the basis of religion while scrutinizing the loan proposals, not a single complaint of such discrimination from throughout the country had ever been received .Loan proposals are scanned on merit of feasibility of business model and creditworthiness of the borrower. Millions of proposals are scrutinized and sanctioned or rejected on this evaluation. There are complaints of not processing fast enough or not granting sufficient funds or sometimes expecting graft. But there is not a single complaint of religious bias from throughout the country. How could then our intelligent Finance Minister justify directions for 15 per cent funds to be reserved for financing proposals submitted by Muslims?

This clearly shows that the decisions of the UPA Government are political in nature and not based on facts. The Sachar Committee gives only a figure without taking pains to find out the cause of underdevelopment in certain sections of the community. First, the findings are not based on facts as banks never classify their clients on the basis of religion and as such are not ready with the data of loan sanctioned to various religious communities. Second, the Sachar Committee does not tell the whole truth. For example in Gujrat the Bohra community ( a Muslim community) is a business community and gets liberal credit loans.The same is the story in Tamil Nadu, but the community overlooks such facts and does not calculate the proportion of credit community-wise in these regions.

It also overlooks a fact that the tribals and Scheduled Castes or nomadic tribal groups, which are not in large number in business also get lesser credit.

The fundamental premise of Sachar Committee of interpreting data

of backwardness as data , which proves religious discrimination , is utterly mischievous. The Committee has done enormous damage to the social fabric of the country and the UPA Government in its political quest has gone ahead with dividing the society and communalizing every process of governance. It will not just hurt a little but will damage the integrity of the country. It is not just a question of 15 per cent allocation to one community but is a recipe 100 per cent loss of the country.

Six decades ago, India was divided on communal lines. The omens are showing up, transpiring through the schemes of the UPA government. The highly esteemed economist and our Prime Minister made it clear in his stament : “We will have to devise innovative plans to ensure that minorities, particularly the Muslim minority , are empowered to share equitably in the fruits of development. They must have first claim on our resources.”

The Planning Commission had already put out its approach on “inclusive growth”, which talks about minorities. It makes no mention of religious minorities in general. It makes specific mention of only “poor” Muslims and Muslim women. It calls for special focus in areas with large concentration of Poor Muslims. Special incentives for students from poor Muslim background. Access to credit to Muslim women. It also wants by 2007- 2008 15% of all credit flow from banks to go to the minorities. It then goes to talk about a 15-point programme aimed at improving the quality of life for the Muslim population, earmarking 15% of all targets and outlays to target minorities (i.e. Muslims), posting of Muslims in Muslim concentration areas, improvement of conditions of slums inhabited by the minorities.

After sixty years of independence, where there is no discrimination politically or economically in practice or policy, the question automatically arises if this is a major national policy goal.

One wonders what went wrong in the previous plans that such an approach has to be adopted. Whether “poverty is religion” centric and only poverty based on religion should determine allocations in the plan. UPA and it is head should answer.

The Prime Minister should answer to the nation, how does “ religion” become so important for a government strategy on inclusive growth, of a country whose Constitution’s basic tenet is secularism?

According to the noted economist Rudder Dutt if one looks at the Census 2001 and uses the poverty rates for rural and urban areas as revealed in the 61<sup>st</sup> round of NSS (2004-05) the following facts are revealed:

“The total number of poor works out to be 291.3 million in 2001 i.e. 28.3 per cent of the total population was below the poverty line.

The overall head count ratio (HCR) for poverty was 27.7 per cent for Hindus, 36.3 per cent for Muslims and 17.0 per cent for others. Within Hindus SC/ST accounted for 258.2 million out of which 41.2 that is about 106 million lived below poverty line. In other words among the Socio-Religious Categories (SRC) SC/ST were the most deprived followed by Muslims and other Hindus and minorities.

Out of the total 291 million poor, 230 million were Hindus, 51 million were Muslims and 11 million were other religious minorities. As a total percentage share of the total poor Hindus accounted for 78.8 per cent, Muslims 17.5 per cent and other minorities 3.7 per cent. Out of the 78.8 per cent Hindu poor SC/ST accounted for 36.4 per cent.

The case is not for eradicating the poverty of Muslims alone but by this analysis a stronger case is made out for the Hindu poor where in absolute terms the poverty is 4 times than that of Muslims. The number of ST/SC poor is more than double the total number of poor Muslims. But the Prime Minister goes on parroting that the first right on resources is of minorities.

### **PRIME MINISTER’S 15-POINT PROGRAMME**

The measures the UPA government has announced for the minorities, 15 per cent of the country, are a wish list and more. Hospitals, schools, scholarships, improved slums, houses, hard cash and the most elusive of all, employment opportunities under every conceivable scheme of the government. All these are being offered exclusively to the minorities, over and above all the benefits already available to them. And the government

is doing a thorough job of a separate growth for them, right from the child’s birth, by setting up ‘anganwadis’ for “minority” children in thick minority-populated areas so that they would not mix with the children in the neighbourhood. The 15-point programme envisages :

- 1) Equitable availability of integrated Child Development Scheme Services. Under this, some percentage of ‘anganwadis’ will be located in heavy minority-populated areas.
- 2) Improving access to school education : again a percentage of schools will be located in minority locations.
- 3) Greater resources for teaching Urdu : Central assistance for recruiting and posting of Urdu language teachers in primary and upper primary schools in which at least one-fourth belong to that language group.
- 4) Modernising madrasa education : Sachar says only three per cent of Muslims go to madrasas. Then why spend crores for three per cent of 13 per cent?
- 5) Scholarships for meritorious students from minority communities.
- 6) Improving educational infrastructure through the Maulana Azad Education Foundation.
- 7) Self-Employment and wage employment for the poor under the schemes (mainly) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna, Swarnajayanti Shahary Rozgar Yojna, Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojna.
- 8) Up gradation of skills through technical training : it is to be located in areas predominantly inhabited by minorities.
- 9) Enhanced credit support for economic activities : Not only the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation will help the minorities but also all the banks, government credit agencies and co-operatives to reserve a certain percentage of their loan disbursement for minorities.
- 10) Recruitment to state and central services : The selection commissions to be altered to include mandatory representatives of the minority communities to give “special consideration” to



minorities. An exclusive training scheme for minority candidates to prepare them to compete in these services.

- 11) Equitable share in rural housing scheme .
- 12) Improvement in condition of slums inhabited by minority communities.
- 13) Prevention of communal incidents : This is the best example of the government's communal colour. It wants to post police officials of the highest known efficiency, impartiality and secular record in the areas prone to riots. It appears that the rest of the country can do with less honesty and less efficiency.
- 14) Prosecution for communal offences : How does punishing the offender in riots come under the minority category is not explained but this is one of the salient points.
- 15) Rehabilitation of victims of communal riots. The message is clear. Minorities are the victims, always.

Other than these the government has introduced the following schemes exclusively for the minorities. In most of the schemes the economic criterion is of income below 2.5 lakh annually.

1) Free coaching and allied scheme. This is over and above the combined scheme being implemented from 2001, for SCs/STs/OBCs and minorities under the Ministry of Social Welfare.

Other than the tuition fee to the coaching centres, the students will also get a stipend of up to Rs.1500.

2) A separate budget and proposal for monitoring and disseminating the schemes. The Govt. has invited applications from agencies to monitor and report back the progress so as to reach maximum benefit.

3) Merit-cum-means scholarship : 20,000 scholarships every year, maintenance allowance of Rs.10,000 for hostlers and Rs. 5000 for day scholars plus the course fee up to Rs. 20,000.

4) Post-matric scholarship :

Students from the minority community with just 50% marks can get his scholarship amount up to Rs.10,000.

All these schemes and provisions would have been fine if the money

came from the party funds of the UPA allies. That it goes from the tax paid by Indians, a category the UPA probably does not recognize any more, is objectionable.

For decades an unsubstantiated myth has been propagated across the country that economically Muslims are more disadvantaged than the Hindus. And this falsehood is being unabashedly used by the UPA (read pro-Muslim lobby) to provide unmerited benefits and concessions to the Muslim community in pursuance of the divisive vote bank politics, enunciated in the Prime Minister's famously notorious "Muslims First" proclamation of December 2006.

The truth, however, is different. A scientific and data-based analysis shows that Muslims are better placed than Hindus in the globally accepted human development indicators. According to National Family Health Survey-2 (held in 1998-99) there were 107 cases of Child Mortality per 1000 births among Hindus compared to a meager 83 such cases among Muslims which indicated an adverse differential of 29 per cent against Hindus vis-à-vis Muslims. It is a universally recognized truth that higher incidence of Infant and Child mortality is a direct consequence of poor nutritional intake caused by acute poverty and inadequate access to medical care.

It has been highlighted in the Goldman Sachs Economics Paper No152 that nearly 74 per cent of total Hindu population is trapped in the terminally ill agricultural sector where productivity is one fourth of the urban areas, as against 64 per cent Hindus.

No wonder more than 25,000 farmers, mostly Hindus, have committed suicide in recent years! Dr. Abu Saleh Sharif, Member Secretary of Sachar Committee, being the Chief Economist of N.C.A.E.R, was surely aware of these facts. But he deviously concealed the importance of this human development indicator in a bid to mislead the gullible Hindu intelligentsia and bluffing the valuable media into believing that economically the Muslims are more disadvantaged. The convoluted findings contained in the Sachar Committee Report, a document full of Suppressio veri, suggestio falsi, is being cited in support of the decision to allocate 15 per cent of the total development funds during the 11th Five Year Plan.

## CONCLUSION

Congress-led UPA government's gusto of going overboard to Muslims by allocating 15 per cent of funds during the 11<sup>th</sup> plan period exclusively for minorities is indicative of its communal mindset that is hell-bent on balkanizing India along religious lines. The Congress has always aimed at erecting barriers between the different communities rather than trying to break them down. The brand of secularism flaunted by the party is very much flawed. By separating Muslim issues from the rest of the populace, it is only treading the familiar ground of identity politics, that forms the core of its survival.

The nation is in peril to-day and on the brink of committing suicide after the PM's declaration at the National Development Council that 15 per cent of development funds would set aside in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan for minorities "meaning" Muslims and Christians in every state of India. Hindus as a community will have to pay the price of this mindless pandering to the Muslim community. There is a legitimate fear that the Dr. Manmohan Singh's 15-point programme will trigger competitive Communal demands for budgetary allocations in all the states. It can also lead to caste-based demands for resource allocation, thus destroying the traditional holistic approach to national development.

Evidently, the Hindu, till he develops a virile mindset that will make him unite and become a huge vote bank, is slated to remain the beast of burden, the proverbial donkey, for other plundering communities. In a forest a single Hyena can cause panic amongst a thousand zebras and donkeys, and they become its food because each zebra or donkey is for himself and gets easily panicked.

□

## RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF AKHIL BHARATIYA RASHTRIYA SHAIKSHIK MAHASANGH (ABRSM) ON 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST, 2008 AT GOA.

### SACHAR COMMITTEE REPORT

The field of education in India today presents a sordid picture of aimlessness, myopic view and an attempt to gain narrow political mileage that is pushing the country once again to the brink of a fearful calamity reminiscent of the pre-partition days.

The Union Budget for 2008-09, along with some policy statements by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, is clearly an exercise in brinkmanship which betrays a certain desperation on the part of the UPA government to hang on to power even if that required stoking the desire of the Muslim community to work towards further balkanization of the country. The UPA government is playing with fire deliberately ignoring the murderous politics pursued by the Muslim community during the pre-independence days for creating Pakistan.

There already exists (1) National Minorities Commission and (2) Department of Minority Affairs. Yet, pursuant to Manmohan Singh's theory "Muslims have the first right to national resources", the UPA Government have set up a powerful 7-member committee in 2005 under the Chairmanship of Justice Rajinder Sachar to look into the "social, economic and educational backwardness of the Muslim community in India." Surprisingly, the UPA Govt. have accepted all the recommendations of the Committee without introducing it in Parliament. In 2007, the UPA Government have drawn a plan to make the minority students reap the benefits of dual scholarships simultaneously from the Ministry of Minority Affairs and Ministry of Social Justice. This under the 15-point programme of the Prime Minister meant only for the Muslims.

The Minority Affairs Ministry will distribute Rs.100 crores annually as scholarships for Muslim students. This will run parallel to initiatives of other ministries under the PM's 15-point programme. The UPA followed

this up with reservations in educational institutions and recruitment.

The UPA have asked banks and other financial institutions to provide interest-free loans for Muslims with a package of Rs.15 crores for Muslim students. The Prime Minister has announced another programme to offer coaching for Muslim students preparing for competitive examinations for which parents have to pay lakhs of rupees.

Through an amendment, the UPA Government have reserved seats for minority communities in all the non-aided educational institutions. But this type of reservation is not available to economically weak Hindu students even in Hindu-run self-financing educational institutions. This will enthuse the merchants of conversions to covertly promote conversions of Hindus into Islam and Christianity.

In addition to this, some state governments are going out of the way to appease the Muslim community. Knowing full well that the Madrasas are spewing venom against the country and spawning terrorists, the Kharizi Madrasas, run with money received from alien sources, are being recognized by the UPA Government and given aid and regular pay scales to these Madrasa teachers.

Muslim teachers are thus reaping dual benefits. In addition to being assured of 100% employment in Madrasas, they are free to be appointed in government and government-aided schools.

Moreover, states ruled by Congress, Communists and some other parties have decided to fill 15% of the police force by appointing Muslims.

More than 80% of the taxes are paid by the Hindus. Yet surprisingly, even poor Hindu students neither get the benefit of reservation or reservation of seats, nor are they offered any scholarship. During the UPA rule the Haj subsidy has grown 200 times, given out of taxes paid by Hindus, whereas Hindu pilgrims are given any subsidy for undertaking pilgrimage.

ABRSM, therefore, denounces and vehemently opposes this policy of the Government and demands that the Sachar Committee Report be cancelled immediately if the clearly evident conspiracy to further balkanize the country is to be forestalled. □

**SOURCE :**

- 1) Sachar Committee Report.
- 2) NASSO.
- 3) Census Report.
- 4) Articles by :
  - a) Dr. Subramonian Swami.
  - b) Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi.
  - c) O.P. Gupta, ( IFS , retd. )
  - d) M.D. Nalapat & others.