



Government of India
(Cabinet Secretariat)

**Prime Minister's High Level Committee
For Preparation of Report on Social, Economic and Educational Status of the
Muslim Community of India**

(Chairperson: Justice Rajindar Sachar)
Sardar Patel Bhawan, Parliament Street, New Delhi

17 November 2006

Hon'ble Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

On 9 March 2005, the PMO had issued the Notification for constitution of the High Level Committee for preparation of Report on the Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India. The Terms of Reference are appended to this Report. The Committee was to consolidate, collate and analyse the above information to identify areas of intervention by the Government to address relevant issues relating to the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community.

By the end of July the office space, staff and most of the infrastructure was in place. Meanwhile, the first meeting of the Committee was held on 21 April 2005 followed by a press conference through which the Committee requested the people of India to provide information to the Committee on the issues covered by its mandate. This was followed up by large advertisements inserted in more than 100 dailies published from different regions in various Indian languages. Letters and pro formas were issued to several departments of the Government of India, all the state Chief Secretaries and various other organizations including Registrar General of Census Operations, National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Election Commission of India, Delimitation Commission, Minorities Commission, Commission for Backward Classes, Commission for Linguistic Minorities, UPSC, UGC, Universities and other academic bodies and organizations, the three services, the judiciary and many others. The Committee visited thirteen states with substantial Muslim population and interacted with a cross section of the people from the entire state, individuals, NGOs, youth, intellectuals, women, Chief Secretary, Principal Secretaries, Director General of Police and other senior officers. Each state visit was concluded by a meeting with the Chief Minister and some of his/her colleagues.

Detailed oral and written presentations were made to the Committee. These were summarized and utilized for writing this report. The states thus covered were Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, West Bengal, Delhi, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar and Maharashtra. Besides, the Committee also planned to visit Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Lakshadweep. However, it could not visit Tamil Nadu because of flood situation there, Lakshadweep because of inclement weather and Jharkhand because of the ongoing Assembly Budget Session.

The Committee was unanimous in its view to submit its report by 8 June 2006 when the 15 months time originally allotted was to expire. However, it came across some insurmountable impediments. In June 2005 the Committee had written to the Ministry of Programme Implementation and Statistics seeking relevant data of NSSO based on 61st Round (corresponding to 2004-05). It was expected that this data would be available by November 2005. Though the Ministry of Statistics tried its best to supply us the information early but, may be because of the extensive nature of the work, it could not be supplied to us even by May 2006. Similar was the case with data to be received from RBI, NABARD, NBCFDC and some other important organizations. Important part of the data was not forthcoming in time from many States. The Committee, thus, felt that the Report could be open to the criticism of being based on old or insufficient data. It also realized that Ramazan fasts were to last till 23 October followed by Eid-ul-Fitr interspersed with Diwali causing a little deflection in its work. Thus, on the Committee's recommendation, you very kindly extended the Committee's tenure till 30 November 2006.

We thank various Departments of the Central and the State Governments, the Reserve Bank of India, NSSO and many other organizations for their cooperation in making available to the Committee the information asked for the purpose of prepar-

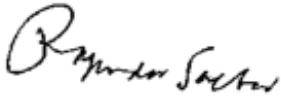
ing this Report. We also record our appreciation for the excellent administrative and other specialized support provided to the Committee by Dr. Syed Zafar Mahmood deputed by you as Officer on Special Duty and his team of officials.

The books, public representations and other material available with the Committee are recommended to be passed on to the Nehru Memorial Library, Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi from where these can be accessed by the Government and the people whenever required.

We have great pleasure in presenting this Report to you.

With warm regards

Yours sincerely,

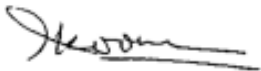


(Rajindar Sachar)
Chairperson

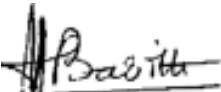
Members



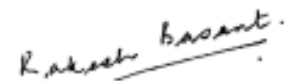
Saiyid Hamid



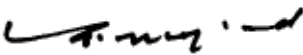
Dr. T.K. Oommen



M.A. Basith



Dr. Rakesh Basant



Dr. Akhtar Majeed



Dr. Abusaleh Shariff, *Member-Secretary*