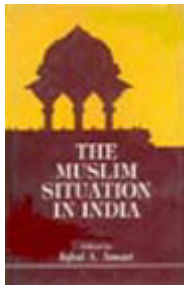


Iqbal .A .Ansari



THE MUSLIM SITUATION IN INDIA

The Indian Constitution envisages a secular polity guaranteeing the minorities the right to preserve their cultural, linguistic and religious identities. Communal reading of history during the past forty years, particularly of the Partition, has however, distorted the people's perceptions, attitude and values. Militant creeds propagating various shades of fundamentalism have raised their ugly heads, frequently leading to violent clashes between Muslim and Hindus. While the majority community sees in these developments a threats to the country's integrity, the minorities view the former's efforts at centralization and homogenization as a threat to their separate cultural religious identity.

The resultant deterioration in secular values provided the backdrop for an open discussion on the Muslim situation in India held at a seminar organised by the Institute of Objective Studies in New Delhi in July 1987. This value comprises the papers presented at the seminar, reflecting a broad spectrum of Muslim's opinion.

Contents: 1. Introduction 2. Seminar Report 3. The Muslim Situation in India: Some Observations 4. Problems and Issues 5. The Problems of Indian Muslims: Methodology for Analysis 6. Muslims in India: A Behavioural Introduction 7. Religion and Muslim Politics in Modern India 8. Muslim Decline in India 9. Muslim Backwardness: A Quantitative Analysis 10. Muslim Educational Backwardness 11. Muslim Education in Calcutta 12. Educational Landscape of Tamil Nadu Muslim Contribution 13. Muslims and Competitive Examinations 14. Economic Development of Indian Muslims: Some Strategic Options 15. Socio-Economic Conditions of Muslims in India 16. Nation States and Minorities 17. Muslim Problems: Constitutional Perspective 18. Muslims under Indian Law and Administration 19. The Socio-Political Condition of Muslims in India 20. The 'Mainstream': A Search for Definition 21. Hindu-Muslim Conflict in India: Causes 22. Communalism and the Press 23. Muslims and the Media 24. New Converts to Islam: A Case Study of Kuryur Village 203.

The Editor: Iqbal A. Ansari (b. 1935) joined the Aligarh Muslim University in 1962 and retired from there as Professor of English in 1995. His publications include the following books: The Muslim Situation in India (Sterling 1989) Readings on Minorities: Perspectives and Documents Volume I & II (Institute of Objective Studies New

Delhi 1996)Communal Riots,the State and Law in India, (Minorities Council of India,New Delhi 1997) Prof.Ansari has contributed a large number of articles on human rights,minorities ,Muslims and Islam to books journal and newspapers.His forthcoming book deals with inter-group violence and the role of law enforcement agencies in India.

Since 1977 Prof. Ansari has been actively associated with the human rights movement. In 1990 he founded with Justice (Retired) V.M. Tarkunde the Coordination Committee on Kashmir to monitor human rights situation and to promote dialogue on Kashmir. He is also the founder Secretary-General of the Minorities Council of India, which seeks to secure justice for minorities and their peaceful coexistence with the majority

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