

28 September 2013

Respected Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh Ji,

On 16 Sept when I met you in your house along with some other national level Muslim leaders, in the context of Muzaffarnagar riots, I had said that one of the long term reasons of violence against Muslims is their gross under-representation in the legislature. I reminded you that the Sachar Committee has pointed out (Foreword and Chapters 2 & 12) a trend obtaining since 1950 that the **parliamentary & assembly constituencies with large Muslim presence but negligible SC visibility are reserved for Scheduled Castes**. Thus it recommended the reference of this anomaly by the Govt to the Delimitation Commission which was very much in session then. Despite having accepted thus vital Sachar recommendation the Govt did not implement it for 7 years since Nov 2006 when the Sachar Committee presented its Report to you.

On 16 Sept, you had wondered that now that the elections are round the corner how Delimitation Commission can be appointed. But, one week later, you approved the appointment of the VII Pay Commission for central government employees with a two year tenure.

Muslims of India and their sympathizers are wondering why for seven years your Government did not move on Sachar Committee's strong plea to refer the matter of erroneous reservation of constituencies to Delimitation Commission. And why in Sept 2013 you are taking the plea of elections being on the anvil while this factor is not a constraint for appointing the VII Pay Commission. Is it because the 7th upward revision of pay for 31 lakh central government employees is dearer to the Government than restoration of justice to 18 crore Muslims that has been denied to them for 63 years ?

We would earnestly urge you to kindly appoint the next Delimitation Commission immediately giving to it the clear mandate of looking into wrongful allocation of constituencies with large Muslim presence, for Scheduled Castes. We are aware that, like the 7th Pay Commission, it would take a couple of years or more to complete its job. But, though late in the day, your Government would have fulfilled the strong Muslim expectation. You would agree that, either way, the omission or commission would surely influence the upcoming electoral outcomes.

Looking forward to your kind response and with warm regards

Yours sincerely,  
Dr Syed Zafar Mahmood

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