



Presidential Address

By

**Hazrat Maulana Syed Asad Madani Sb.
President, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind**

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Ph: 011-23311455, 23317729, Fax; 23316173, email: jamiat@vsnl.com

(In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful)

*Praise be to Allah, the Almighty and Peace be upon
Mohammad, the messenger of Allah,
Sal-Lallah-o-Alaihe-wa-Sallam,*

Respected Friends! Two years ago, the 27th General Session of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind was held here at the historic Ram Lila Ground on March 9, 2003. The community meets here once again today on the same ground. You have selected me for presiding over this general session. In view of my age and health, I am not in a position to discharge this important responsibility. However, I am grateful to you for the confidence reposed in myself. It is my prayer to Almighty Allah for endowing me the strength and capability to discharge this important obligation. Amen!

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind is connected with Delhi from the very beginning. Its great leaders Mufti Maulana Kifayatullah, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Maulana Hifzur Rahman, Maulana Ahmad Saeed Dehlavi, Maulana Mohammad Sajjad Bihari and Maulana Sayyad Mohammad Mian made it center of their literary, social and political activities. Five general sessions of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind have been held at Delhi after 1920. This is the sixth general session at Delhi. It is a special collective effort in the specific situation of the country. We are gathered here to find a solution of the problems, facing the community and the country. Judged in the context, our objective is great. May Allah make our efforts fruitful?

The Situation in the Country

The 27th general session of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind was held in an atmosphere, with communal elements in power at the Centre. The communal elements were engaged in fanning communal hatred. That posed a real threat to the secular democratic fabric of the country. Today, the 28th general session of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind is being held in a different climate. The United Progressive Alliance is in power at the Centre. There is a perceptible change in the situation. Dalits and Muslims have come closer. They have strayed eating and drinking together. Good news came from Andhra Pradesh. The State Government announced five percent reservation for Muslims. Although due to legal technicalities, reservation has not come into effect. However the efforts of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind have not been wasted. Political parties are talking now about reservation for Muslims in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand etc. it is the outcome of the struggle waged by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind. There is a talk throughout the country for grant of reservation to Muslims according to their ratio of total population of the country. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind raised the issue initially. At the general session held at Surat in 1956, Sheikh-ul-Islam Maulana Husain Ahmad Madani raised the issue in the course of his presidential address. Since then Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has been persistently voicing the issue from time to time. The time has come to raise it in a more effective manner.

Practically speaking, there has been no major change in the situation of the country. Muslims and their religious schools are still being linked with terrorism. They are prevented from offering prayers in their old mosques and mosques constructed by their joint efforts. The population of Muslims is posed as a threat to the country. It is said that the country will face another division due to reservation and increase in their population. For seizing power at the centre and capturing key positions, communal elements are still engaged in their campaign to engineer hostility and hatred between different communities. History is being distorted by ignoring the services and sacrifices of Muslims for the progress and development of the country. On the other hand,

the Zionist elements and their allies continue their effort for maintaining hegemony over Muslim countries. Israeli Government continues its barbaric assault on Palestinians. US aggression in Iraq continues unabated there. US expansionism continues unchecked on world scale. In Thailand Muslims on fast, were arrested and packed like animals in military vehicles and trucks. A large number was killed in a brutal manner. Anglo-Americans and others who claim to be champions of freedom, democracy and human rights, did not utter a single word to condemn atrocities in Thailand, guilty of genocide.

These are the burning issues inviting attention at national and international level. There is scarce evidence of sincere and serious efforts to meet the challenge.

Western social evils are percolating in the social order of Muslims. Sex anarchy, lack of *purdah* and respect for social values and traditions is on decline and almost on the verge of extinction.

Reservation for Muslims

Friends! First of all I would like to refer to the representation of Muslims in different spheres of life. That points to the relevance of reservation for them. At the organizational level, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and its leaders raised proportional representation for Muslims in every sphere of life. Sheikh-ul-Islam Maulana Syed Hussain Ahmad Madani took up the issue of proportional representation for Muslims in the changed conditions after independence. In the ninth decade of the previous century, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind carried on countrywide signature campaign in support of the demand. The memorandum was signed by more than 2.1 million. A 52-member deputation presented the memorandum to the President of India. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind persistently projected the issue at seminars, conferences and meetings. The campaign continues Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind took up issue of reservation, when nobody was talking or thinking about that. There was the apprehension that it would start conflagration in the country. It is a welcome sign that the movement and the campaign of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind brought about a general discussion of the subject. Different

political and other organizations have come out in support of reservation for Muslims.

But that is not enough. Practical steps are urgently needed. In the race for life Muslims badly lag behind in different spheres of life. Their representation in government, semi-government and private establishments is very low. Although no comprehensive survey has been done for knowing the comparative political, economic, social and educational situation of various communities. The Union Government has appointed a committee headed by Justice Rajendra Sachar for the purpose. Representation of Muslims in various walks of life is disappointing. A survey conducted by Minority Commission cannot be compared even with Dalits. The IAS results for 1980 that the share of Muslims was 3.7%, the share of backward castes was 9.9%. In the IPS, the share of backwards was 9.8% whereas the share of Muslims was only 2.8%. Muslims have not benefited from rural development programs of the government. Only 4% Muslims were employed with among hundred and fifty central government organizations. Leave aside high posts, the percentage of Muslims in lower jobs also, is not even 6%. The figures about distribution of quotas, grants and licenses are extremely discouraging. The share of Muslims in the houses constructed by the government is only 2.6%. Their share is almost nil in self-help organizations. Prof. Gopalakrishnan submitted a report to the Union Ministry, which has not been published. The report states that the educational level of Muslims is very low. In 1983, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore conducted a survey under the supervision of Dr. Thimayya. The findings indicated that the economic and educational condition of Muslims is worse than the poorest sections of the country. Official surveys and figures indicate that poverty among Muslims is more acute than Non-Muslims Ninety percent Muslims are engaged in agriculture, small industries and handicrafts. The previous regime destroyed small industries. For saving cities from pollution and installation of necessary plants cottage and small industries have been dislocated. Those dependent on these are passing through an acute economic crisis. The report points out that

the annual income of Muslim families as compared to the rest is the lowest.

Religion	Income per family	Income per Capita	No of families included in the sample
Muslims	22,807	3,678	3,239
Hindus	25,713	4,514	27,767
Christians	28,865	5,920	900
Other minorities	30,330	5,427	1,324

Source:-India Development Report 1999

The representation of Muslims is less than their ratio to total population in other government, semi-government organizations and private sector companies. Among 146 large-scale industries, not even a single belongs to Muslims. Among 709 directors of 67 companies, only 8 are Muslims. Haseeb Anwar (Sadaquat Ashram) carried on an analytical study. He discovered that there are only fifteen district magistrates in the whole country. The chart given below reveals the depressing representation of Muslim in important establishments..

S.N.	Ministry or Department	Total Strength	Number of Muslims
1.	President's Secretariat	32	1
2.	PM's Secretariat	13	1
3.	UPSC	15	Nil
4.	Planning Commission	37	2
5.	Agriculture	44	1
6.	Commerce & Industries	39	1
7.	Ministry for Communication	77	1
8.	Consumers & Public Distribution	18	Nil
9.	Youth & Sports	08	Nil

10.	Chemicals & Fertilizers	08	Nil
11.	Civil aviation	05	Nil
12.	Atomic Energy	14	Nil
13.	Environment & Forests	20	1
14.	Ministry of Finance	107	Nil
15.	Human Resources Development	26	1
16.	Health & Family Welfare	16	Nil
17.	Heavy Industries & Public Enterprise	11	Nil
18.	Information & Broadcasting	33	1
19.	I.T. & Communication	26	Nil
20.	Home Ministry & BSF	69	Nil
21.	Ministry of Labour	12	Nil
22.	Law, Justice & Company Affairs	55	Nil
23.	Mines & Minerals	12	Nil
24.	Non-Conventional Energy	14	Nil
25.	Public Grievances & Pensions	38	Nil
26.	Power	44	Nil
27.	Petroleum & Natural Gas	16	Nil
28.	Ministry of Railways	122	2
29.	Science & Technology	68	1
30.	Rural Development	14	Nil
31.	Small-Scale Industries	68	1
32.	Social Justice & Empowerment	37	3
33.	Steel	03	Nil
34.	Surface Transport	22	Nil
35.	Tourism	04	Nil
36.	Textiles	04	Nil
37.	Urban Development	08	Nil
38.	Water Resources	32	Nil

Representation in Parliament & Legislatures

Friends! The representation of Muslims in Lok Sabha and state assemblies is not according to their ratio to the total population. It is shocking and distressing. There are several states where the representation of Muslims is nil. The states are (1) Gujarat (2) Chattisgarh (3) Madhya Pradesh (4) Uttaranchal (5) Rajasthan (6) Punjab (7) Haryana (8) Chattisgarh (9) Manipur (10) Tripura (11) Himachal Pradesh (12) Orissa (13) Chandigarh. The population of Muslims in the states and centrally administered territories as brought out by Census 2001 is given below:-

Name of the state	Percentage of Muslim Population
Gujarat	9.1
Madhya Pradesh	6.4
Rajasthan	8.5
Delhi	11.7
Orissa	2.1
Uttaranchal	11.9
Punjab	1.6
Haryana	5.8
Chhattisgarh	2.5
Manipur	8.8
Tripura	8.5
Chandigarh	3.9
Himachal Pradesh	2.5
Meghalaya	4.3

It is a matter of deep concern that Muslims are not represented at all, in the states and territories mentioned above. In other states where Muslims are represented in Lok Sabha, their representation is less than the ratio of their population to the total population of the country. According to the ratio of Muslim population to the total

population of the country, there should be at least 73 members in the Lok Sabha. Their number in the present 14th Lok Sabha is 36. The shortage is more than 50%. Out of 36, 28 have been elected from Muslim dominated areas; eight have been elected from other constituencies. That shows that if political parties rise above communal considerations, and select a larger number of Muslim candidates may be elected.

In the 13th Lok Sabha of 1999, the number of Muslims was 32, which have gone up to 36 in the present Lok Sabha. The representation of Muslims from Tamilnadu is cent percent. Two members have been elected from the state. When 27th general session was held here, the representation of Muslims from Jharkhand was nil, but the position has improved. There is a solitary member, although the desired number should be two. The shortage is fifty per cent. However, that is encouraging. The political parties should take practical steps for providing the desired representation in Lok Sabha. The chart given below compares the desired number with actual number, according to the ratio of their population to the total population.

Representation of Muslims in 14th Lok Sabha

States	Muslim population	Total Seats	Desired number	Actual number	Shortage
U.P.	18.5%	80	15	11	4
Bihar	16.5%	40	7	4	3
Jharkhand	13.8%	14	2	1	1
Assam	30.9%	14	4	2	2
West Bengal	25.2%	42	11	5	6
AP	9.2%	42	4	2	2
J & K	67%	6	4	3	1
Karnataka	12.2%	28	3	1	2
Kerala	24.7%	20	5	3	2
Maharashtra	10.4%	48	5	1	4

Even the states with nil Muslim representation should send nine members to Lok Sabha. The chart below indicates that:-

Gujarat	9.1%	26	2	0	2
Rajasthan	8.5%	25	2	0	2
MP	6.4%	29	2	0	2
Delhi	11.7%	7	1	0	1
Uttaranchal	11.9%	5	1	0	1
Haryana	5.8%	10	1	0	1

Representation of Muslims in State Assemblies

Like Lok Sabha, representation of Muslims in state assemblies also is less than their ratio to the total population of the state. The chart given below illustrates the point:-

States	Muslim Population	Total Seats	Desired No.	Actual No.	Shortage
Delhi	11.7%	70	8	5	3
Assam	30.9%	126	39	26	13
West Bengal	25.2%	294	74	30	44
AP	9.2%	296	27	11	16
Gujarat	9.1%	182	16	4	12
Karnataka	12.2%	224	27	6	21
Kerala	24.7%	149	37	28	9
Maharashtra	10.6%	288	30	11	21
Rajasthan	8.5%	200	17	5	12
Tamilnadu	5.6%	234	13	6	7
Chhattisgarh	2.5%	90	5	3	2
Haryana	5.8%	90	5	3	2
Uttaranchal	11.9%	70	8	4	4
Uttar Pradesh	18.5%	403	74	43	31
Bihar	16.5%	243	40	24	16
Jharkhand	13.8%	81	11	2	9
Arunachal Pradesh	1.9%	60	1	0	1
Goa	6.8%	40	3	0	3
HP	2%	68	1	0	1

In view of inadequate representation of Muslims in the legislative bodies, it is our demand that

1. Muslims be granted reservation according to their ratio to the total population in every sphere of life e.g. Lok Sabha, state assemblies, government, semi-government employment and educational institutions.
2. Article 341 should be so amended as to include Muslim and Christian backward sections.

At this juncture, we would urge Muslims, particularly Muslim youth to make the best use of their potential and intelligence to create employment opportunities. They should pay maximum attention to education. They should make it prime goal of their life. The key to progress lies in education.

Law to check communal violence

The image of India has been tarnished most of all by communal riots. The identity of the country has been defaced by riots. In recent past the riot in Gujarat was a case of brutal anti-Muslim genocide. The government was found involved in the outrage. Communal riots cause loss of life and property; divert the nation from the path of progress and development. They perpetuate poverty and ignorance. According to a report more than twenty-three thousand riots occurred over five decades of the previous century. Another report states that about thirty-seven thousand riots have been recorded. Minor and major riots continue to recur in different parts of the country. If that is the order of the day, the country cannot be regarded as 'civilized'. The riots are shameful and dangerous for a civilized society and country. Important commissions of inquiry have identified groups and organizations, responsible for riots. No effective action has been taken against them. Nobody involved in a communal riot has been hanged so far. Under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, it is the duty of the government to ensure safety of life and property of the citizens. If government fails in the discharge of the duty, payment of compensation is obligatory. The Supreme Court and high courts have

upheld the position. It is a matter of regret that discrimination is practiced in awarding compensation. The governments have been guilty of ignoring or violating the directives of the courts. No effective step has been taken so far to avert communal riot. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has raised its voice against the unfortunate and unjust state of affairs. We launched '*Mulk-o-Millat Bachao*' movement and arranged meetings, conferences and seminars to focus attention on the issue. We launched countrywide signature campaign to invite attention of the authorities to urgency of the matter. It is regrettable that in spite of assurances practically nothing was done to deal with the problem. It is a matter of hope and pleasure that the Government of United Progressive alliance has included the issue of communal violence in its Common Minimum Programme. According to information available, the draft of the law is ready. After consultation with the parties, forming the coalition, the law shall be brought before the Parliament. The draft shall be available on the web site of the government. We do not know the contents of the draft. When that is available, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind shall express our views after carefully studying its provisions. At present, we would like to demand that: -

1. The government should pass such a stringent Law that provides no escape route to the culprits.
2. High officials should be held responsible for the outbreak of the riot and suspended forthwith. Immediate action must be taken for slackness on the part of the administration.
3. The law must provide for award of uniform compensation to victims irrespective of their caste, creed or community.
4. National Integration Council decided in favour of action against those fanning communal hatred through speech or writings. The recommendation should be strictly implemented.

In that context the draft private bill prepared by Lok Dal for communal amity and prevention of communal riots should be taken into consideration.

Release of persons held under POTA

Friends! With great anguish, we have to express our feelings regarding POTA. Undoubtedly it was a black law that was brazenly used against political and social opponents. Its impact was so disastrous that all groups and individuals engaged in defence of human rights came out in protest against the Draconian law. By repealing it the UPA Government has taken a commendable step. As the action has not brought relief to those held under POTA, move has lost its meaning and significance. The Minister for Home Affairs stated in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha that proof supporting the allegation has to be submitted. That is easy. It is very difficult to prove innocence. The law has confused the judiciary. It should be ensured that it is not weapon against innocent persons. For that it is advisable to remove its repressive defects. However, It has been misused in Gujarat, Jharkhand and Tamilnadu etc.

The time granted to Review Committee for scrutiny does not match with the requirements of dismissal or difficult conditions faced by those under detention. Cases are pending against 108 in Gujarat, 300 in Tamilnadu and others in Maharashtra and other states. In these circumstances any talk of human rights sounds meaningless. Unless the innocent persons detained under POTA are released, the image of the present regime as compared with the previous, cannot improve. We condemn every form of terrorism and anti-social activities. At the same time, we have to point out that it is a travesty of justice to continue the detention of the innocent after the repeal of the law. Even a cursory review of POTA cases reveals that the law has been used mainly against the weak and minorities, Dalits and Adivasis. I think that it is a conspiracy by the privileged sections to keep the weak and minorities, Dalits in state of permanent insecurity.

The privileged class is not inclined to tolerate the character and existence of any other class except its own. Denial of relief to those detained under POTA after repeal of the Law has no meaning. In view of that it is our firm demand that all those detained under POTA should be released forthwith. The cases against them should either be withdrawn or they should be tried under other laws of the country.

Defence of character & system of Madrasa Education

The network of *madrsas* spread all over the country has played a leading role in removing illiteracy and keeping the community in touch with its roots. Their services and sacrifices for freedom of the country as well as moral uplift and character building have a shining record. If the old educational institutions along with the *pathshalas* of our fellow countrymen were not there, the campaign of Macaulay for converting Indians to Englishmen in body and mind. The religious institutions and their leaders successfully resisted the strategy and saved the character and identity of the nation. The persons graduating from such institutions cemented communal amity, particularly Hindu-Muslim unity. They made innumerable sacrifices in the war for independence of the country.

They created awareness among the masses about defence of their Faith and identity. In this context the historic role of *madaris* cannot be ignored. It is a fact that the Zionist and other anti-Muslim elements have been defaming the exemplary role of *madaris* and mosques. Their campaign still continues. The campaign gathered further momentum after September 11, 2001. *Madaris*, mosques and Muslims, all the three have been projected as synonyms. In the largest state of India, Uttar Pradesh a question was set in an examination paper, linking the historic institution of Deoband, Darul Uloom with terrorism. That was an act of bad faith. Intrigues are still under way to question the utility of the syllabus and system of education of *madaris*. There are elements active among Muslims who pose a question before the well-wishers and supporters of *madaris* to insure how far the amount contributed by them to *madaris* is constructive and useful. Several foundations and institutions have come up with attractive names to divert *Zakaat* charity towards them. There is criterion to insure whether the purpose of *Zakaat* in the religious sense is served? The situation is distressing. Those connected with functioning of *madaris* to meet the challenge of the mischievous campaign. They should take positive steps to equip the students with the purpose and meaning of education received by them. Attention paid to construction of grand imposing

buildings and display of pomp and show, is creating lot of problems. Mutual rivalry and jealousy provides opportunity to opponents of *madrassa* system education for misleading public opinion by negative mischievous propaganda. The real purpose of education is defeated. In view of that it is essential to adopt effective precautionary measures. It is advisable to invite local officials and influential dignitaries to the functions and programmes of *madaris*. That will help others to get acquainted with the functioning of *madrassa*. That shall be a great help in checking the baseless propaganda against them. No stranger should be allowed to stay at the premises of *madrassa*. Only after satisfying themselves in every possible way, strangers should be permitted to stay there.

In this age of powerful publicity media, it is necessary to defend the character and system of *madrassa* education. The history of Muslim *Spain* is before us. Muslims could not withstand the onslaught of Christian missionaries. The most important reason was the system of mosques and *madrasas* was not autonomous, strong and mutually linked with each other. Had it been so, the decline of Muslims would not have been so fast. After observation and experience, a learned person like Dr. Iqbal felt convinced about the utility and significance of *madrasas*. On a particular occasion, he told Hakeem Shuja Ahmad;

“Let *madaris* and *makateeb* remain as they are. Let the children of poor Muslims study there. Do you know what shall happen if the Mullah and Darwesh are not there. I have seen the result with my own eyes. If Muslims of India are deprived of their religious institutions, their fate will be the same as the fate of Muslims of Spain. Nothing of eight-century rule of Muslims remains in Spain, except the ruins of Granada, Qartaba, Alhmara and Bab-ul- Khawateen. In India too, only the Red Fort and Taj Mahal shall be the landmarks of thousand-year old Muslim rule. (*Khoon Baha*, pp 439 y Hakeem Ahmad Shuja).

Those who deny the utility and role of *madaris* should realize the importance of what Iqbal has conceded. We appeal to the management of *madaris* that they should keep *madaris* free from intervention of the authorities. There should be effective coordination among them. They should keep the system firm and self-reliant. The situation is serious, a strategy to meet that is required.

Importance of *Sharai* local courts and Gram Panchayats

Friends! I would like to invite your attention to an important issue. It is the difficulty in getting expeditious justice to the citizens. It is well known that justice delayed is justice denied. The disposal of a single case is spread over years. There are cases when a single generation does not get justice. Eminent jurists concede that if the judicial process is not accelerated the aspirations of the people shall turn into despair. In June, 2004, the Union Law Minister and State Minister, K. Venkarpthy state that more than three lakh cases re pending in the high courts. I recall that former Chief Justice A. Ahmadi also admitted that the disposal of a large number of cases is pending in the courts. Facts distilled from various sources are shocking. The number of cases pending in courts throughout the country is thirty million. Four billion rupees are spent annually on those under detention. Ten percent of the population of the country is involved in litigation. Every judge of high court has to deal with a hundred of cases. Twenty million cases are pending in 12378 district and lower courts spread all over he country. In view of that fast track courts were set up in April 2001. The purpose was quick disposal of cases pending for two yeas or more. The object was to ensure timely justice for the common man. However, not much success has been achieved in that direction. During four years, only 6,70,000 out of 12,58,000 cases has been disposed of. That amounts to fifty percent success. The huge number of pending cases in the courts is a matter of deep concern. The Supreme Court in a judgment issued a directive to the Central Government that within five years the number of judges should be 50 for every million. Simultaneously, the Supreme Court held that all vacancies in district courts should be filled. It is regrettable that no progress has been made in that direction. In these circumstances the arrears in the courts cannot be reduced. There is no hope of speedy justice for the masses in near future. The number of fresh cases exceeds the number of cases finally disposed.

In these circumstances, it is our demand that:-

1. The number of fast track courts should be increased and the

process speeded up.

2. All vacancies from Supreme Court down to lower courts should be filled forthwith.
3. Gram panchayats and local courts should be mobilized effectively. If necessary their number should be increased.
4. Establishment of local *sharai* courts should be facilitated for Muslims.

The British rulers did not interfere in the religious laws, particularly Muslim Personal Law. Civil, criminal and other disputes were adjudicated according to the religious law of the parties concerned.

Before independence of the country Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind arranged the introduction of a bill through Syed Ahmad Kazmi. The law was comprehensive and if implemented rightly, it would have dealt with all matters relating to marriage, divorce custody and inheritance. After 1947, the conditions in the country became so unfavourable that Muslim Kazi Bill lapsed. It was introduced again in January 1989 and invited attention to the matter again on December 22, 1989. We demand that the Central Government should move in that direction for enacting Muslim Kazi Bill. That will solve easily the social problems of Muslims and will cause reduction of arrears in the courts of the country.

It is our demand from the government that conditions should be created for setting up *Sharai* local courts. Their decisions should be legally binding for implementation. At present Muslims have to wait for decades for disposal of their cases. That is waste of time and money. It is our appeal to Muslims that they should resort to *Sharai* courts for adjudication of all matters related to Personal Law.

Unity of Muslims and Dalits—need of the hour

Friends! I need not tell you that the influence of fascist forces is growing continually stronger. That poses a serious threat to peace, law, justice, equality and all social values enshrined in the Constitution of the country. Within the limits of its resources, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind

has undertaken the effort to ensure that the country does not pass completely in the hands of fascist forces. It is the need of the hour that all minorities, backward sections and Dalits should unite to meet the challenge. We are well aware of the fact that the mission is not easy. There shall be difficulties on the path to unity and solidarity.

The interest of the country demands that we should overcome all difficulties to strengthen unity. In this context we should keep in mind that Islam confers equality to all as human beings. Our Prophet on the occasion of his last Haj pilgrimage clarified that none is superior to the other on account of colour, race, and region. There is no place of untouchability. According to Islamic principles, we may share food with others. According to teachings of Islam, one is more pious is more respectable. From Islamic point of view Dalits and Brahmins are equal. We should not have objection to social intercourse and sharing food with Dalits. We have erred on this point. Our relations with Dalits and weaker sections should have been better than what they have been so far. We have to make amends for that. As Muslims we should not discriminate against Dalits. Like Muslims they are depressed and suppressed. Our lot is similar. For that reason the unity of Dalits and other minorities is essential and desirable.

Protection of Auqaf

The number of Auqaf spread allover the country is thousands of thousand. Their income is in billions of rupees. However, due to misadministration, the income does not benefit the community. The Auqaf suffer from embezzlement and illegal adverse possession. In 1945, due to the efforts of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Central Waqf Act was passed. Since then the law has been amended several times to make it more effective. In spite of that the condition of Auqaf is getting from bad to worse. A large number of Waqf properties are under the possession of anti-social elements, land mafia and corrupt elements in the administration. Waqf properties are under the occupation of government, semi-government organizations. The corrupt elements in Waqf boards conspire to sell

Waqf property at throwaway prices. Due to illegal adverse possession, a large portion of Waqf income is spent on litigation. The Parliamentary Committee on Auqaf, in its report observed that if Auqaf are duly protected and rightly managed, they may yield income amounting to four hundred millions. Due to mismanagement, the income from Auqaf the yield is between 250 and 260 million. The graveyards are worst affected by illegal adverse possession. The capital of the country is the worst example. According to the records the number of Auqaf in Delhi is 1977 out of them are under the possession of land mafia and government bodies.. The Waqf documents show that Delhi Development Authority is in possession of 138 Waqf properties, Central Public Works Department has 108, Archaeological Department has 53, Railways have 53, the Custodian has 15, the Wireless Department has 10 the Ministry of Defence has 5, the Works Department have 2 , Municipal Corporation of Delhi has 3, government hospitals have 2, the power department and NMDC have one each. Vishwa Hindu Parishad has disputed 123 properties and managed to get stay from the courts. Nearly 200 properties are under the possession of land mafia, local residents and builders. Hundred graveyards are under complete possession of unauthorized persons.

Cases are pending in courts for recovery of possession. It is surprising that the government of India gets millions of rupees from the country and abroad from Muslim historical monuments. But not even a fraction is spent on the welfare of Muslims. Under the Waqf Act of 1995, tribunals were to be set up in all states, but that has not been done so far. Effective measures are required for protection and improvement of the management of Auqaf.

It is our demand:-

1. Waqf properties should be exempt from tenancy laws.
2. Corrupt employees of Waqf boards, not appearing in the courts on dates fixed for hearing and guilty of removal of files from their offices should be prosecuted.
3. The affairs of Auqaf should be entrusted to the charge of an honest minister.

4. Waqf tribunals should be set up in all states.

Honest and efficient officers both at central and state level should be appointed to look after the affairs of Auqaf, particularly their income & expenditure.

A high power committee for Auqaf should be set up.

Protection of Citizenship

The figures of 2001 Census were misrepresented to raise the bogey of increase of Muslim population by infiltration. Intrigues were under way for terminating the citizenship of Muslims by creating doubts. A senior BJP leader and former Union minister stated that Muslims and Christians intend to change the demography of India by infiltration. If that happens the country will go out of control of Hindus. In that context the names of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and a few states of northeast are mentioned. It is alleged that the process has already begun there. The extremist and communalist elements exploit the propaganda for instilling fear in the majority community and for fanning hatred and aggression against the minorities. Recently large posters found were pasted on the walls in several cities of Madhya Pradesh and elsewhere, posing the question before the majority community, 'If Hindus went on decreasing and *they* went on increasing, we shall be slaves again. By 2060 Hindus will be a minority.' The provocation continues right under the nose of the government. It is regrettable that the slander campaign is influencing the officials.

During recent elections at several places the voters belonging to minority communities were asked to furnish proof of their citizenship. The names of voters were found missing at several places. The provocation is most severe in Assam. The extremist organization AASU has been engaged in conducting a phased campaign against Muslims on the pretext of 'infiltration'.

We are against allowing foreigners in the country, but we are also against expulsion of Bengali-speaking Indian citizens by branding them 'foreigners'. The Union Minister for Home Affairs is correct

that if Bangladeshis are detected, they shall be sent back. However, it should be established that he is a foreigner. We desire justice for all Indians, according to Indian law and Constitution. All those who were born in India, are have been deemed as Indians. All of them are respectable citizens. They are entitled to all rights and privileges available to Indian citizens. Creating doubts about their citizenship for their expulsion from the country is a crime. The communalists are advocating Indian citizenship for Hindu refugees but advocating expulsion of bona fide citizens of the country. With that sinister object in view, the campaign is under way for the repeal of IMDT Act. The Act provided for tribunals to identify foreigners and those Indian citizens alleged to be foreigner. That saves them from police repression. The National Minority Commission stated in its report. That if the IMDT Act is repealed that shall be the suppression of the rights of the minorities. Demanding birth certificate, as a proof of citizenship from those living in villages and forests, is grave injustice. It may not be possible for them to furnish that. Such a certificate may not be available with 90% citizens, including the Union Home Minister. Tribunals should decide the citizenship of an Indian. The power should not vest with the police.

(1) It is our demand that (1) ration card (2) title to property (3) passport (4) school certificate (5) birth certificate (6) citizenship certificate (7) NRC 1951; any among them should be deemed as proof of citizenship. The courts of the country held them as proof of citizenship.

(2) IMDT Act should be enforced in the whole country, particularly in those states where the issue of influx of foreigners is raised frequently.

(3) (a) Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind demands preparation of National Register of Citizens with March, 1971 as baseline.

(b) After preparation of (a) it should be revised and updated for 1905/06.

(c) The register for 2005/06 should include all those above 18 years. He voters should be revised to include all of them.

(d) All citizens included from 1971 to 2005-6 should be given

photo identity cards.

(e) There should be no change or amendment in the registration of citizens. For registration or change birth or death certificates should be mandatory.

(f) Until the registration of citizens upto 2005-6 is completed, the IMDT Act should be retained. At any cost it should not be repealed.

(4) (a) Permanent lease rights should be granted to those rendered homeless due the change of course by the river and found living on public land.

(b) Photo identity cards should be issued to all those living on public land after being rendered homeless due to the change of course by a river. That will check occupation by unauthorized persons.

(c) Apart from Chad lands, permanent lease rights should be granted to all those occupying land for agriculture etc.

(5) Necessary steps should be taken to ensure employment of local population including Muslims in Grade 3 and 4 jobs of the government, according to their ratio to the total population.

Constitutional Powers of Minority Education Commission

Friends! We have to express our views on the constitutional powers of the Minority Commission, appointed by the UPA Government. The Central Government in the Common Minimum Programme of UPA promised the appointment for direct affiliation of minority educational institutions with central universities. The UPA Government has kept that promise and announced the Commission, its chairman and members. It is a welcome move. In our opinion that is not sufficient. The role of a commission is not likely to be very effective for the educational problems of the minorities. Article 30 of the Constitution of India confers on the minorities the right to set up and run their educational institutions. That should be enforced. If the Commission manages to do that, it should be welcomed. If so, it has an important role to play. But for that the Commission must have full powers to implement its findings and decisions. The entire scope

of educational problems of the minorities should be under its purview. Unless it is a permanent body armed with constitutional powers, its role is not confined to mere submission of recommendations; it cannot be expected to play a useful and constructive role. The bill as presented before the Parliament is inadequate and unlikely to meet the aspirations of the minorities. Minority educational institutions have the constitutional right to get grant-in-aid from the state and central government, but the matter has been kept out of the purview of the Commission. The technical and professional institutions that desire affiliation with the state government have not been included in the terms of reference of the Commission.

Technical and professional institutions established by Muslims face numerous difficulties in getting the No Objection Certificate from the state government. Similarly, they face difficulties in getting the approval of Medical Council of India and All India Council for Technical Education. The Commission seems helpless in assisting them. The Commission does not have the power to intervene in such cases.

Those getting educated in madrsas, who desire admission to middle school, higher secondary school, or college find it very difficult to get admitted. The Commission should have to look into such cases. Likewise there are other problems of the minorities.

In view of all that, we would like to convey to the government that: -

1. The Commission should be permanent, armed with constitutional powers for enforcing its decisions.
2. Secondary, higher secondary schools, degree colleges, professional colleges and the universities established by minorities should be brought under the purview of the Commission.
3. The Commission should have the power to review matters of recognition and grant-in-aid etc.
4. The Commission should be empowered to advise state governments, University Grants Commission, M.C.I.E and A.I.C.T. for evolving procedures that may help minorities in setting up such institutions.

Establishment of modern technical institutions

The need of modern science and arts colleges is greater now than it was earlier. Muslims should work hard to establish the institutions listed below in every state.

1. Medical College 2. Science College 3. Law College 4. Commerce College 5. Teachers' Training College 6. I.T.I 7. Polytechnic 8. College of Allied Sciences 9. Diagnostic Centre.

Effective Law for Employment

Friends! Unemployment has assumed dangerous proportions in the country. The situation is growing from bad to worse. The economic policies pursued by NDA ruined small industries. Farmers, workers, small-scale industrialists and persons connected with cottage industries are waging a struggle for life and death. The situation has changed marginally after assumption of power by UPA. However, the steps taken so far are not adequate. Unemployment continues to be a grave problem. UPA has promised that in their Common Minimum Programme that in human interest effective steps shall be taken to reduce unemployment. New National Guarantee Law was mentioned in that context. However, the measures adopted so far have very limited utility. Unemployment has affected all spheres of life. There is a great divergence between the promise given in CMP and provision of the law as drafted. The law introduced is Rural Employment Guarantee Bill whereas the CM promised National Employment Guarantee Law. Initially one person of rural, urban or middle class family should be provided hundred days employment in a year in a welfare project. Under Rural Employment Act 2004 has left out the poor living in towns and cities. The law has limited itself to those below poverty line in the villages. Khadi was described by Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru as the symbol of freedom. Mahatma Gandhi patronized it. Khadi is presently in the grip of a crisis. Another point worth noting is that the government has ignored the family having a joint ration card and living under common roof. If training was used as a tool for reduction of unemployment that might have helped. The government has

concentrated on the education and training of certain sections. The most serious problem is the unemployment of agricultural labour. They are employed for only seventy or eighty days in a year.

Therefore it is our demand that:

The scope of Employment Guarantee Law should be widened to make it more effective.

Attention should be paid to agriculture and rural development for growth of employment.

Protection of Small Industries

Small industries contribute 40% of total industrial output. Their share in the exports is 34%. Last year small industries grew @ 19%, but the increase in employment was only 11.6%. Recently they have been facing serious problems. Their output is less than their capacity. Their most serious problem is financial crunch. They lack technological capability and protection. Due to these difficulties small industry units are in the process of closure.

There are numerous difficulties that plague small industries. Most serious among them are like of timely credit or finance, shortage of power, raw materials, legal hurdles, no support in the marketing of the product. The countrywide survey of small industries conducted in 2001-2 revealed that 60% of all registered units were closed. The number according to an earlier survey was only 52% that is more than half. There is lot of fuss about the role of small industries but the truth that protection and incentive required by them for survival is not forthcoming. They face stiff competition from units using better technology. Due to current import policy of the government goods produced by small sector has to face strong competition.

After the budget every year several small units close down.

It is our demand from the central and state governments that:-

1. Effective steps should be taken for the survival and promotion of small industries.

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2. 209-point and 15-point programmes must be implemented fully and effectively
 3. The protection and facilities provided by Janata Government in 1977 should be restored.

Zionist Intrigues against Islamic World

Respected Friends! You are well aware of the Zionist intrigues against Muslims and Islam, going on internationally. Anti-Muslim communal elements are in league with anti-Muslim forces of the world.

On the pretext of rights the women are encouraged to give up *purdah*. They are encouraged to become 'product' in the market. Recently it was discovered that a fake Quran was being widely distributed styled as '*Al Furqan-ulHaq*', to misguide Muslims. USA and Israel are partners in the sinister campaign. It has been published by American Publishing House Olega and Winepress. It has 77 verses. It begins with Cross instead of *Bismillah*. It contains criticism of Islamic teachings. Another mischief is prayers led by woman. A woman may lead prayers offered by women. That is a different case. It may be debated. But a woman leading joint prayers of men and women is a part of Zionist campaign against Islam. It is an attempt to tarnish the image of Ulama, by giving the impression that they are impediments to progress. With that in view they support liberal and progressive Muslims, who are to become soft targets of Zionist movement. Zionist elements have scored success in identifying such elements. In eastern countries also, Muslims are the special targets. Moral values are being undermined. Powerful media promotes obscenity. Islam, mosque and *madrassa* are linked with terrorism. That is part of their mission to defame Islam and Muslims. The Zionist campaign in partnership with USA has been totally unmasked. It has been noted by United Nations. UN Commission for Human Rights has expressed concern over the antiterrorist campaign launched by USA and western countries. It has appealed to the world community to take effective steps to stop that. It appears that the Jews have forgotten the days when Hitler massacred them holding guilty of

espionage, terrorism and fifth column. They are employing the same methods against Muslims. Muslims of the world have the duty to combat the Zionist campaign. Muslim countries must defend their sovereignty by resisting the mischievous propaganda launched by USA and Israel. They should not submit to them. From this stage, we appeal to all those connected with *madaris* and religious and cultural organizations to undertake steps to meet the Zionist challenge. They must take steps to inform the people about the nature and character of Zionist activities. They should prepare scholars well informed about Zionist outfits and their nefarious activities. They should acquaint the people with the teachings of Islam and Zionist attempts to misrepresent them.

Social Reform & Islamic Identity

Respected Scholars & Ulama! I invite your attention to social reform and Islamic identity. The decline in Indian society has affected every community. Muslim community in particular has been the target of various cultural malpractices. On the one hand they indulge in superstitions and rites passed on by the age of the ignorance. On the other the influence of European culture is growing day by day.

Reluctance to observe *purdah* and free mixing of sexes has created social problems and difficulties.

Religious rules and social values are recklessly avoided for lust and fulfillment of wishes. All religious rules and social values are given up for the sake of fashion, tendency to show off and mad rat race to get ahead of the other. Marriage is the occasion of extravagance and for demanding and accepting dowry. Drunkenness, gambling and lotteries are order of the day. Effort to earn honest living is viewed with contempt. Differences and disputes are rife in the community. Our social gatherings are characterized by backbiting, telling lies and voicing prejudices. By giving up Islamic identity and style of living have created a crisis of identity. On the other our religion teaches that we should avoid dishonest living. Boys and girls of the new generation have crossed all limits. The situation is distressing. Un-

fortunately the religious leaders scholars, the *imams* of the mosques and all those committed to upholding religious values have not paid as much attention to social reform as required by the situation. Islam forbids adoption or continuation of pagan customs and rites. It advocates simple marriage; disapproves non-observance of *purdah*. It urges women to stay at home. They should not step out, unless it is very urgent. Do go about showing yourself, as was the custom in pre-Islamic days. Going about without *purdah* against *Shariah*. It may invoke Divine Displeasure There is a misunderstanding that. *Purdah* does not require covering face and hands. That is not correct. Quran has permitted not covering face and hands. But the permission is for those staying at home, and only before *Mahram* (legitimate persons). The permission is to help her in doing household work.

It is our submission that every possible effort should be made for social reform and protection of Islamic identity.

The youth should keep beard and they should dress themselves in Islamic style.

The *Imams* of the mosques, religious leaders and those interested in the welfare of the community should devote themselves to eradication of social evils.

We should avoid unnecessary prolongation of disputes and quarrels. This should be regarded as a religious duty.

Avoid backbiting or slandering others at social gatherings.

Follow the Prophet (pbuh) and opt for simple marriages.

Promote feelings of respect and service for parents.

The parents should make every possible effort to save boys and girls from evils and vices. They should get them married at the earliest. to keep them under control. The elders and parents should start a multi-dimensional movement for keeping the youth on the right path..

There is a growing tendency in our society to delay marriages until a desired status is achieved. That is the root cause of several social and sexual malpractices. Present conditions demand that boys and girls should be married off after they are sixteen.

Local reform committees should be formed to undertake social

work.

Every possible effort should be made to promote observance of *purdah*.

Employ different methods to create a climate against vulgar and injurious programmes. Foster an atmosphere for positive and constructive activities.

Establish Religious Institutions

Leaders of the Community! Ignorance of religion is very common in Muslim society, particularly in rural areas. There are many who cannot recite even the *Kalama*. The children getting educated at common schools are not aware of the basics of religion. They cannot distinguish between the right and the wrong. Therefore it is essential to establish schools (*Maktabs*) to impart knowledge of religion. That is emergent in poor and backward area where the people are ignorant. They may be of two types, the day or night schools. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind should activate *Dini Talimi Board* Jamiat has decided to commit ten per cent of its budget for establishment of religious schools. We request Darul Uloom, Deoband, Mazahir-e-Uloom, Saharanpur, Darul Uloom Nadawat-ul Ulama and other important Islamic institutions to devote ten per cent of their budget for setting up *makatib* and running them in an effective manner.

Establish Modern Schools

Under British rule Christian beliefs and practices found their way into schools. It is advisable that Muslims should establish English-medium schools and colleges. Modern Muslim institutions with Islamic atmosphere should impart contemporary education. If Muslims start their own English-medium schools, modern science and technical institutions, they shall save themselves from the evils of mixed education. It is unfortunate that in the modern institutions established by Muslims, attention is not paid to Islamic way of life. If in 50% of Muslims Islamic atmosphere is absent, the cause of Islam shall not be served.

It is essential that the life style of the staff of the Muslim colleges and universities, teaching science or medicine should conform to Islamic way of life. Instruction in modern science or medicine is meaningful only if it is imparted in Islamic atmosphere. Getting modern education at the cost of your faith and identity is a losing proposition. Why that is not done? There is no contradiction between modern contemporary education and Islamic atmosphere. Modern contemporary education does not depend on western culture and life style.

Muslims should set up five or such institutions in every state. There is shortage of staff. Trained teachers are not available in desired number. In primary, secondary and higher educational institutions there should be arrangement for teaching the life of the Prophet (pbuh), history of Islam and its basic tenets. There is need of hostels having Islamic atmosphere. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has started computer centres, I.T.I., mobile dispensary and courses in allied sciences. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has made good progress in that direction at Anjar in Gujarat. JUH has established such educational institutions in Children's Village there. Classes are being held and good results have come. It is our appeal to conscientious persons of the community that they should come forward to bear the burden of producing good Muslims and good Indians, according to the teaching of Islam.

Peace in Palestine and Israeli aggression

Palestine has become the symbol of the intrigues of Anglo-American intrigues and repression of Arabs. It is the specimen of Israeli aggressive designs to grab Arab lands. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has firmly stood against the aims of Israel and lent its support to the just cause of Arabs. USA has been hostile to the cause of Palestine. It has lent unjust support to Israel, its mischief and terrorist activities. It has used Israel as its military outpost. The indifference of world community has rendered Palestinians helpless. Propaganda was carried on a wide scale that Yasser Arafat is an obstacle to peace and supporter of terrorism. His death and assumption of power by Mahmood Abbas was described by USA and Israel as a 'revolution'. An impression

was created that US administration is persuading Israel to take part in the peace process. It is working for creation of autonomous state of Palestine. It is applying pressure for checking fresh settlements of Jews. However developments point in a different direction. On February 8, 2004 an official statement issued from Sharam-ul-Sheikh, stated that the parties would not attack each other. However, attacks continue. Palestinians respected world public opinion and agreed to cease fire to carry forward the peace process. *Hamas* to has agreed to take part in the forthcoming elections to National Council. On the other Israel continues provocative activities. It has approved construction of two new Jewish settlements of 35,000 houses on the West Coast. That is the violation of peace process and US Road Map. It appears that Sharon wants to delay the vacation of Jewish settlement, which was expected to be complete by July 5, 2005. It appears that he intends to sabotage the process.

In these circumstances we appeal from this stage to the Palestinians to be patient and cautious to defeat Israeli designs.

We strongly condemn Israeli aggressive expansionist aims.

USA, Russia and the world community should cooperate for creation autonomous state of Palestine.

Rehabilitation of uprooted homeless Palestinians should be done at the earliest.

All Jewish settlements should be removed from Arab lands.

USA should stop arming Israel. Israel should be dispossessed of weapons of mass destruction.

US Aggression and Repression in Iraq

USA has launched a military and economic war against the Islamic world on the pretext of saving democracy, freedom terrorism. That has rendered the defence of peace, independence, and sovereignty of countries as meaningless. Taking a leaf from US aggression, China and Russia too are engaged in suppressing their Muslim minorities.

US soldiers, guilty of brutally treating Iraqi prisoners in Abughuraib

prison were let off. Organizations watching human rights have strongly criticized US authorities for their conduct. On the other hand conditions in Iraq contradict American claims of restoring peace, democracy and freedom in Iraq. Anarchy, murder, destruction and terror are order of the day. Conditions are not normal even after the so-called elections. Their slander that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction has been proved baseless. It was just an American excuse for occupying Iraq. It is our demand that USA should end forthwith occupation of Iraq. Full sovereignty should be handed over to the people of Iraq. USA should not interfere in the affairs of Iraq.

It is our appeal to world community to extend their cooperation to the people of Iraq for restoration of autonomy, peace, democracy and independence to them.

It is our demand from the United Nations that should perform their role for ending war and establishment of peace in Iraq.

Conclusion

I am sorry that I have taken a long time. For that I am grateful. In the context of the present crisis, I invite your attention to the fact that the history is full of examples when the people turned to Allah for the correct strategy and were rewarded with success. Only Allah haste solution of all problems. With full faith in Him, we should devote ourselves, with determination for solution of our religious, national, social and economic problems. In that struggle we should enlist the cooperation of our fellow countrymen. Our unity shall be blessed with success. (End)