

The Prime Minister's High Level Committee on Social, Economic and Educational status of the Muslim community of India in its report submitted in November, 2006, having drawn a reference to B.P. Mandal Commission(1980), observed that:-

“By clubbing the arzals and the ajlafs among Muslims in an all encompassing OBC category, the Mandal Commission overlooked the disparity in the nature of deprivations that they faced. Being at the bottom of the social hierarchy, the arzals are the worst off and need to be handled separately. It would be most appropriate if they were absorbed in the SC list, or at least in a separate category, Most Backward Classes (MBCs) carved out of the OBCs.”

The Committee in its concluding comments, stated as under:-

“Based on the arguments and data presented here, it is logical to suggest that Muslims in India, in terms of their social structure, consist of three groups-ashrafs, ajlafs and arzals. The three groups require different types of affirmative action. The second group, ajlafs/OBCs, need additional attention which could be similar to that of Hindu-OBCs. The third group, those with similar traditional occupation as that of the SCs, may be designated as Most Backward Classes (MBCs) as they need multifarious measures, including reservation, as they are 'cumulatively oppressed' ”.

Relevant extract from Chapter Ten (The Muslim OBCs and Affirmative Action) of the Report is under:-

Relevant Extracts from the Prime Minister's High Level Committee (Sachar Committee)

Muslim OBCs: A Profile

Sociological studies on the social structure of Muslims in India have emphasized on the presence of descent based social stratification among them.