

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my research Supervisor Dr. Krishna Swamy Dara, for his consent encouragement and guidance. During the course of writing this thesis, I have greatly benefitted from the advice and suggestion given by him. I would also like to thank Prof. Badrul Alam and Prof. Furqan Ahmad Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia, Dr. Rajendra K. Pandey, Center for Federal Studies Jamia Humdard New Delhi, Mr. Ajay Kumar Ramanujan College Delhi University and Dr. Pradeep kumar, Mr. Sanjeev kumar, Dr. Shahjad, Mr. Jitendra Kumar, Miss. Lovekesh, Dr. Razia, for their valuable comments.

The seed of the idea germinated in my mind and they helped in nurturing it throughout the duration of the study. I am deeply indebted to them for their constant support and motivation during some difficult phase of the study. I have been able to complete my thesis with their continuous support and direction. I am equally grateful to the head of the Department, Prof. Mohd. Badrul Alam, Jamia Millia Islamia for his uninterrupted cooperation.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not mention the support extended to me by the staff of Zakir Hussain Library, Jamia Millia Islamia Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, Central Secretariat Library, Institute of Objective Studies (IOS), Jamia Nagar, Dalit and Minorites Library Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

I sincerely thank all the respondents whom I came in contact, many of whom have now become my friends, for their cooperation and willingness to share information. I owe my greatest debt to my family members who missed me while I was busy with the work.

The work could not have assumed the present form without the cooperation of my reverent parents, elder brothers and mother and my wife, respected Dr. Krishna Swamy Dara, my supervisor, who has been perennial source of inspiration for me in the writing of this thesis.

Rajesh Kumar