**Minorities’ vote bank reaches close to 3m**

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**ISLAMABAD: The vote bank of religious minorities has widened to reach close to three million, with 13 districts in Sindh and two in Punjab having significant presence of minorities placing them in a position to alter the electoral scene in many constituencies.**

According to a document of the Election Commission of Pakistan available with Dawn, the number of minority vote stands at 2.99 million — up from 2.77m which was the case before the 2013 general elections.

Hindu voters have a dominating majority among all the minority communities with their number (1.49m) constituting half of the total non-Muslim voters in the country. They are mostly concentrated in Sindh where their number comes to over 1.39m. A total of 73,152 Hindu voters live in Punjab, 22,766 in Balochistan, 4,022 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 586 in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) and 188 in the Islamabad Capital Territory.

**With over 1.49m voters Hindus top the list**

Christians form the second largest non-Muslim voters, totalling 1.32m with over 1m settled in Punjab followed by 209,083 in Sindh, 29,173 in Islamabad, 26,814 in KP, 16,279 in Balochistan and 1,345 in Fata.

The total number of Ahmadi voters in Pakistan is 119,749 of which 101,156 are dwelling in Punjab, 14,855 in Sindh, 2,134 in Islamabad, 1,140 in KP, 451 in Balochistan and 13 in Fata.

Of the total 6,193 Sikh voters, 2,597 live in KP, 1,477 in Sindh, 1,157 in Punjab, 730 in Fata, 225 in Balochistan and seven in Islamabad.

Of the total 3,743 Parsi voters, 2,487 are from Sindh, 723 belong to KP, 254 to Punjab, 250 to Balochistan, 16 to Fata and 13 to Islamabad.

There are 1,643 Buddhist voters and most live in Sindh and Punjab.

Among other religious communities, around 900 are Jews.

According to official statistics obtained before the 2013 elections, there were 2.77m non-Muslim voters in the country. The data showed that Umerkot and Tharparkar districts in Sindh had as high as 49 per cent and 46pc non-Muslim voters, respectively. In Umerkot, there were a total of 386,924 voters of which 189,501 belonged to the religious minorities. In Tharparkar, out of a total of 473,189 voters, 219,342 were non-Muslim.

In Mirpurkhas, the total number of voters was 590,035 and among them 192,357 (33pc) were non-Muslim. In Tando Allahyar, 74,954 non-Muslims constitute 26pc of the total 288,460 voters.

In Tando Mohammad Khan, 39,847 non-Muslims accounted for 17pc of total 231,522 voters. In Matiari, 81,589 non-Muslims constituted 13pc of total 302,265 voters. In Karachi (south), total number of voters was 1,070,321 and among them 81,589 (8pc) were non-Muslim. In Ghotki and Hyderabad, 41,031 and 62,243 non-Muslims accounted for 7pc of the total 571,636 and 928,236 voters, respectively.

In Chiniot and Lahore districts of Punjab, 35,335 and 247,827 non-Muslims constituted 6pc of the total 604,991 and 4,424,314 voters, respectively. In Jamshoro and Kashmore districts of Sindh, 18,912 and 17,495 non-Muslims were 5pc of the total 373,097 and 355,904 voters, respectively.

Among 2.77m non-Muslim voters registered before the 2013 polls, 1.40m were Hindus, 1.23m Christians, 115,966 Ahmadis, 5,934 Sikhs, 3,650 Parsis, 1,452 Buddhists and 809 Jews. Jews and Parsis were two minorities in which the number of women voters was higher than that of men. There were 1,915 Parsi female voters against 1,735 male voters. Likewise, the number of Jewish women voters was 427 against 382 men in the community.

**Number of minorities’ voters**

Hindu 1,498,275

Christian 1,325,433

Ahmadi 119,749

Sikh 6,193

Parsi 3,743

Buddhist 1,643

Other communities 42,805

Total 2,997,841

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**Religious leaders will have to be united to counter the conspiracies of Qasianis: Mujahid Ul Hussaini**

Faisalabad (PR) Leader of Khatm e Nabuwat Movement Pakistan, Mujahid Ul Hussaini termed idealist interest of political leaders shameful. He said that political leaders are utilizing religious leader to protect their political career. But no one is able to end differences. All religious groups especially those that are functional on the name of Khatm e Nabuwat must join a group to finalize effective plan. Non Muslim forces are pressurizing government to take back its decision of declaring Jamat Ahmadiyya non Muslim. If someone helps them to achieve their motive, we will not be able to fulfill the ambition of Alama Iqbal and Muslim community. (**Daily Express, 31st December, 2016)**

**Government must take apathy on the country by not supporting Qadianis: Khatm e Nabuwat Movement**

**Nationalised institutes must not be retransferred to Qadianis.**

Multan (Staff Reporter) Missionaries of Khatm e Nabuwat Movement, Aziz Ur Rehman Jalandhri, Muhammad Ismail, Ghulam Mustafa, Qazi Ahsan Ahmad, Rashid Madni, Ishaq Saqi and others said in their Friday Sermons that if it is necessary to rename any institute after a scientist and then it must be renamed after Dr Abdul Qadir Khan or Dr Samar Mubarak Mand. Government must take back its notification of renaming institute after Dr Abdul Salam. We have spent billions of rupees on the construction of mosques, libraries and institutes. Future of Muslim students and teachers look dark with government’s decision of awarding them to Qadianis. **(Daily Jung 31st December, 2016)**

**Scholars will not be silent over the possible amendment in the law of blasphemy: Khalil Ur Rehman**

Accursed denier of Holy Prophet (PBUH), Asia must be hanged. Government must declare official holiday on the day of demise of caliphs: Maulana Farooq

Arif Wala (Ausaf Correspondent) Jamat Ahl e Sunnat Pakistan organized press conference in Jamia Hunfia Ghousia. Khalil Ur Rehman and Faroq Ahmad Saeedi urged Sindh government to take back its anti Islamic bill. They said that they are ready to sacrifice our lives for the protection of the honor of Holy Prophet (PBUH). They strongly condemned firing from Qadianis on Muslims and demanded Punjab government to punish them in accordance with the law. They urged to organize Islam Zindabad conference in 4 divisions of Multan on 5th March. (**Daily Ausaf, 31st December, 2016)**

**20 religious parties launched strong protest over American interference in religious matters of the country. Qadiani and Jewish lobbies must restrain themselves from developing conspiracies against Khatm e Nabuwat act of 1973. Pakistan is an independent Islamic state. America must not forget the end of Russia: Mumtaz Awan, Naeem Badshah, Hanif Haqqani, Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, Mufti Ashiq Hussain, Saif Ullah Chishti and others**

Lahore (Special Reporter) Religious leaders strongly condemned American demand of omitting various topics from Islamiat and making law of blasphemy ineffective through their joint statement. They said that America must abide by international laws otherwise its end will be similar to Russia. It is the responsibility of every patriot to fail all conspiracies of Jewish and Qadiani lobbies.

**(Daily Ausaf, 28th December, 2016)**

**We will not tolerate confidential activities of Qadianis in Azad Kashmir: Pir Attiq Ur Rehman**

**Billions of Muslims have a firm belief in the faith of Khatm e Nabuwat. Jews, Hindus and Christians developed conspiracies to assist Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani.**

Kotli (Correspondent) President of Jamiat Ulama, Jammu Kashmir, Pir Attiq said that God is the creator of entire universe and Hudhrat Muhammad (PBUH) is the last prophet. Everyone has a firm belief on all the prophets. Everyone believes that no other prophet can emerge after Holy Prophet (PBUH). Khatm e Nabuwat is a f9+aith of companions of Holy Prophet (PBUH). When Muslema Kazab claimed prophecy in the tenure of Hudhrat Abu Bakar Siddique (RTA), all Muslims rejected him straightway. The first caliph defeated him and all his companions through a war. Many Muslims also sacrificed their lives for Khatm e Nabuwat during the war. Late, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani claimed to be a last prophet, but, scholars declared him apostate. Afterwards, parliament unanimously declared Qadianis non Muslims by accepting the resolution submitted by shah Ahmad Noorani. Those who call Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani prophet are out of the dimensions of Islam. Those who took part in this legislation have cleared their paths towards heaven. Those who give any relaxation to deniers are criminals of the country and constitution. No one will forgive them. Those who consider him prophet can live in the country as non Muslim but they are not allowed to propagate their religion at all. **(Daily Ausaf 28th December, 2016)**