

# DALIT VOICE

[The Voice of the Persecuted Minorities]

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EDITORIAL

## FASCIST CLOUDS OVER TAMIL NADU

**M**eenakshipuram has turned into a forest fire engulfing the entire Tamil Nadu if not the country. An Indian Express report says the Govt. of India appears to be very much worried about this fast-spreading epidemic that is sweeping the South. Reports of conversion are coming from Kanpur and Gujarat also.

While every conscious Dalit should be happy about these developments—the revolt of the Dalits—they should be equally concerned about its consequences. As we have hinted in our previous issue, our fears about the prospects of a communal riot rocking TN are expressed by both Muslims and Dalits.

Since then we had reports of a clash in Wandiwash in TN. Our information is that a big preparation is going on. Communal and political interests are out to exploit the present situation and see that TN is seized from the hands of Periyar's followers who have been ruling the country's most progressive State. This is the one State in India where the RSS is weakest. The trick it always adopts to gain a foothold is to start a communal riot and then pitch its tent. This is what it did in Kerala where it has gained sufficient following.

CPM - RSS clashes are a daily feature there. Over 100 have been killed so far. It wants to repeat the same thing in TN by starting a series of clashes if

possible between the SCs and Muslims themselves. If this is the game of the communalists, anti-Periyar political leaders are wanting to seize TN by raising the bogey of law and order and proving that the lives of the SCs and Muslims are not safe under MGR's ADMK Govt. The very same political and communal forces are collaborating in Kerala and the same pattern will be repeated in TN—at the cost of much bloodshed of the poorest of the poor.

Unfortunately our CPM-CPI comrades have not till now opened their mouth on the TN conversions. Perhaps, they are also welcoming the bid to oust Periyar's followers and restoration of the Brahmin rule in TN. Therefore, once again we call upon all progressive forces led by the DK, DMK, Left forces, Dalits, Muslims and Christians to frustrate the game of this unholy communal-political axis and keep alive the torch of Periyar EVR in TN.

Fascist clouds are gathering over TN. Dalits must not only revolt but also give no room for fascists. □

## HINDU LEADERS HAVE NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH DALITS

*(D. M. Thimmarayappa, Convener, Karnataka Dalit Action Committee, Bangalore)*

Communal Hindus led by RSS are making a sort of war preparation over the mass conversion of untouchables to Islam in Meenakshipuram and other parts of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra, etc. A similar threat has come from Bangalore and Kanpur also.

Reports by the special correspondents of the Hindu, Indian Express, Deccan Herald, Times of India, Statesman, other periodicals, PTI and UNI, apart from other impartial observers like the Regional Director of the SCs and STs of the Government of India have all gone to conclusively prove that the untouchables there have embraced Islam out of sheer desperation having been unable to bear the Hindu torture and barbarity.

The converts have testified that after becoming Muslims they have gained self-respect and manhood. The very Hindus who used to keep them out have started respecting them. It is only the conscious and awakened Dalits who have taken this extreme step. Union Minister of State for Home Makwana after a visit to Meenakshipuram had hailed their stand. Prof. Subramanian Swamy had also visited the place and came to this very same conclusion.

As regards the charge that untouchables were purchased by Muslims by using Arab money, we consider it a serious aspersion on the Dalits of India as a whole. We are not such a cheap people as to sell ourselves. Actually, it is the RSS that is trying to bribe them. The Hindu leaders and the RSS must stop making this charge which will only add insult to the injury. Press reports have said that in places where there has been a mere threat of conversion, the Government has immediately jumped and acted to redress their grievances. What the Dalits could not achieve in centuries has been accomplished

by a mere threat. Such is the miracle brought by conversion. But the Hindus led by religious leaders like the Pejawara Swamy are creating all sorts of confusion by staging dramas. While they have not bothered to touch the basic social issues that brought about this suicide to Hinduism, these religious leaders are propping up non-issues and side-tracking the basic issues. We are afraid the religious frenzy and the war-like preparations by these people may lead to serious communal riots in Tamil Nadu.

The Karnataka Dalit Action Committee, which will shortly send a team to Meenakshipuram and other areas to study the situation and also to reassure the converts, has been repeatedly urging the Dalits to quit Hinduism as directed by Dr. Ambedkar. During our recent protest demonstration on the Gujarat caste war, our main slogan was "Quit Hinduism". We have even announced our plan to hold a massive "Quit Hinduism" conference in Bangalore. Dr. Ambedkar had said that untouchables will not get equal status as long as they remain as Hindus. That is why he vowed not to die a Hindu and embraced Buddhism.

All over India, Dalits are quitting Hinduism after getting convinced that they cease to be untouchables once they get out of Hinduism. History has proved that they are right. Meenakshipuram is a standing monument to symbolise the graveyard of Hinduism. They are being killed and burnt, their property destroyed only because they are untouchables. Ambedkar has opened the floodgates. Not even a

[Contd on Page 12]

## IF UNTOUCHABILITY MUST GO CASTE MUST GO : BOLA PASWAN SHASTRI

(Our Correspondent)

The first report of the Scheduled Caste & Tribes Commission headed by Bola Paswan Shastri says : "Untouchability is a byproduct of the Hindu caste system". It also calls for "determined and consistent onslaught on the basic evil : i.e the caste system". But the commission, whose first report (total pages 230) is yet to be accepted by the Government of India though it was submitted over an year ago (Feb. 8, 1980), does not indicate how caste system can be destroyed. Some suggestions made by it to fight caste system are akin to Gandhian prescriptions all of which have been tried but failed to cure the patient.

Shastri, a highly respected former Chief Minister of Bihar and himself an untouchable, makes an important point when he says that caste riots are spreading from rural to urban centres. This is a new development in the history of India. Visiting (12-8-78) Villupuram (Tamil Nadu) where largescale atrocities broke out resulting in the death of several untouchables, he says (Page 113): A new phenomenon is developing.....The clash between the caste Hindus and the Harijans has so far confined to the rural areas only. I have no knowledge of any clash between caste Hindus and Harijans in the urban area in the recent past. Villupuram is the first urban area". This is an eye-opener. Just as 'caste riots' (Hindu-Dalit) are spreading to urban areas, communal riots (Hindu-Muslim) so far confined to urban areas are spreading to rural areas. The over-fed Hindu communalists are out for the blood of the untouchables, tribes and minorities. Therefore, the persecuted minorities should be more vigilant. This is the message in the Shastri Commission report.

The Commission has regretted that no State Government has conducted a survey of the working of the PCR Act nor set up any special court for trial. It is foolish to expect the government to undertake such a work because if any Government makes such an attempt the government will be toppled by the ruling class. The high castes who control every Government do not want to enforce the PCR Act. This is the simple truth.

As regards the root causes of atrocities (page 86) the Commission cites social causes. The social cause lies in the practice of untouchability which is a by product of the Hindu caste system pushing the SCs down to the lowest rung of the social ladder in the caste hierarchy. How can we remove untouchability without disturbing the caste scaffolding? Will not the Hindu religion shake if the caste system-its very foundation-is sought to be destroyed? Who is prepared to make such a sacrifice? If caste goes all the property and privileges enjoyed by the high castes of India will also go. Therefore, we can safely conclude that as long as the ruling class of India is allowed to continue, the caste system will also continue. Hence the need to destroy the ruling class becomes all the more urgent. We thank Bola Paswan Shastri for boldly hinting at the need to destroy caste.

We also appreciate the commission's recommendation for a special police force comprising 50% SC constables to be posted particularly in sensitive areas. We would go a step forward and recommend that the other half the special force should be Muslims. In that case, the jurisdiction of such a force can be extended to areas prone to Hindu-Muslim riots as well. Such a force should be airlifted within four hours of the violence breaking out. But why confine the recruitment of the special police force only to the level of constables? Even officers manning it should be SCs.

STs and Muslims-50 : 50.

The Commission has passed strictures on the work of the Central and State Governments for not fulfilling the job quota to SCs. The SCs will not come to the desired level even after the next 10 years, it says.

The percentage of reservation was raised by the Government of India vide resolution No. 27/25/68 - ESTT (S.C.T) dt. 25th March 1979 in proportion to the population of these communities as shown in the 1961 census. The report mentions that the 15 PC reservation to SCs is to be enforced through direct recruitment on all-India basis :- a) by open competition

b) posts to be filled by promotions c) and on the basis of seniority. But, the commission observes that "the actual percentage of SCs are nowhere near the prescribed one". In annexure I, it has given the data to prove the failure of the Government. However, in Class Iv posts, reservations have exceeded the quota fixed because these positions of sweepers, scavengers etc. are permanently reserved for the untouchables as there are none else to take up these jobs. The real position of SCs, in RBI, nationalised banks, public industries different Government departments are all furnished. A very valuable document. □

### RAMNAD DALITS EXPELLED

Karur : P. R. Kuppuswamy, Advocate, writes :

Meenakshipuram has rocked the Hindu sanatanists. From North come hordes of Hindu religious leaders and religious-political leaders, to the South to exhort Hindus against conversion. In three districts, Tirunelveli, Madurai and Ramanathapuram, "Harijans" embraced Islam. Still the process is going on. In Ramnad, the Government had filed criminal cases only against untouchables. They are on conditional bail in far off places-a cruel punishment. They find no food or support there. In Salem District also untouchables have threatened to join the stream of conversion. Around Madras some thousands of untouchables have decided to join Buddhism. □

### LIQUOR TRAGEDY

Bangalore : According to a survey conducted by the Karnataka Government's Women and Child Welfare and Social Welfare Departments those killed in the Bangalore's worst liquor tragedy recently were-SCs, STs, and Muslims. Of the total dead of 277, SCs were 159, 33 STs, 17 O.B.Cs, 37 Christians and 13 Muslims. □

### CONVERSIONS VOLUNTARY: SWAMY

Madras : RSS leaders are not unanimous in their opinion on Meenakshipuram. Subramanian Swamy, who hates Vajpayee and who in an article in the "Sunday" (10-5-81) criticised Vajpayee for his "fondness for girls and drink", says untouchables became Muslims in Meenakshipuram as they were tortured by the Hindus.

The Janata Party general secretary disagreed with BJP leader Vajpayee's views that money played a role in the Meenakshipuram conversion. He said they were voluntary. Such conversions may take place anywhere in the country, he told pressmen here on July 17. Swami, who visited Meenakshipuram earlier said what had happened there was the result of a complex sociological process and politicians should act to correct snags which led to such conversion. Subramanian Swami said in the Courtallam a series of incidents over a number of years culminated in the conversion. (Hindu 18-7-81). □

"Buddhism is part of Hinduism". Swami Ramadesar of Malaysia at the Meenakshipuram conference.

## COMMUNAL RIOTS: WHY SUPPRESS FACTS?

*By V. T. Rajshekar Shetty*

After Biharshareef it is now Hyderabad. There is no end to this blood-letting. The Biharshareef Hindu-Muslim communal riots, about which we had written in our first issue, has few parallels in the whole of India. Not only it is one of the biggest riots but the first rocking a rural area. But so soon everything seem to have been forgotten. And the Hindu communal elements are getting ready for another bout-eternal thirst for the Muslim blood.

D. R. Goyal, editor of "Secular Democracy" in an article published in his journal after a visit to the area, says "reasonable people tend to put the figure (of dead) around 200. We have received a list of 145 dead of whom three are non-Muslims". Asghar Ali Engineer, a noted writer and reformer of Bombay, who visited Biharshareef also puts the figure at 150 to 200. In an article published in the Economic and Political Weekly (16-6-81) and later reproduced in two parts in the 'Deccan Herald', he quotes the local CPI MLA saying the deaths could not have been less than 150.

But the official figure is put at 52. And in this country, official figures of the dead in any calamity is always suppressed. Can we expect the Hindu-dominated Government to speak the truth when it comes to Hindu-Muslim riot casualties?

Tooshar Pandit, whose coverage of the Biharshareef appeared as the cover story in the 'Sunday' (24-5-81) under the title, "R.S.S. spreads its poison again", says of the 52 officially dead, 50 were Muslims. Even the 'Hindu' correspondent had spoken about the one-sided business of murder in Biharshareef. Radiance, a Delhi weekly (21-6-81) published a chart of the Biharshareef victims saying that 143 Muslims were killed. Different reports by impartial Hindu observers have admitted the Muslims have suffered like any thing. All of them unanimously put the death toll at around 150. we have no reason to disbelieve this figure. But the official figure is kept at 52.

Apart from the huge gap between

official figure of the dead and the actual fact, the Hindu-Muslim communal clashes, which are becoming almost a daily feature, should make us think about yet another serious aspect of the problem. India's capitalist-owned Press run by high caste Hindu journalists has always adopted a doublestandard when it comes to Hindu-Muslim riots. It takes shelter under a good old Nehru-Liaquat Ali informal understanding that the community of the dead in communal riots should not be identified. However there is no official bar for publishing community-wise figures. The Muslims, who are the victims of every communal riot, themselves have been demanding community-wise details of the dead, injured, arrested and the loss of property suffered by both Hindu and Muslims. But the press takes shelter under this outdated Nehru-Liaquat Ali understanding. Why? Because it is advantageous to Hindus.

The Government, however, collects the data community-wise but does not release it to the public. Newspapers while reporting communal riots do not even identify the communities. They prefer to make it as vague as possible. The reason given both by the Government and the Hindu press for not identifying the communities and not giving the community wise break-up of the dead and injured is that such a publication will further aggravate the communal trouble. This is a fantastic logic. Why should the communal Hindus engineer a riot and then try to suppress from the public eye what they did? If the communal-minded Hindus are so much

worried about the consequence of the Hindu-Muslim riots by the publication of the details of the riots, they should rather try not to start one. Hindu-Muslim communal riots and Hindu-untouchable caste riots have tarnished the already murky image of India in the outside world. By suppressing facts, will such a blood-stained image get white-washed?

In the case of the Biharshareef, the very story of Tooshar Pandit (Sunday 24-5-81) carries the headline indicting the RSS. Not only that it names the very RSS leader who was responsible for killing so many Muslims—including women and babies: Raj Kishore, the RSS chief of the

district. With a gun in hand, he was on a murder spree with his band of RSS volunteers in several villages. Tooshar Pandit's report indicting Raj Kishore was supported by many other impartial observers. But till this day no action has been taken except for Indira Gandhi's crocodile tears. Dalits and other persecuted minorities of India should be well aware of this Hindu game. They should fight not only the RSS menace but demand publication community-wise details of the dead, not only in communal riots but also in caste riots. Remember, we are fighting for establishing truth. □

## A BRAHMIN VIEWPOINT

Sir,-The cartoon in the Indian Express of July 9 [by Abu Abraham] is in a deplorably low taste. Is it necessary for a principled and sober newspaper to sink so low and indulge in casteism by publishing a cartoon which shows a Brahmin, lathi in hand and a policeman in close support? At this stage of our national evolution, it is just as well to remind the reading public that any number of Brahmins fought for freedom and it was certainly due to the efforts of stalwarts like Rajaji, Satyamurthy, and very many others [including of course the Brahmin Jawaharlal Nehru] that we won freedom. Brahmins are being decried and hounded by some political parties for perpetuating their own pernicious regime no holds barred.

Is there any justification for this Brahmin-baiting? True when the caste system was born, the Brahmin was the preceptor.

It might be said that he practised untouchability. Yes, he really does, even when he begets a son. He treats himself as an untouchable and does not even go to a temple for a certain number of days — a practice being followed to this day. This 'untouchability' descends on him even when his brother begets a child. The basis

of this is 'tantric' and only the sastras can give the reason, perhaps bordering on the occult.

The Brahmin has been guilty of untouchability. The British who ruled us have perpetrated greater atrocities on Indians. For that reason, do we massacre every Briton who steps into our shoes? Do Hindus hack every Muslim he encounters because once upon a time Muslim hordes descended on India on a loot-and-plunder spree?

This Brahmin-baiting is irrational and meaningless. Repeating with convenient mutilations, historical situations which are no longer valid in the present context is not going to help the nation which has, not just the four castes, but innumerable such social divisions.

What is required is a healthier understanding of each other's social practices and ways of life and a national will to put talents to the best use for building an India which can speak from a position of strength in all platforms of the world.

C. S. SETHURAMAN. Trivandrum.  
(Letter to the editor in the Indian Express on the mass conversions-14-7-81) □

## DALITS MUST QUIT HINDUISM

(A. Narayanswamy, Secretary, Karnataka SC & ST Employees Federation, Bangalore.)

We extend our hearty good wishes to the Dalits of Meenakshipuram for quitting Hinduism and to some Bangalore city Dalits for announcing their decision to quit Hinduism in August. We also congratulate S.M. Siddiah, Ex-M.P. for embracing Christianity with all his relatives and friends at Mysore.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar said: I have therefore no hesitation in saying that such a religion (Hinduism) must be destroyed and I say there is nothing irreligious in working for the destruction of such a religion." (Annihilation of Caste-page 98).

It is the considered opinion of Dr. Ambedkar and many others that Hinduism is the root cause of the Indian social stagnation and economic ruin. After 20 years of thinking on this problem Dr. Ambedkar finally quit Hinduism and embraced Buddhism. Lakhs of people followed him. Today those who got converted either to Buddhism, Christianity, Islam or Sikhism feel socially liberated.

They have escaped the stigma of untouchability. Some writers in Karnataka say that Dr. Ambedkar should have preferred Islam instead of Buddhism. But what we say is that, let us first 'QUIT' Hinduism and thereby become human beings. Later we can decide which religion to seek conversion because as long

as we remain in Hinduism we cannot escape the stigma of untouchability. The untouchables must know that they have no right to criticise the caste system and complain against the atrocities committed on them by the caste Hindus as long as they themselves remain as Hindus.

Either we have to quit Hinduism, become human beings and regain self-respect or else we have to remain under Hinduism and get kicked, killed, burnt and raped by the upper castes.

The untouchables must also know that kicking, killing, burning and raping of untouchables are sanctioned by the Hindu dharma sastras. If caste Hindus are committing the atrocities against us, it is because the sastras have told them to do so. How can we also subscribe to the same dharma sastra and pray to the same Brahmin gods, go to the same temples, worship the same Brahmin gods in our houses? We must decide early whether we should remain as slaves within Hinduism or get out of it and become human beings.

While congratulating Dalits of Meenakshipuram for taking this bold step, we call upon the Dalits all over India to organise "quit Hinduism" conferences on Aug. 15, 1-Day. The educated Dalits should lead the Quit Hinduism Movement. Go ahead.

### INDIRA VISITS ANANDAMAI ASHRAM

SITAPUR (U.P.) July 21.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, today visited the Ma Anand Mai Ashram at Naimisharanya, 42 km. from here. Mrs. Gandhi had darshan of Ma Anand Mai and was with her for about an hour.

The Prime Minister, who was on her first visit to Naimisharanya, an ancient religious centre, inaugurated a Pauranic Vedic research and studies institute there.

She was presented with a set of books by the director of the centre, Mr. G. N. Sastri (Hindu 22-7-81)

**Bombay:** Dalit Panthers staged demonstrations before Government offices throughout Maharashtra on July 27 to fight against the non-implementation of the unanimous resolution of the Maharashtra legislature recommending renaming Marathwada University after Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

## PANCHAMA-BAITING IN TAMIL NADU

(G. Jagannathan, Madurai, Citizens for Democracy)

I wish to refer to the phenomenon of adoption of Islam by the panchamas in Tamil Nadu which has been going on for more than 10 years, but made a government issue now by the anti-democratic and anti-secular elements of the Hindu Rashtra school.

Varnashrama Dharma is a well known tenet of Hinduism. Under this tenet, the panchamas are untouchables. To term the panchamas as Hindus is not correct. They are only unbonded, untouchable slaves of the Hindu.

As such it is not surprising, with the slow penetration of modern education among the panchama castes and with the consciousness of their human dignity by the youths, some of them become rationalists or materialists. But the vast majority who are religious minded have been adopting Buddhism, Christianity or Islam. The process has been going on for hundreds of years.

The Hindu clergy and the R.S.S. element are blowing up this phenomenon as part of a Muslim proselytisation programme. The amity existing between Hindus and Muslims in Tamilnadu is exemplary. The Jamat-e-Islam in Tamilnadu is very keen about not giving room for communal discord to develop in this part of India. So they are too reluctant to provide assistance for initiating the new-comers into their fold unless responsible Hindus consider it not as a calamity to their way of life but as liberation of the panchama from centuries of caste oppression.

In such circumstances, I would request democrats to use their influence with the

responsible Hindus, R-S S., the govt. and religious leaders etc to convince them about the need to desist from rousing communal passions on the issue and to create an atmosphere conducive to the free exercise of their human rights by the panchamas without government interference. The freedom of the Muslims to enfold into their brotherhood the ones who aspire to it without government interference and harassment by Hindu communalists is an essential demand of secularism.

This is not the first time in history that people reject the social tyranny of a particular religion and adopt a more rational and humanistic religion. But unfortunately every Hindu from the Prime Minister down to the police constable is propping up the tyranny of Hindu social system on the victims of this tyranny trouncing all principles of a secular polity. The Indra Congress has started Panchama baiting and Muslim-baiting. Here it has become imperative for democrats to intervene and work in defence of secularism as well as human rights to the panchamas. We are planning to call a meeting of Panchamas and Muslims at Madurai to thrash out this matter which is so vital for democracy and secularism. Such a meeting should be held at the national level also.

### ATOMIC DEPARTMENT DALITS DECIDE TO EMBRACE ISLAM

Madras: V. M. Velu, Secretary of the Atomic Energy Department (Government of India) SC & ST Employees Union, Kalpakkam, writes that in his office there are only 700 Dalits of the 3,700 employees. And these Dalits are the worst victims of Hindu imperialism. Hindu employees stabbed him on March 19 in broad day light and right before the police station. A. Ramakrishna, vice-president of the Association, was seriously assaulted by Hindus on the night of Nov. 30 1978.

In both the cases, no action was taken by the police despite written complaints. M. Periyaswamy, leading fireman of the factory, was stabbed by Hindus on Dec. 4-80. The Hindus removed the portrait of Dr. Ambedkar unveiled by the Dalit employees inside the factory recreation club. P. Manoharan was assaulted by Hindus on Jan. 1.

In the light of these "continued naked aggression on poor Dalit employees by the Hindus," the Dalit employees at a general body meeting on July 10 decided to quit Hinduism and embrace Islam on Aug. 15, Independence day, he says. □

## MUSLIMS NOT INTERESTED IN CONVERSIONS

[Our Correspondent]

**T**iruchi : Dr. Ameeruddin Ahmed, a noted eye-surgeon of Trichy, writes in the editorial of his monthly English journal, "Ad-Dawaa", of June 1981 that Muslims are not interested in the conversion of untouchables.

As Dr. Ahmed, a noted Muslim leader of Tamil Nadu, is working close to the area where conversions have taken place and is familiar with the whole situation, his remarks will be of much significance. The editorial says : "The national press was making a lot of noise to create reaction in the minds of the majority community and this may have repercussions leading to even communal conflicts.

"No doubt every faith has a right to present its philosophy, belief, moral, ethical and national and international values to the world at large. But to blame the poor Indian Muslim community for this conversions is without moral justification. In fact the Indian Muslim community is afraid of conversion nor they have any missionary or a body to undertake this task as some other communities are doing. We don't even have an organisation or a set-up to give or distribute free Islamic literature as missionary institutions are doing. In fact our dawath starts with Biryani and ends with feeni. The Muslim community at large and the Indian Muslims in particular are indifferent to their own faith. But we would like to point out that if some mem-

bers of the Harijan community have chosen to accept another faith for sheer emotional brotherhood of man nobody can help it or prevent it. In fact people are attracted towards Islam for various reasons and only those people who had come over to the Islamic faith, alone shall explain as to why they changed their faith. By changing their faith especially the Harijans are losing plenty of economic advantage and become inheritors of suffering and consequence of adverse history. But man does not live by bread alone. As we had pointed out in the earlier paragraph, there is no conversion missionary with us. So at Meenakshipuram what has occurred is not a phenomenon of conversion, but a case of acceptance of Islamic faith for which the older Muslims are not at all responsible. The Harijan brothers have joined the Islamic faith for the reasons best known to them. So it is better not to play this game of playing up in the press. The only difference between a communist and a non-communist state is the freedom of conscience. Let us uphold the same as the most tolerant of the religions in the whole world". □

### FEAR OF COMMUNAL RIOTS

Madras: K.K. Mohiadeen, general secretary of the Islamic society of India, in a letter to the Prime Minister has urged her to avert the danger of Hindu-Muslim communal riots looming over Tamil Nadu following largescale conversion of untouchables to Islam in different parts of the State.

He says that the "communal elements who are itching for trouble are planning to start an agitation in and around Meenakshipuram. Even if one SC convert is beaten up, it may turn into a Hindu-Muslim clash".

Therefore he suggests immediate precautionary measures:- transfer of communal-minded officials, rounding up of bad characters, alerting of police and paramilitary forces, formation of peace committees,

instructions to press not to publish rumours.

### PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION:

In another letter to Jagjivan Ram, he urges the former Deputy Prime Minister to fight for proportional representation to all communities. In admission to education and recruitment to jobs, each community including SCs, ST and minorities should be taken in proportion to its respective population. He also asks Jagjivan Ram to start a party called the "Harijan-Muslim Congress".

**SEPARATE BANKS:** To safeguard the interests of minorities, he suggests separate Ministry of Minority Affairs and a separate financial institution to meet the needs of SCs, STs and minorities. As the weaker sections are getting a raw deal in the nationalised banks, the only solution is a separate bank for minorities, he says □

# MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS' GLOBAL CONSPIRACY TO SUBVERT INDIA

RSS VERSION OF CONVERSIONS

(Our Correspondent)

**B**angalore : We are flooded with letters, reports, articles, statements and speeches on the Meenakshipuram mass conversion of untouchables to Islam. It is no longer a flood but a deluge. The epidemic is spreading to Karnataka, Andhra and U.P. Earthquake, as we declared in our previous issue. The Hindu communalists have raised it to the level of Armageddon. The untouchables have tasted the benefits of conversion and more and more of them appear to be rushing to embrace Islam which did produce miraculous results.

B. J. P. president Vajpayee visited Rahmat Nagar and later told the press at Madras on July. 17 the RSS version of the conversion. The Deccan Herald report (18-7) says the conversions were "master-minded by certain notorious smugglers who would like to cover up their involvement with counterfeit currency cases. These unscrupulous elements have succeeded in roping in innocent Harijans who have been made to carry fake currency on the assurance that they will not be harassed by the police once they became Muslims". Vajpayee raised questions of involvement of a foreign agency in printing fake note, establishment of a technical training school which received Rs. 1.5 crore foreign aid and involvement of an Indian who became a Muslim in a gulf country but now busy converting untouchables by using foreign money. But Vajpayee was careful not to mention any name of the persons doing this conversion or the company that gave the machine to make currency notes or the Arab country from where the petro-dollars are pouring. Why did he not give the names? Is he afraid or is he not having the information? The RSS has supplied him the information. But he did not like to repeat the RSS charge because he wants to become the Prime Minister. And he knows that nobody can become PM without the support of Dalits and Muslims. And in this

conversions, unfortunately, the very two communities are involved. RSS wants to groom him for the Prime Minister but at the same time it cannot get out of its "caste character" which makes it hate these two persecuted minorities. This was Vajpayee's dilemma when he visited Rahamat Nagar.

What is the RSS version front-paged in the July 18 issue of the 'Organiser'. Under the headline "inside story of Meenakshipuram", it says "Muslim priests and leaders are working to convert 1 lakh Harijans living in 500 villages spread over 3 districts of Tamil Nadu". The whole thing is described as a "Global conspiracy to subvert India". It recalls the Times of India (21/3/81) front-page headlines in this connection. The annual report of the "South India Islam Society had said that 8,000 Harijans had been converted to Islam". The facts, Organiser says, are: The first conversions took place in Korayur, Ramnad district, in Feb. 1980. The person responsible for these conversions is a Ramnad District Health Officer, Dr. Manoharan who became Dr Munnawar Khan and Dr. Jayaseelan, another local Harijan doctor. At Meenakshipuram, the police unearthed a big counterfeiting activity in an estate. The counterfeiting was being done according to the police, by some Christian padris with the aim of a printing

machine donated by Douglas Charity of America. This has been established by the confessions of the accused persons to the police. A Christian family residing in Tenkasi Taluk, is also running an orphanage aided by the Douglas Charity. The primary purpose of this orphanage is conversion of Harijans to Christianity. This orphanage abets several Harijans to create caste tensions between Harijans and non-Harijans in several villages, so as to create an atmosphere of alienation from the Hindu society, which is necessary for conversions. The family running the orphanage is also said to have made available the machinery for counterfeiting. According to the police, printing and distribution of counterfeit currency has been going on for several years. The modus operandi is that the printing is done by the Christians and the distribution outlets are the trade channels of Muslims. The Harijans are employed to carry the counterfeit currency. The Organiser says "one Thangaraj, a notorious local goonda, changed from Christianity to Islam and became Yusuf to save himself after eloping with a Thevar girl. This Thangaraj had link with the fakenote racket. The two Thevar youths who discovered this connection were murdered. Police investigation revealed the fakenote racket. The police were harsh on SCs and the Muslims assured them that police would not dare touch them if they embraced Islam".

This is the RSS version of the whole story which Vajpayee repeated at Madras. The Organiser refers to the Tanjore

district conversion led by Ambikapathi father-in-law of Thasi M. Karunanidhi, a DMK MP from Nagapattanam. He converted 20 other Dalits. A famous street is renamed Madina street. The Organiser gives the following details of conversion in Tamil Nadu : total is 1, 369. The conversions have nothing to do with social reasons. "They have much to do with the feeling that there is money and power in being a Muslim". The Organiser later propounds 12 bogus schemes to avert conversions and save "Harijans". However, some Dalit friends have thrown a challenge : If the Arabs can pay Rs. 500 per convert, the RSS, the Shankaracharyas and the Birlas, who together can command crores of rupees, can offer Rs. 1,000 per head and reconvert them, but as Brahmins. They said they are ready.

RSS leaders who became so nervous by these conversions have virtually started pissing in their pants. The national executive of the RSS met in Delhi for two days from July 11, Balasaheb Deoras presiding. The full text of the resolution passed at the meeting was published on the front page of the Organiser. We have carefully gone through the resolution and would like to tell our Dalit friends not to be deceived by these crocodile tears of this high caste fascist organisation. Except saying that caste distinction must be buried and the "pernicious practice of untouchability must be ended", there is nothing concrete. We have had enough of these humbugs from the days of Gandhi. □

## RSS RESORTS TO CONVERSIONS

Berhampur (W.Bengal) : The RSS-controlled Vishwa Hindu Parishad on 17-6-81 converted a number of Santals including its leader Chunku Hansda and entire family to Hinduism at a ceremony near here. RSS leaders headed by Shyamapada Mukhkyopadhaya, VHP general secretary, conducted the conversion ceremony. Santals like other tribals are not Hindus but animists. They have been demanding a separate state of Jharkhand. □

## CHRISTIAN MINISTER SACKED IN MP

(Our Correspondent)

**BHOPAL :** There is hardly any political representation to Christians in India. In the Union Cabinet headed by Indira Gandhi, there is no Christian, forming over 2% of the Indian population. It may be small but it is the most literate and the most alert. Apart from this, it is serving the needs of the Hindu majority which depends upon the schools and hospitals run by the Christians. The high caste Hindus consider it a status symbol to send their children to convents. But after taking all these advantages, what the Christians get is only abuse.

In MP, the only Christian Minister in the Cabinet was dropped in the recent reshuffle. Thousands of Christians staged protest demonstrations in the second week

[Contd from Page 2]

hundred Shankaracharyas and Pejavar Swamis can stop the flow now.

Nor have they any right to demand that converts be deprived of reservations. If their plea is that reservations should not be given only to converts, why did they launch the Gujarat caste war on untouchables who were within Hinduism? Does it not prove that they will not tolerate reservations even to Hindu untouchables? That means as long as untouchables live within Hinduism they are tortured and the moment they quit, they are threatened with the punishment of withdrawing the reservations. But the Dalits shall not be cowed by these threats.

Reports said 200 more untouchables became Muslims on the July 27 Hindu conference for reconversions. Hindu leaders who want to woo back the converts to the Hindu fold could have atleast offered

of July in Raipur district demanding reinstatement of Julius Ekka.

RSS and other communal Hindus have been for long demanding the dismissal of Julius Ekka, a highly respected leader. The RSS official journal, *Organiser* (26-7-81) hailed the dismissal and said: "The main reason for his sack was his pro-Jharkhand stand and encouragement to conversion in Jashpur and other areas of Raigarh dt. which is the centre of missionaries". It said Ekka was originally a tribel. The beauty of the whole thing is that it is only the converted tribals who are the most conscious and militant lot but the RSS and other communal Hindus do not want them to get awakened. That is why they are pouring crores of rupees to Hinduise the tribals and thus keep them docile and obedient.

a promotion to the reconverted. They could have assured to convert them as Brahmins. In the absence of any such assurance, it means that the Hindus are out to make them once again as untouchables.

Therefore, the Dalits will not be fooled any longer by these tricks. We can see through their game. False promises will no longer tempt us. Dalits will no longer be deceived by this sudden Hindu sympathy for "Harijans". Their crocodile tears. How is it that now after 3,000 years they have suddenly realised that untouchables are also Hindus and they are humans. Too late.

While congratulating the untouchables for quitting Hinduism and thus getting themselves liberated, we call upon Dalits all over India to observe Independence Day (Aug. 15) as "Quit Hinduism Day" and bid good-bye to suffocation and seek fresh air.

EDITOR : V. T. Rajshekar Shetty.

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109/7th Cross, Palace Lower Orchards,

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