

DALIT VOICE

[The Voice of the Persecuted minorities]

Vol. 1

JUNE - 1 - 1981

No. 1

EDITORIAL

A DREAM COME TRUE

To bring out a journal of our own has been our long cherished dream. Persecuted minorities all over India in general and members of the Karnataka Dalit Action Committee in particular have been urging us to start a publication.

No doubt we had all the talents and enthusiasm. But what we lacked was funds. Funds will pour if we swim with the current. But the Dalit cause means swimming against the current. There is a chance of getting drowned also. Who will give us funds.?

So for quite sometime, we were handicapped for want of funds. But funds alone should not stand in the way. When good wishes are there in plenty, funds will prove to be no problem. This has been our experience.

We could not withstand the mounting pressure of our Dalit comrades-representatives of the persecuted minorities: untouchables, tribals, other backward class (OBCs), Muslims and Christians

Oppression is increasing day by day. Caste riots have spread from Marathwada to Gujarat. Anti-reservation agitation is threatening to engulf the whole country. Hindu-Muslim clashes are becoming a dai-

ly feature. Muslims and Christians are feeling that they are second-rate citizens. Even the very guardians of law and order are joining the forces of oppression.

The persecuted minorities are having hardly any friends in political parties, the government, judiciary, police, administration, professions. Intellectuals are turning dishonest. When there is no friend in these, how can they get a friend in the press? And the Press in India is owned by corrupt capitalists and manned by high-caste journalists, with some minor exceptions.

The milk of kindness is getting dried up. The rich are getting richer, the poor poorer. Perhaps, these are signs of revolution. Therefore, we thought we better not delay.

About 10 % of the Indian population is ruling us. This "ruling class" is composed of those rich who mostly come from the high castes. It is a class-caste dictator-

ship. Naked dance of Hindu communalism.

We dedicate this journal to fight this "ruling class" as the Dalit Voice, the voice of all the persecuted minorities of India.

We have a long way to go. Even a million-mile-march begins with a first step. And ours is a modest step. We fully know our limitations. But we will try to improve in days to come.

We suffer from no prejudice, no rancour, no ill-will. To us, no single individual is our enemy. We are concerned more with issues-primarily social and cultural and then economic.

We, therefore, attack the existing corrupt system. We assure that we will mercilessly attack the corrupt system.

Politics is not our playfield. While we may comment, we consider every political party as no friend of the Dalits-persecuted minorities. And the woman is a Dalit among Dalits. A slave of the slave.

For all these reasons, therefore, ours will be a unique experiment. Bangalore City has a vast working class and student population and they can consider us as their trusted friend - a friend of all the poor, struggling people. Dalit writers will be encouraged.

We will support the Left movement - the CPM, CPI and the Naxalites as we have the greatest respect for Marxism, Leninism and Maoism. Our only suggestion is that while adopting Marxism to Indian conditions, it has to be Indianised by taking into consideration the havoc played by the caste system.

We will do our best to propogate the philosophy of Ambedkar, Periyar and Lohia, and all other progressive thinkers. Genuine Marxists and Rationalists and all those working for social change shall count on our support in their struggle. It is the "Dalit Voice".

GUJARAT DALITS WIN CASTE WAR

V. T. Rajshekar Shetty

Some people including Dalits were surprised on reading our statement in the press hailing the Gujarat Dalits for winning the caste war. The Gujarat Dalit Panthers, to whom the leadership of the Dalits passed since the Cong. leadership disappeared into thin air, have agreed with our assessment and accepted our congratulations. They have also proudly admitted that they have won the battle.

Yet another proof of victory is that the high caste Hindus, who are leading the anti-reservation agitation, are quarreling among themselves. During our stay in Ahmedabad we have seen press statements by anti-reservationists blaming each other

for the "defeat". That means the high castes have themselves admitted that they have lost the battle.

This is how we arrived at the conclusion that Gujarat Dalits have won the caste

war. Besides, there are any number of press reports also arriving at the very same conclusion.

MUSLIMS STAND BY DALITS

After making these observations we reproduce our statement made after a second round study-tour of Gujarat in the 3rd and last week of April, 1981 :-

On behalf of the Dalits and other progressive forces of Karnataka in particular and South in general, we congratulate the Dalits of Gujarat for having won the 'caste war' - the biggest in the history of India.

We had visited Gujarat in the first week of February and glad to note that all our predictions made then have since come true. The society in Gujarat got neatly divided into caste Hindus versus Dalits, Muslims and Christians solidly stood by the Dalits.

During the second visit, we had occasion to visit a number of Dalit and Muslim areas, addressed a series of meetings, had discussions with them and also with journalists, professors, lawyers, judges, doctors, textile labour union and Gandhians.

The threefold purpose of our visit was-

1. to congratulate Ramesh Chandra Parmar, President, Dalit Panthers, Gujarat, and his able band of lieutenants for winning the caste war and providing the Dalits with the most effective and dedicated leadership at the most critical juncture in the history of Gujarat. The Congress (I) and other party leadership including M.L.As and M.P.s belonging to scheduled caste has betrayed its caste interests.
2. to invite 5 leaders of Gujarat Dalit Panthers to Bangalore and then to Madras for a public reception to be accorded to them by Dravida Kazhgam and entire Dalits of South. The invitation has been accepted.
3. to complete our book on the Gujarat caste-war which will have a foreward by Dr. Mulk Raj Anand, India's most famous writer. The title of the book is "The Red Book of Hindu Terror".

AMBEDKAR & GANDHI

In the light of what we have seen and discussed, we make the following observations :

1. The Hindu communal forces after having lost the caste war are today licking the wounds. The R.S.S. and its political reincarnation, the B.J.P. which led this anti-Dalit war in the guise of anti reservation agitation, stands divided and also demoralised. We have evidence that the very same forces tried to set fire to the house of a medico leader. A high caste leader was beaten up by the R.S.S. boys.
2. The Dalits who had neither the money, the police, the press nor any social status could win this historic battle because truth and justice were on their side. The medicos lost with all their six Ps, namely Police, Press, Patels, Purse, Political parties and Prabhodh Rawal (Home and Education Minister) because they thought pride and prejudice are superior to truth and justice.
3. We also consider this as a battle between Gandhi and Ambedkar. This

battle began way back in 1932 with the defeat of Dr. Ambedkar and ending with the infamous 'Poona Pact'. In Gandhi's own land, Gandhi got defeated. So it's a historic victory with great implications to be recorded by social scientists and historians.

We call upon Dalits to remember Ambedkar's warning that Gandhi should be treated as the enemy No.1 of the untouchables.

4. As we have noted during our previous visit, the R. S. S. and other Hindu communal elements did try their best to turn the anti-Dalit war into a Hindu-Muslim riot. But best of their efforts failed because all the oppressed and persecuted minorities stood like one man. We congratulate the Muslims and Christians for standing by the Dalits. A number of Muslims attended our meetings.
5. However, we regret to note that the OBCs listed by the Baxi Commission have not come out openly in support of Dalits. Not only that, in some places like Detroj, Uttarsanda, Pij and some parts of Ahmedabad, (Shahpur) some backward Class Communities like Kshatriyas, Rabaris, and Vaghar also attacked Dalits.
6. Chief Minister Solanki's community of Kshatriyas represent a record 40% of the state population. If reservation goes, the Kshatriya community will be also affected. But Solanki who became Chief Minister by the strength of his community forgot their interest during this critical period. Therefore, Solanki has to be charged with the betrayal of the interest of his community.

EXPEL "GUJARAT SAMACHAR"

7. This leads us to the most important point: the reservations to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are provided under the Constitution. Whereas there is no reservation to OBCs. The Government of India report on Backward classes (Mandal Commission Report) is now before parliament. The high-caste Hindus have succeeded in engineering an anti-reservation agitation all over the country by taking advantage of Gujarat caste war. The conspiracy behind this is to sabotage the Mandal Commission Report. That means, the Gujarat caste war is not aimed only at Dalits but to finish the OBCs. Unfortunately the vast segment of OBCs comprising over 40% of Indian Population has not seen through this game of divide and rule. This is the greatest lesson of Gujarat caste-war.
8. We are also sorry to note that S/Ts in Gujarat comprising 14% of the population have also not come out in full support of S Cs.
9. As a journalist and writer, we are ashamed to note the role played by the press, particularly the Gujarathi language press. Not only Dalits and others have complained to us about this but some pressmen themselves have come out with this report quoting instances. We refer to Arun Sadhu's report (Gujarat Journalistic Outrage- 'Statesman' 18-3-1981)

Report in 'Sunday', Mainstream etc. point out that the upper caste journalists of Gujarat sided with the anti-reservationists to protect their caste interest. Even Arvind Buch, the boss of the powerful Mill Workers' Union, (Majur Mahajan) and himself a Brahmin, told me that the Gujarati Press was mainly responsible for fanning violence on Dalits.

It must be noted that it is this very same press which criticised Indra Gandhi for imposing press censorship and making much about 'gagging the press'. We are happy that the Dalits of Gujarat have exposed the communal character of the Gujarati Press in all its nakedness. The Editors Guild, which has sent a team to Gujarat to probe the excesses of the Press, must expel such editors found guilty.

We recommend the expulsion of the editor of "Gujarat Samachar", the largest circulated Gujarati daily, for being mainly responsible for fanning violence

AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY

In the light of these observations, we make the following demands.

- (i) The high caste Hindus, having lost the war, they have to now surrender. The Government must reintroduce inter-changeability and carry forward system. None of their demands should be accepted

and status quo maintained.

- (ii) We reiterate our earlier demand that the Solanki Government must immediately start a separate medical college exclusively for S/C, S/T to be developed into a separate full-fledged University named after Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. This is a must. And we call upon the Dalits to fight for that.
- (iii) The entire medical profession, having been prostituted by the high castes, it is high time the Government nationalise the medical profession. This poor country cannot afford to finance the studies of rich high-caste students who flee to America or elsewhere to serve the western world.
- (iv) The drug industry, which is also in the hands of the high-castes and aiding and abetting this profession, must be also nationalised simultaneously.

CONCLUSION

We are not afraid of the caste war. Since "caste" itself is a 'class' in India, we consider caste war as the beginning of a class war. If the high castes have the courage, let them abolish the reservations. But are they ready to face the consequences ?.

ಬಿದರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾತಿ ಹೋರಾಟ

ಡಿ. ಎಂ. ತಿಮ್ಮರಾಯಸ್ವೆ, ಸಂಕಾಲಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದಲಿತ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಸಮಿತಿ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದಲಿತ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಬಿದರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗೆ ಬೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಇತಿಹಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಂದೆಂದೂ ದಲಿತರ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅಂತಹ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ನಡೆದಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಬಿದರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಲಿಂಗಾಯಿತರಿಂದ.

ಒಸವ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣದ ನಾರಾಯಣಪುರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಘಟನೆಯನ್ನು ಖಂಡಿಸಿ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 18-4-81 ರಂದು ಸವರ್ಣೀಯರು "ಬಂದ" ಆಚರಿಸಿದರು. ಸಂಜೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಪರಸ್ಪರಿಕ ಶಾಂತವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಸಂಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯವರು ಗುಂಪುಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಾಲಿ ಟೌನಿನ ವ್ಯಾಜ್ಯಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಯನ್ನು ಟ್ರಾಕ್ಟರ್‌ಗೆ ಹಗ್ಗ ಕಟ್ಟಿ ಕಿತ್ತುಹಾಕಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಿದರು. ಆದರೆ ಅವರ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೋರಗೊಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಮೆ ಜಮಾ ಮಾಡಿದರು ಅನಂತರ ಬುದ್ಧ ವಿಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಂಕಿ ಇಟ್ಟು ನಾಶಮಾಡಿದರು. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ದಲಿತ ವಿವ್ಯಾಧಿ ನಿಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಂಕಿ ಇಟ್ಟರು.

19-4-81 ರಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕರೆದಿದ್ದ ಶಾಂತಿ ಪಾಲನಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯವರು ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಗೆ ಜಮಾ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ತಪ್ಪೆಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡು ಒಂದು ವಾರದೊಳಗೆ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಯನ್ನು ದುರಸ್ತಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯವರು ಅವರ ಮಾತಿನಂತೆ ನಡೆಯಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮನವು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದರು. ಅಂದು ಸಂಜೆ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ದಲಿತ ನಾಯಕ, ನ್ಯಾಯವಾದಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಸೇವಕ, ತುಕಾರಾಂ ಕುಂದೆ, ಅವರು ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಬೆಲೆ ಅಂಗಡಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯವರು ಬೆಂಕಿ ಹಾಕಿದರು.

20-4-81 ರಂದು ಎರಡನೇ ಬಾರಿ ನಡೆದ ಶಾಂತಿ ಪಾಲನಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಕೂಡಿ ಶಾಂತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾಯ್ದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಇರಲು ನಿರ್ದಾರಮಾಡಿದರು. ಆ ನಿರ್ದಾರಂತೆ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯವರು ನಡೆಯಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದೇ ದಿನ ಭೀಮ ನಗರದ ದಲಿತರ ಎರಡು ಗುಡಿಸಲುಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಕಿ ಇಟ್ಟರು.

21-4-81 ರಂದು ಬಿದರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಚಿವ ದರ್ಮಸಿಂಗ್ ಸಚಿವ ಮೋಕರಾವ್ ಪಾಟೀಲ್ ಅವರ ಮುಖಂಡತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಂತಿ ಪಾಲನಾ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಯಿತು. ಆ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭೀಮಣ್ಣ ಖಂಡ್ರೆ, ಎಂ ಎಲ್.ಎ, ತುಕಾರಾಂ ಕುಂದೆ, ರಾಮುಚಂದ್ರ ವಿರಪ್ಪ ಮತ್ತಿತರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಆ ಸಭೆಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಎಸ್. ಪಿ. ಅವರೂ ಆಗಮಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ನಾನೂ ಆ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವಾಗಲೇ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗಲಭೆ ಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಸುದ್ದಿ ಬಂತು. ತಕ್ಷಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಎಸ್. ಪಿ. ಅವರು ಧಾರ್ಮಿಗೆ ಧಾವಿಸಿದರು. ನಾನು ಕೂಡ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಗೆ ಹೋದೆ. ಅಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಯ ಅನೇಕ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ದಲಿತರ 8 ಮನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯವರು ಬೆಂಕಿ ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರು.

ಇದನ್ನು ವೋಲೀಸ್ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಕೋರಲು ದಲಿತರು ಬರುತ್ತಿರುವಾಗ ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗುಡಿಸಲುಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಕಿ ಇಟ್ಟು ಬರುತ್ತಾ ನೆಂದು ತಿಳಿದು ಶಿವರಾಜ್ (ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ್) ಎಂಬುವನು ದಲಿತರು ಹೋದವರು. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಶಿವಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ಎಂಬ ಲಿಂಗಾಯತನಿಗೆ ಕೋಡರಿಯಿಂದ ಹೊಡೆದಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅವರಬ್ಬರನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿ ಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಮುಖಂಡ ಭೀಮಣ್ಣ ಖಂಡ್ರೆ, ರಾಮು ಚಂದ್ರ ವಿರಪ್ಪ ಅವರು ತುಕಾರಾಂ ಕುಂದೆ ಅವರನ್ನು ಖಂಡ್ರೆ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂರಿಸಿ, ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಡಲು ಹೋದರು.

ಆಗ ತುಕಾರಾಂ ಕುಂದೆ ಅವರು ಕುತೂಹಲದಿಂದ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಗೂಠಿಗೆ ಒಂದರ.. ಆಗ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯವರು ಕುಂದೆಯವರನ್ನು ಹೊಣೆಗಳಿಂದ ಹೊಡೆದರು. ಕುಂದೆಯವರು ಹೊಡೆತವನ್ನು ತಾಳಲಾರದೆ ಓಡಿದರು. ಪುನಃ ಅವರನ್ನು ಹೊಡೆದರು. ಅವನ್ನು ತಾಳಲಾರದೆ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಬಿದ್ದರು. ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲೇ ಇದ್ದ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಅವರನ್ನು ಕೊಂಡೊಯ್ದರು. ಶಾಂತಿ ಮೇಲೆ ಇದ್ದ ಕುಂದೆಯವರು ನೋವಿನಿಂದ ತಾಳಲಾರದೆ ಹಾ ತೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಗ

ತುಕಾರಾಂ ಅವರ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೀಮೆಎಣ್ಣೆ ಸುರಿದು ಬೆಂಕಿಹಚ್ಚಿ ಅವರು ಸಾಯುವುದನ್ನು ನೋಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಮೇಲ್ವಾತಿಯವರ ಈ ಹೀನ ಕೃತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಧಿಕ್ಕಾರ ವರಲಿ.

ತುಕಾರಾಂ ಕುವೆ ಅವರು ದಲಿತರ ಕಷ್ಟ ಸುಖಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗಿಯಾಗಿ ದಲಿತರಿಗೆ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ದಲಿತರಿಗೆ ಅವರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಗೌರವಗಳಿದ್ದವು ತುಕಾರಾಂ ಕುವೆ ಯವರ ಸಾವಿನಿಂದ ಬೀದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ದಲಿತರಿಗೆ ತುಂಬ ಲಾಠದ ನಷ್ಟ ಉಂಟಾಗಿದೆ. ಕುವೆಯವರು ಮೇಲ್ವಾತಿಯವರ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಗಳಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಅವರಿಗೂ ಸಹಾಯಕ ರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ ಜಾತಿ ಪಕ್ಷಿ ಬಂದಾಗ ಕುವೆಯವರು ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಮರೆತು ಅವರನ್ನೇ ಸಾಯಿಸಿದರು. ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡಿದವರಿಗೇ ಮೇಲ್ವಾತಿಯವರು ದ್ರೋಹ ಮಾಡಿದರು ಸಾಯಿಸಿದರು.

21-4-81 ಸಂಜೆ 5 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಭಾಲ್ಕಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ಪೂ ಜಾರಿಮಾಡಲಾಯಿತು. ಭಯದಿಂದ ನೂರಾರು ಜನ ದಲಿತರು ಭಾಲ್ಕಿ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಬಿದರಿ ಮುಂತಾದ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಇರುವ ಕಡೆ ತೋಡಿಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬಿದರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 95% ದಲಿತರು ಕೂಲಿಯಿಂದ ಜೀವನ ನಡೆಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವರು ಗುಡಿಸಲುಗಳು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ವೌಚರ್‌ಗಳ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾದಾಗಿನಿಂದ ದಲಿತರಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ವಾತಿಯವರು ಬಹುಪ್ರಾಠಮ್ಯ ಹಾಕಿದ್ದರು. ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಲಿತರಿಗೆ ದವಸ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ ದಲಿತರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಬಹಳ ಚಿಂತಾ ಜನಕವಾಗಿದೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ದಲಿತರೊಡ್ಡಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಗಳು ಅವರಿಗೆ ತಲುಪಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ದಲಿತರೊಡ್ಡಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರುವಲ್ಲಿ ಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ ಬಡವರಿಗೆ

ಸಹಾಯಕರಾಗಿದ್ದ ದಲಿತ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದ ಬಿ. ಸುಬ್ಬರಾವ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಸ್ವಲ್ಪವಾತವಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸಮಾಡಿ ದಲಿತರಿಗೂ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ ಬಡವರಿಗೆ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಎಸ್. ಪಿ. ಗುರುಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ವರ್ಗಮಾಡಿರುವುದು ಸಮಂಜಸವಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ಕೆಲವು ಜಾತಿವಾದಿ ರಾಜಕಾರಣಿಗಳ ಕುತಂತ್ರ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿದು ಬಂದಿದೆ.

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದಲಿತ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಈಡೇರಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರವನ್ನು ಒತ್ತಾಯಪಡಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

1. ಬಿದರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ದಲಿತರಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕು.
2. ಡಾ|| ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಗೆ ಜುಂಜು ಮಾಡಿರುವುದನ್ನು ತೀವ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ದುರಸ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು.
3. ಸ್ಥಳಮಾಡಿರುವ ಬುದ್ಧ ಮಂದಿರವನ್ನು ಬೇಗ ಕಟ್ಟಿಸಿಕೊಡಬೇಕು.
4. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ದಲಿತರಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಮಂಜೂರುಮಾಡಿ ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಿ ಕಮ್ಯೂನಿಟಿ ಇಂಟಿಗ್ರೇಷನ್ ವೆಲ್ಫೇರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೋಡಿಸಿ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು.
5. ಈಗ ದಲಿತರಿಗೆ ಉಂಟಾಗಿರತಕ್ಕಂತ ನಷ್ಟವನ್ನು ತುಂಬಲು ಮತ್ತು ದಲಿತರು ಮನುಷ್ಯರಾಗಿ ಬಾಳಲು ಬಿದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ದಲಿತರೊಡ್ಡಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ 5 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು.

OUR LATEST PUBLICATIONS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------|
| 1. Brahminism | — | Rs 3-00 |
| 2. How To Destroy Caste System | — | Rs-3-00 |

Book your order with : DALIT SAHITYA AKADEMY

109 / 7th Cross, Palace

Lower Orchards, Bangalore-560 003

SEXUAL SIDE OF SATYA SAI BABA

Tal Brooke, the author of the famous book, "Lord of the Air", dealing with Satya Sai Baba's homosexual affairs, was in Bangalore in the first week of May to collect more evidence for his next book on India's richest godman.

Called "Avater of the Night", to be published shortly by Vikas, this sensational book deals with the different frauds of this self-styled god.

The American disciple, who was in the inner circle of Sai Baba, spent one whole day with us and Prof. A. M. Dharmalingam, president of the Karnataka Rationalists Association. We introduced him to a couple of persons who had similar homosexual experiences with the Sai Baba

"Lord of the Air", also published by the Vikas (Rs 75/-) was sold out within 2 years of its publication. Its abridged edition, published from London, (Rs. 10/-) is available at Bangalore Tract and Book Society, St. Marks Road, Bangalore, near the Koshys.

There has been quite a lot of opposition from Satya Sai Baba agents to sell this book.

Why the god should be afraid ?

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE IN BANGALORE

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) having its headquarters in Singapore and whose jurisdiction extends from Pakistan to New Zealand, is having its seventh Assembly in Bangalore from May 18 to 28. CCA is a regional ecumenical fellowship of Protestant Christian churches. There are 86 member churches belonging to about 20 countries. The CCA Assembly meets once in four years and it is the supreme policy-making body.

The theme of the Bangalore Assembly is "Living in Christ with People".

The Dalits of India are proud that the CCA has chosen India for its 7th session and Dalits of Karnataka are prouder still that it is their capital city that is playing host to this historic session. India has a Christian population of about 2.5 per cent and constitute one of the persecuted minorities of this country

But it is a fact of history that no body has done so much for the Dalit awakening and emancipation as the Christians. Untouchables and Tribals in particular must be grateful that they have been the biggest beneficiary of the Christian work.

While welcoming the delegates, we wish to assure the Church leaders that the Dalits of India shall ever remain grateful for their help. However, the Dalits have still a long way to go for liberation and, therefore, we call upon the CCA leaders to continue to work for the dalit liberation.

WHY MUSLIM LIFE IS THE CHEAPEST ?

by / T. Rajshekar Shetty

As Indira Gandhi was getting red carpet welcome in Arab countries assuring them that our Muslims are treated so well and urging them to invest their petrodollars in India we hear heart-rending reports of massacre of Muslims in Bihar-sharif and communal riots in Lucknow and Agra

According to newspaper reports about 300 people are killed in Bihar-sharif although the official figure of the dead is put at 50 at the time of writing this. While in the entire three-month-long caste war of Gujarat, the total dead is officially put at about 50, in mere three days of rioting in Bihar-sharif, the official figure of the dead reached 50 or so. In Moradabad in a day about 1,000 Muslims are reported to have been killed. Does it mean the Muslim life is the cheapest in India? How can such a ghastly thing happen in this "land of Ahimsa"? That too when Indira Gandhi is busy visiting the Muslim countries and selling out "secularism".

Bihar-sharif has a population of 1-60 lakhs of which Muslims constitute about 50%.

According to the Paris-based Special Correspondent of the "Hindu", a newspaper whose name itself indicates its attitude towards Muslims—minorities were the worst sufferers. The Bihar Govt. was utterly callous and it got alerted only when Indira Gandhi rushed to Bihar-sharif. From newspaper reports, we can make out that the Bihar police and the administration were not moved by such large-scale killing of Muslims.

If the 'Hindu' itself had to admit that the Muslims were butchered like anything, what could be the magnitude of the massacre?

PRESS REPORTS

To understand the gravity of the situation, we would like to quote a few samples of the press reports from the so-called "national press", which is hardly sympathetic to the plight of minorities. And all the reports that we quote here below are from the Hindu journalists.

HINDU: (May 12) "The real story of communal flare-up in Nalanda can be told only after sanity returns to the strife-torn countryside and passions cool down.

Meanwhile, suffice it to say that what happened in villages around Bihar-sharif, the district headquarters of violence-prone Nalanda during the first four days of the flare-up, is shocking beyond words.

It would be a misnomer to describe the communal violence in Nalanda as a riot or clashes. It was a one-sided affair with minority community at the receiving end. Except in Gulani village under Deepnagar police station, marauders, a motley mob of communalists and rapists met with little resistance.

THE STATESMAN: Staff correspondent reporting from Bihar-sharif itself (May 7) says how mercilessly Muslims were massacred. He also gives the names of those butchered.

WHO PROVOKED ?

In Smt. Handisha's family, a six-year old baby was also hacked to death. One Lt. Col. Sahaya's son was dragged out of the bus and murdered. Just because he was sporting a beard, he was mistaken to be a Muslim. The correspondent describes the area as the "desert of hatred and barbarity."

TIMES OF INDIA : (May 3) Staff correspondent Janak Singh refers to the attack on a funeral procession. He says "several local residents put the blame on R.S.S. elements active in the town". He also refers to the attack on Muslims engaged in Friday prayers. At least eight people were killed in this

INDIAN EXPRESS : (May 5) Its staff correspondent points out one Mohammed Murtaza, a bidi worker, saying "I have lost 7 members of my family". Mihir Mukerjee of the Statesman reporting (May 9) from Chorsua says "riots on such a largescale had never been witnessed in the area since 1946".

P. K. Krupakaran, the Indian Express staff correspondent at Patna, (May 14) in a review of the Biharsharif incidents says how Hindu communal elements were responsible for provoking the violence. He says that full three months before the riots there was a clash between the two communities. The cause some Hindus had planted idols on the Muslim dargahs and graveyards. No doubt the land belonged to the Govt. but the Muslims had been using these lands for years. Why did the Hindus indulge in this provocation ?

What type of "secularism" we are practising ? The April 30 clash, which is

the beginning of bloody riots, Krupakaran says was between the Yadavas and the Muslims. It was not a clash between the high cast Hindu and the Muslims. Backward classes (OBCs) are as poor if not poorer than the Muslims. Their poverty is mainly due to oppression sanctioned by the Hindu religion. And yet the OBC leaders and our Left movement have not tried to educate them on this vital aspect.

R. S. S. HAND

How long the poor people of India go on killing each other ? Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra has brought to light yet another important point. He said Hindu-Muslim clashes in villages was some thing unknown in Bihar after 1947. But this time the Hindu communalists took violence to villages as well.

The Hindu-Cast (caste) riots used to be a rural phenomenon. But the Hindu-Muslim (communal) riots an urban phenomenon. Just as the communal riots are spreading to villages, caste riots are spreading to cities. The Gujarat caste war was inaugurated at Ahmedabad.

In caste war and communal riots we are breaking new grounds. What a tremendous progress we have made - thanks to secularism, amsa and socialism !!! Indira Gandhi, Jaivan Ram, Devaraj Urs and others have already visited Biharsharif and their findings as to how Muslims were butchered have appeared in the press. But till the time of writing this neither the CPM nor the CPI has set any team to this place. Nor did they bother about the killings of untouchables in Garat.

That is why the persecuted minorities of India - untouchables, tribals, Muslims

and Christians - are hardly evincing any interest in the Left movement. But it must be noted that these four sections together constitute over 50% of the Indian population.

Jagannath Mishra never bothered about the Biharsharif carnage until he was forced to go there with Indira Gandhi. But he was quick enough to hold a press conference at Patna on May 3 to put the entire blame on the R.S.S. for the Biharsharif incident. The CPI general secretary Rajeshwara Rao also held the RSS responsible.

As days pass, we can hear more and more people accusing the RSS for the Biharsharif riots. Each political party will try to fish in the troubled waters, but will do nothing to go into the basic issues that spark off Hindu-Muslim clashes.

It is easy to put the blame on the RSS and be done with it. Such accusations making RSS as the whipping boy, no doubt immensely please the persecuted minorities. Those political parties criticising the RSS will get Muslim votes.

SECULARISM

But Hindu communalism is not the monopoly of the RSS alone. One need not be only in the RSS to be a communalist.

We have any number of communalists in different parties, press, judiciary, business and professions.

Persecuted minorities like the Muslims, Christians and untouchables all over India have been the victims of the Hindu communalism. We talk about "secularism" and go on persecuting Muslims and Christians. Indian brand of "secularism".

We found ample evidence of this during our two visits to Gujarat where the

Dalits were the victims of the Hindu communalism. In Moradabad, Biharsharif and Aligarh, it was the turn of the Muslims. Tribals and Christians are also victims of Hindu communalism.

In Ahmedabad, the very same Hindu-communal elements did their best to turn the Hindu-Dalit caste war into a Hindu-Muslim blood bath. But owing to the effective steps taken by the alert Muslims of Ahmedabad and the Gujarat Dalit Panthers, such a holocaust was averted. We were immensely pleased to see the new-found friendship between these persecuted minorities at Ahmedabad. The Panther's official journals are printed in a press owned by a Muslim as Hindus refused to do this job.

ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

Muslims told us at Ahmedabad that this very Hindu communal elements let loose a section of the Dalits against Muslims in the 1969 communal carnage in which unofficial but authoritative estimates put death toll at over 1,000.

Therefore, it is easy to put the blame on RSS and close the chapter. But the roots of communalism in India are much deeper. Muslims, Christians, untouchables and tribals were being persecuted in India even before the RSS was born. Therefore, it is high-time the persecuted minorities go deeper into the roots of communalism and try to destroy it.

They cannot depend upon political parties to do this job. Because political parties including the CPM and CPI are not interested in social change. But what the persecuted minorities in India want is social change and through that economic change. Will the awakened sections among the persecuted minorities realise this danger and work for social change?

GUJARAT DALIT PANTHERS VISIT BANGALORE

Rameshchandra Paramar, president of the Gujarat Dalit Panthers, and four other Panther leaders are now in Bangalore at the invitation of the Karnataka Dalit Action Committee.

Their visit, which we consider as a big event, was earlier scheduled to coincide with the unveiling of the Ambedkar statue before the Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore, on May 17.

Dalits of Karnataka gave a public reception to these heroes who won the Gujarat caste on May 27. The Panthers visit has evinced so much of enthusiasm that the DAC office is flooded with inquiries.

The Panthers will be taken to Madras where two separate receptions are arranged; one by the Madras Dalits and another

by the Dravida Kazhagam at the Periyar Thidal.

Rameshchandra Paramar, who was arrested under the NSO during the caste war, is a double M.A., a poet and writer. He was a lecturer in an Ahmedabad college until the Hindus made his life miserable and forced him out.

He is also the editor of two journals, "Panther", a monthly and "Akrosh", a literary journal, copies of which were seized by the Ahmedabad police, a fortnight back. Paramar, and Neerav Patel, a young Dalit poet, were arrested in this connection.

We call upon Dalits all over India to send telegrams to the Ahmedabad Police Commissioner protesting against this brutal action of the police.

TO OUR READERS

We will be glad to publish reports and articles of interest to Dalits, all persecuted minorities - both in English and Kannada.

Readers are requested to send their suggestions and comments to the editor, Dalit Voice, 109/7th Cross, Palace Lower Orchards, Bangalore - 560 003. Phone : 33854.

EDITOR : V. T. Rajshekar Shetty and published by the Dalit Sahitya Akademy for the Karnataka Dalit Action Committee, Bangalore - 3

PRINTED AT : S. V. P. P. L. O. B-3.