

DALIT VOICE

[The Voice of the Persecuted Minorities]

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DALIT LIFE IS THE CHEAPEST IN INDIA

"Not since Dec 1969, when 42 Harijans were burned to death in TN's Kilvenmani village, has India known such an abominable crime as Wednesday's cold-blooded massacre of 24 men, women and children in Mainpuri dt. of UP". If this can be the editorial comment of a bourgeois newspaper, *Statesman* (Nov 21, 81) owned by the Tatas and the Mafatlals, on the Nov. 18 insensate mayhem of the Jatav Untouchables by the high caste Thakurs, one can well imagine the seriousness of the tragedy. The Deoli bloodbath of the poor, starving, landless, innocent, unarmed Untouchables is nothing new to Hindu India—the holyland of non-violence. The dalit life and also that of Muslims, Christians is the cheapest in India. They can be kicked, killed, burnt, raped and their property destroyed. No tears will be shed. But where were the Shankaracharyas, the RSS and other custodians of Hinduism, who rushed to Rahamatnagar in TN perturbed by the mass conversion of Untouchables to Islam, raised a hue & cry, arranged temple interdining for "Harijans", capped it all with a multi-million rupee show of a Virat Hindu Sammelan in Delhi, passed a grand resolution to fight untouchability, when the very same Hindus shot dead 24 dalits including 7 women, 8 children of which one is an 8 month-old baby? What happened to all these Hindu heroes who for the past 6 months were crying that Untouchables were as much Hindus and that Muslims and Christians have no right to convert them? None appeared to have been moved by this naked Hindu aggression on the Deoli dalits. Till the time of writing this Hindu leaders, who had made so much of noise about Arab money converting Untouchables, have not even issued a statement let alone visiting the scene of the carnage. The human and civil rights organisations are mum. Deoli does not come under their perview. But political parties in Parliament and outside made their customary noise. UP Chief Minister VP Singh and Union Home Minister Zail Singh helicoptered to Deoli—not because they are touched by the killings but because the interest-free "Harijan vote bank" is involved. Some newspapermen also beelined to Deoli and came out with a ritualistic report. Some glossy magazines will put out "heartrending pictures" to push the sales of their puff. Armed police will camp there for some days and add to the misery of the dalits. After a few days everything will be forgotten until another Deoli bursts with greater fury. It is a familiar pattern. But the "ruling class" of India is simply unperturbed. Dalit life is the cheapest in India. Ram Vilas Paswan may shout in Parliament that dalits "are reduced to second class citizens." Are they citizens at all? Nothing can alter the situation in Hindu India. Zail Singh might have come out with an eye-wash statement in Parliament about supplying arms to dalits for self-defence. But a more honest scheme to arm dalits launched by

the Karpoori Thakur Govt in Bihar was sabotaged. Therefore dalits have no confidence in govt. efforts at arming dalits. They will have to do it themselves if they want to protect their life and property. Jagjivan Ram, who visited Deoli, said: "The Thakurs in UP feel they are ruling the State. Harijans are feeling so insecure that in Ferozabad, some young men came out with the demand for a seperate Achutistan." (*Indian Express* Nov. 24). Every time there is an organised violence on dalits, we hear demands for a seperate homeland for dalits. Militant Ambedkarites are now applying serious thought to this subject of Dalitastan. Why and how Deoli occurred? The *Indian Express* (Nov. 23) correspondent reporting from Deoli categorically says: They were shot dead by the Thakurs because they were Untouchables. He did not find any other reason for the killings. Untouchables all over India are killed by the Hindus not because they are poor but because they are Untouchables. If poverty is the reason for violence, why other equally poor if not the poorer Hindus are not killed? Untouchables are not the only poor in India. Over half of its 700 millions live below the poverty line and in many cases Hindus are poorer than Untouchables. The *Statesman* correspondent's report (Nov. 22) after visiting Deoli, is more clear on this issue. He refutes Chief Minister VP Singh's contention that the killings were not due to caste animosities. The report says: ".....there are clear caste undertones inasmuch as the wrath of the criminals was mainly directed against the Harijans." This is the crux of the problem:- Dalits alone are made the victims of violence because of caste reasons. That is why Dr. Ambedkar had categorically stated that the Indian poverty is more due to social reasons than due to economic factors. The problem of the Untouchables is primarily social. And his economic handicaps are the by-products of his social degradation. Those who want to understand India must understand this point first. Whether it is the Marthawada & Gujarat caste wars or mass

murders at Kilvenmani, Belchi, Kafatla, Pipra etc., all of them were solely because they were Untouchables. And not because they were poor. As long as caste system is there, conflict leading to violence, therefore, becomes unavoidable. The high caste landed gentry will never tolerate any challenge to their authority. With the spread of education and the thoughts of Ambedkar, awariness is bound to come to dalits and this is bound to lead them to confrontation with the high castes. The Govt., police, judiciary, press and society being on the side of the Hindus, the Untouchables will be made mincemeat in the fast-developing caste war in the countryside. That means more Deolis. Since the dalits are in a minority in every village and also weak in every thing, their life, property and the honour of their women will be in serious danger. Under such a circumstance there is no other go for the poor dalits but to quit their village & migrate to safer areas. That means dalit organisations will have to seriously consider the migration of dalits to urban areas. Such a migration will add to the strength of the urban organised proletariat. The dalits being born revolutionaries, they will also help hasten the impending class-caste struggle. It is for the Left parties, therefore, to think seriously on this issue and help migration of dalits and thereby help themselves. We can't leave this task to the govt which-a puppet in the hands of the "ruling class"—will be naturally opposed to such a radical remedy. On the other hand, it may do its best to prevent this process. Nor will the bourgeois political parties be ready for this. Hence the role of the militant dalit organisations and Left parties is important. The demand for a homeland for dalits is also becoming louder. Presently Khalistan has stolen the thunder. Other persecuted minorities like tribals are demanding Jharkhand. There are also demands for Uttarkhand, Chhatisgarh, Ghorkhland, Bundelkhand, Sagari Prant, Vidarbha, Kantapur, Udayachal etc. The non-stop killings of dalits in India is a fit case for the UNO and its Human Rights Commission to take note of. Dalits, persecuted minorities may have to seek comrades elsewhere. Muslim, Christian organisations, Blacks, Marxists in China could be our best friends. □

UNTOUCHABILITY WON'T GO WITH ECONOMIC UPLIFT OF DALITS: Jagjivan Ram

NEW DELHI : "Who's a Hindu? What does Hinduism stand for? Define, classify, standardize". These questions were raised by Jagjivan Ram at a group discussion on "Hinduism with a human face: the imperative of social equality", organized under the auspices of the Group of Eighty at the India International Centre here on Oct. 29. Jagjivan Ram, who spoke in angry and ironical tones, urged the Virat Hindu Sammelan which had organized a massive rally at India Gate on Oct. 18, to set up a committee to classify and standardize Hinduism. He said that he was curious to know the standardized definition of a Hindu. He likened the existence of Untouchability in the Hindu society to a disease which was spreading like an epidemic. "The trouble is that everybody's prescribing his own remedies to remove Untouchability. But sometimes a doctor asks the patient what he is suffering from. In this particular case, no one is asking the patient what he is suffering from and what sort of treatment does he desire?" Ram said that he could understand the practice of racial discrimination against the Blacks by the Whites in the USA and South Africa and persecution of Jews by Christian in Germany and elsewhere but he failed to understand the phenomenon of discrimination or "untouchability" against co-religionists as was being practised in India against the Harijans. This was inscrutable and mind-boggling indeed. He did not blame the Brahmins for starting untouchability in India. It was the "Brahminvad" or "Brahminism" that really started this evil originally and which is continuing in its ugliest form even today. He said that he was only studying and analysing the problem of Untouchability. "And I would not like to prescribe any remedy for this disease because I don't have the remedy". But at same time, Ram felt that Untouchability—at least its manifestation—could be removed by law. "If Sati could be stopped by law why can't the Untouchability? He did not agree with the earlier speakers that Untouchability could be removed by

bringing about an economic uplift of the Harijans. "This is not economic problem. You can't solve the problem by merely giving a better standard of life to the Harijans. The fact is that a Harijan will remain a Harijan even if he becomes a learned scholar and a Brahmin will remain a Brahmin even if he remains illiterate and poor throughout his life". Ram repeatedly urged his audience to go into the root cause of Untouchability. "Don't talk in the air, come to the earth" was the way in which he put his thought on this point. Elaborating the thought, he said: "How did Untouchability begin? This impurity ('gandgi') has come to us (Harijans) from you (upper castes). Over the years it has caused a situation of a bottleneck. What to do? The only way out now is either to break the neck of the bottle or break the base of the bottle. There is no other remedy". Talking about Hindu philosophy (darshan), he said that it was very ennobling and high-sounding and, therefore, a thing of worship and veneration. "But what does it matter to a Valmiki sweeper who sweeps the street with a broom in his hand?" Ram did not agree with an earlier speaker that Untouchability had almost vanished from the cities but it was still being prevalent in villages. "I don't agree with this. Tell me, can a Harijan run a jalebi shop in a city? Will non-Harijans buy his product? Find out how many people of upper castes would volunteer to rent out their houses to Harijans in the cities?" he asked. (Jagjivan Ram is undoubtedly India's topmost leader of the Untouchables today. Twice his chances of becoming the Prime Minister

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RESERVATIONS - A CONSTITUTIONAL FRAUD

(Our correspondent)

Madras: Till recently, communal Hindus who are holding key positions in Govt. used to file a spate of court cases against reservations to dalits. The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of reservations and further aggravated the heart-burning of this heartless section. Having been temporarily frustrated in the court battle, this section through its representatives in the bureaucracy has once again driven the dalits to courts putting forward all sorts of obstacles. 1. A writ petition was filed against the Reserve Bank super Hindu management challenging the formation of four different committees to select candidates for a single cadre. Admitting the writ, the Madras High Court ordered to serve notice on the RBI management. The writ was filed by the Coordination Council of the SC & ST Employees Associations, Central and State Govts., Port & Banks, says its convener, R Elumalai, of Madras.

2. AP High Court Grants Stay: The Andhra Pradesh SC/ST Employees Coordination Council has filed a writ against the order of the director of the NGRI, Hyderabad. The Court stayed the order directing the director to stop appointing non-SC to the reserved post of documentation officer, states T Sarangapani, general secretary of the AP Coordination Council. The AP dalits are facing troubles in reservations at the Survey of India offices, and the office of the general manager, Telecommunications. Many SC/St students could not get admission to Kamala Nehru Polytechnic, Hyderabad, due to the mass admission of Hindu students. Dalit women employees of the Andhra Bank are deliberately harassed by posting them to far off places. Following effective protest these women employees have been re-posted back to the city. From Kakinanda comes the report of the termination of Adinarayana, a dalit, from the training class by the AE, Telecommunication Trg Centre, Kakinada. An effective protest has been lodged.

3. Madars AG's office dalits file writ :

K. S. Jagannathan and S. Velayudhan, selection grade auditors who have put in 21 and 18 years of service were deprived of promotion as section officers in a qualifying exam while all other major depts. in the Railways, P & T have prescribed a minimum standard for SC/ST officials. But the communal Hindus in the C & AG office are yet to formulate any such standard.

4. The communal Hindus, who rule India, have thus successfully sabotaged the chances of the dalits getting justice in Govt. services despite specific provisions in the Constitution. While in public sector undertakings and banks, they are made to fight against the oppressive managements, they are gradually coming to realise that even their own trade unions are not coming to their rescue. So much so in many places they are made to fight a double battle—one against the management and another against their own unions. The only way out is to convert the SC/ST employees associations into trade unions. Shortly, all over India such a fight will come to the surface. □

ILLITERACY AMONG MUSLIMS

New Delhi: The number of Muslim children attending educational institutions is only 4 pc of the school-going children in India while the Muslims account for 18 pc of the country's population. A survey will be conducted in 700 Muslim-run secondary schools in India to ascertain the causes of high illiteracy among Muslims, said Shahabuddin Desnavi, secretary of the Hamdard Trust. The cause of the high illiteracy among Muslims is mainly poverty and secondly isolation forced upon them by the Hindu majority. □

RSS RECRUITING THEVARS IN TAMIL NADU

(Prof. Kadiravelu, Madras University)

The head of Tamil Nadu RSS belongs to the Thevar community. The State Religious Endowment Minister, who organised the temple dinner of Untouchables to counteract the Rehamat Nagar mass conversion to Islam, is also a Thevar. The Rehamat Nagar mass conversions are stated to be due to the Thevar community atrocities on the Untouchables. The Thevar community is basically anti-dalit and the RSS, which wants to fully exploit the Rehamat Nagar mass conversions to build up its organisation in Tamil Nadu, wants to make use of the Thevar anger against the dalits and therefore, is recruiting mostly Thevars to the RSS. There is need for a probe into this. All official and non-official inquiry has established that in the TN conversions to Islam no foreign money is involved. Neither any force. The Untouchables are preferring Islam because in TN Muslims as a rule employed Untouchables as household servants. They were allowed inside their houses and no discrimination was practiced by them against the Untouchables. Muslims being mostly landlords, they gave equal status to Untouchables. Many of them even dined together with Untouchables. But the Hindus kept them out and even tortured them. Atrocities against the Untouchables is continuing even today after so much of press publicity given to the mass conversions. The Hindus have not shown any sign of changing their attitude to Untouchables. The Thevars are rushing to become temple tenants. The Hindus are taking revenge on the Untouchables by evicting them from temple tenancy. In Rehamat Nagar (Meenakshipuram) also such evictions have taken place. The Mutts have transferred the tenancy from Untouchables to Thevars. Muslims have not gone to protect the Untouchables in such cases.

(Summary of the speech delivered by

Kadiravelu at the Gurukul Theological College, Madras, on Oct. 2-4, 1981). □

MAKWANA DEFENDS CONVERSIONS

(Our correspondent)

Calcutta: Union Minister of State for Home Makwana said here recently that democracy had no future if Untouchables continue to be treated worse than animals. Referring to Meenakshipuram and other conversions, he said while on tour of these areas he had established that the charge of foreign money being involved was false. Untouchables who had received inhuman treatment from Hindus found liberation in Islam. Those who met him expressed their sorrow like animals crying and rolling before him. Visiting the home of a dalit revenue officer, ransacked in the inter-caste riot, he was told that the officer was ordered to get out of the police station. Recalling his own childhood, he said that being an Untouchable he was not allowed to attend the village school. He blamed the Hindu society as being responsible for the conversions. □

[Cont. from Page 3: Untouchability Won't Go With Economic Uplift of Dalits]

of India were foiled by the communal Hindus. And since then he has been boiling with anger. The communal Hindus had used him to the fullest extent and Ram had also derived lot of benefits for this service rendered to them. But lately the frustrations in him have forced him to come out with the truth. Better late than never. We hope even at this fag end of his life, Ram would try to secure a place in history. If he wants he can get it. It is with this fond hope we have reproduced his speech as reported in the Statesman (Delhi) of Oct. 30. As Ram has touched the core of the problem, the subject matter is of great significance to the dalits and other persecuted minorities - Editor. □

Letters to Editor :

J. R. ANTWAL: Chairman, Federation of All-India SC/ST Employees, P&T Dept., New Delhi : We are very happy to detect in the DV a journal reflecting our own views, committed fully to safeguard the rights of the dalits and expose the hypocrisy of the communal Hindus who are shedding crocodile tears over mass conversions of dalits to Islam. If any noble soul wanted to reform Hindus it was Gandhi but the communal Hindus committed unabashed and diabolical atrocity on him untraceable in history.

B. L. BISWAS, Calcutta: Krishna Kant said (Indian Express 19/10): "One of the Shankaracharyas recently said if untouchability was removed, Hinduism would vanish. Hindus should revolt against such Acharayas". While congratulating Krishna Kant for such a statement, we want to remind him what Ambedkar had said that untouchability was part of the caste system. Hindus know that if untouchability goes caste will collapse and with that the property and privileges of high caste Hindus. So when the RSS and their boy Karan Singh organise Virat Hindu sammelan and pass resolutions to destroy untouchability how far they are sincere? Can untouchability be destroyed without destroying Hinduism? Will the Hindus be ready for a suicide.?

K. S. K. KUMARAN, Bangalore: We are faced with a dilemma. In the bookshops run by the pro-Marxist CPM, CPI, and CPML in Bangalore we do not find Ambedkar, Periyar, Lohia or any other dalit or rationalist literature. Nor do we find any literature of interest to the dalits. But the *Dalit Voice* has stated editorially that it would support Marxist philosophy. When I inquired at these Marxist bookhouses, they said Ambedkar, Periyar, Lohia and other Dalit literature, are anti-Marxist. Please solve our dilemma.

B. S. SWAMIKANNU, Madurai, TN : The "national press" has carried reports and pictures of a German girl becoming a Hindu and marrying one Sreedharan in TN. The high castes are making much of this conversion of a foreign Christian girl. Extra-ordinary publicity was given to this event. But the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, a branch of RSS, which conducted this conversion, did not disclose what caste Katherina was assigned. The "sacred scriptures" say there can be no Hindu without a caste. Dr. M. N. Srinivas, described as India's topmost social scientist and himself a Brahmin, says Hinduism means caste system. So what is the caste of this converted girl? Has she been made a Brahmin?

A. GHAFAR SHAKIR, Nagapur: On behalf of the dalits and other persecuted minorities of Nagpur, we congratulate DV for its bold stand on our problems. We assure our fullest co-operation.

K. RAMADAS, Austin Town, Bangalore: I have just visited some of the villages in South Arcot, TN, where the dalits are being persecuted by the Hindus. The villages in particular are: Kottapundi, Sindipet, and Segidikuppam where the road work is assigned to outside Hindus betraying the interests of the hundreds of starving, illiterate jobless local dalits. Despite repeated protests on this score, no official bothered about the claims of the local dalits.

N. ELANGO VAN, Cuddalore, TN: The Oct. 15 DV editorial, "Bid to Throttle Christians in India", is wonderful and captivated us. We are all with you.

Dr. S. A. MANNAN, Hyderabad: DV is very imaginatively produced. We are all captivated by it.

VINUBHAI BHAIRAVIA, Ahmedbad : We have been reading the DV and the literature produced by the Dalit Sahitya Akademy and we are all highly impressed by them. □

TARIQ AHMED, Kashmir: Three cheers to the DV, truly the voice of the dalits and the persecuted minorities, for boldly exposing the RSS crowd of zealots and also the heinous role of India's puppet press. DV is the need of the hour for dalits and minorities who together bear the brunt of the violence engineered by the RSS fascists. We join hands to propagate the message of DV.

M MAZHARUDDIN, ILLINOIS, USA: We have been going through the DV and are much impressed by it. Your introduction to the booklet, "Why Go for Conversion?", published by the DSA, is simply inspiring and very truthful. The revolution of the Indian dalits is bound to succeed ultimately. There is no point in begging your govt. to grant social equality and other rights. Your dalit leaders must take up the matter directly and liberate the dalits as we the American Blacks have liberated ourselves from the slavery of the Whiteman. They could not still get equality because they remained Christians. Blacks are still not welcomed in the White churches. You don't find any Black clergy leading the mass in White churches. They realised that they ought to change their religion to get equality and respect in the society. They have chosen Islam to free themselves. Now many of the Blacks have become leaders (Imam of masjid) where the Arabs and other old Muslims pray. The US slaves were Christians but Christianity failed to give them equality. Ambedkar was therefore right in saying that the Indian Untouchables must get converted to other religions to liberate themselves. Dalit leaders must organise the Untouchables and bring them out to the streets. They should not mind facing bullets and sticks. There is a great example for dalits in the Islamic revolution of Iran where the youths came out to die on the call of Khomeini. The Untouchables can't be successful until they sacrifice. Martyrdom is the triumph of the

revolution. Dalits must seek the co-operation and support of the Indian Muslims who are also the victims of Hindu fanaticism. We would like to see the biggest demonstration of Indian history by the dalits. The Indian Black power demonstration is one of the weapons of revolution. I pray for the success of the dalit power.

AMARJIT SINGH, London: Without doubt DV is probably the best rational and scientific journal on the question of dalits. Not only it is very informative but also it has managed to highlight the path the dalits must take for their liberation. We are also happy that the DV will unite the dalits, rationalists and "genuine" Marxists.

M. MITSUHASHI, Tokyo: We find the study of Devadasi really excellent. Congratulations to Joint Women's Programme. We can well understand the seriousness of the Devadasi problem. This study should be read widely all over the world and, therefore, we are sending *Bhani* to the US and France. In Japan also the woman is exploited by man. Her average wage is half of that of man. Japanese capitalism is built on the exploitation of women. Besides, it is reinforced by the division of sexes. Men's work (which is paid) is reproduced and maintained by women's unpaid work (such as housework). We are interested in the thought of Dalitastan. This concept largely overlaps Periyar's Dravidastan. Will Indian revolution begin from the South?

K. S. BHGAWAN, Mysore: The Devadasi system is horrible, inhuman, cruel. To what extent Hindu religion is degenerated. There is no greater heinous crime than this. The JWP team has done a good job. The pictures are heart-rending.

Dr. MULK RAJ ANAND, Bombay: I admire your persisting with your dalit struggles. I will recommend DV to my friends in India and abroad. □

FALSE CASTE CERTIFICATES

(Our correspondent)

Bangalore: High caste Hindus, who were responsible for the Marathwada and Gujarat caste wars against the reservations to SCs, are themselves shamelessly but secretly enjoying reservations secured by obtaining false caste certificates. Such instances have come to the public in different parts of India. In Karnataka, the BJP leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council has been charged in the court for obtaining such a false certificate. In many cities, Brahmins have secured jobs by producing false certificates saying they are SCs. In Kakinada, AP, we hear a report from a social worker, MVS Raju, that a high caste Naidu secured a Govt. job producing a false caste certificate that he belonged to a backward caste. The complaint says the official working in the office of the CIFT, Kakinada, belonged to the Telaga community. The practice of obtaining false caste certificate has eaten into the meagre job opportunities of the SC/STs & OBCs. As the high caste Hindus who are issuing the certificates and also those appointing are hand in glove in this racket, we have no confidence that the Govt. will put an end to this widespread racket. Therefore, we call upon our dalit and minority comrades to directly tackle such cases. The best and the most effective way would be for the dalits and minorities in respective offices to directly expose such frauds and file cases against them under the Protection of Civil Rights Act. *Dalit Voice* would be glad to publish such individual cases. □

TN BRAHMINS PROTEST

MADRAS: The Tamil Nadu Brahmins Association on Nov. 15 organized processions in parts of the State to "awaken" members of the community to demand protection of their rights under the Constitution and to protest against what it termed "unjustified and indecent remarks about the community by some sections", reports PTI. □

DALITS EMBRACE ISLAM

BELLARY: More than 200 persons have been converted to Islam in the last two months in Bellary city. The conversions were kept secret and was known only when they were introduced in the masjids. Reports of conversions have also come from the border taluks of Andhra Pradesh. Last week, Kondareddi of Kanekal village in Rayadurga taluk was converted to Islam with his family of eight. His new name is Khalil Rehman. Conversions have also been reported from Sandur, where a flour mill owner with his family was converted to Islam. Most of the converts belong to the backward classes.

(*Indian Express* Nov. 7) □

PANTHER LEADER SURRENDERS

AURANGABAD: Maharashtra Dalit Panther president Gangadher Gade who was wanted by the police in connection with murder of a college clerk here surrendered before the court on Nov. 5. Gade who was absconding for over one-and-half months, surrendered before the first class judicial magistrate's court. (UNI) □

DALIT CHIEF ENGINEER: We are glad to announce the appointment of L. Shivalingiah, a noted Ambedkarite scholar for the first time to the prestigious post of chief engineer, (bldgs. & comm) in the Karnataka PWD. He is responsible for the publication of several books on Ambedkar and a great pillar of strength to the dalit movement in the country. The Karnataka Dalit Action Committee has decided to felicitate him at a function in Bangalore shortly. □

M. C. JOSEPH

A renowned rationalist, journalist, law-year and freedom fighter, M C Joseph, died at his house at Irinjakkuda, near Trichur, after a prolonged illness. He was 95: Joseph was founder-president of the Rationalist Association and editor of 'Yukthivadi', a monthly devoted to the spread of rationalist thoughts. □

BAMCEF CHANDIGARH CONVENTION

An evaluation

(Prof. Jaffar Ali, Bangalore)

The BAMCEF III national convention from Oct. 14 to 18 proved to be a great source of inspiration to the democratic forces of 85% of Indians comprising the SCs/STs, the OBCs among the shudras and the minorities - Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and others. It is a great tragedy with the Indian democracy that the powers of 700 million citizens have been monopolised by about 100 millions of the upper class people not only because this one seventh section of the society commands almost all levers of powers on account of its social status and administrative privileges, traditional hegemony and economic prerogatives, educational domination and monopoly in the fields of press, literature, fine arts and others. The lopsided development of the post-Independence Indian society has reached the acute stage of abnormality at which 100 millions have acquired the position of super humans on account of centuries of cultural exploitation in almost all fields of life. Consequently 600 millions have been reduced to humiliated position of sub-humans, shorn of even biological needs of safety and security. The irony of the situation is that India has been the cradle of great cultures like Vedic dharma, Buddhism, Jainism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism and Veerashaivism. These cultures singly or jointly have not paid sufficient attention to remove the cultural gap between the 100 million haves and 600 million have-nots. Independent India has been producing godmen with supernatural powers to give peace of mind and bliss only to the gullible sections of haves both in India and outside. However, there are some exceptions.

BAMCEF was formed in Delhi three years ago deriving inspiration from Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. The hard core of BAMCEF leadership at present is with the dalits. A devoted and humane intelligentsia has emerged under the dynamic and dedicated humble and sincere, humanitarian and patriotic leadership of Kanshi Ram, president of the

BAMCEF which is a great powerhouse for the powerless 15 crore Untouchables with 20 lakhs educated employees. The educated employees have grown callously indifferent to the loan they have to pay back to their community. What is harshly true with the SC employees equally applies to the educated sections of other down-trodden, ST, O.B.C.'s and minorities. The BAMCEF Chandigarh convention proved to be volcano which sent ferocious but compassionate calls to the fellow educated employees to get themselves organised so that 600 millions of have-nots may be resurrected from their suppressive graveyards to cultural revival and renaissance so that the Indian Republic may be reconstructed with active and enthusiastic association of all the 600 millions of have-nots along with the present 100 million masters. What a strange coincidence! On the one hand the 5 lakh-strong Virat Hindu Sammelan incurring Rs. 1 crore from the coffers of industrialists and on the other the dwarf-like 6,000-strong 3rd national BAMCEF convention incurring Rs. 25 lakhs from Untouchable humble pockets started on the same day—the 14th October 1981. The mission of the Virat Hindu Sammelan was to strengthen the imperialistic hold of the one-seventh of the society whereas the BAMCEF convention was to commission its followers to resurrect the culturally desolate and defunct educated millions to the leadership-moral, intellectual, social - so that the BAMCEF inspiration may in turn give birth among Indian

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Plight of Muslims in India

Bangalore : Indian Muslims are being discriminated against in their own country, Dr. A. U. Shaikh, a retired IAS officer, alleged here on Oct. 27. Despite the government's claims to its secular nature, the Muslims in the country were not treated on par with other citizens, he said. Quoting an example, he said that Muslims constituted 26 per cent of the armed services personnel in 1947, but their number was almost negligible now. Dr. Shaikh was delivering the Tippu Sultan shaheed memorial lecture organised by the Al-Ameen Educational Society-Bangalore, on the "Socio-economic testament of the 100 million Muslims in India". About 80 per cent of the Muslims in the country were illiterate and a higher per cent lived below poverty line. Surveys had shown that 33 per cent of the slum-dwellers in Madras, Bangalore and Lucknow were Muslims. He criticised the Muslim leaders for neglecting the welfare of the Muslims in the country.

Historians too had contributed towards communal disharmony in the country by distorting facts. He called for the rewriting of Indian history in the true spirit of nationalism. (Indian Express, Oct-28) □

AMBEDKAR CHAIR

AURANGABAD: The All-India Buddhist and Scheduled Caste college and university teachers conference held here recently demanded, among other things, the institution of chairs in the name of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in all the universities in the country. (Times of India, Oct 17) □

RICH AMERICANS GOING MAD

CALCUTTA : Alfred Ford, a member of the multimillionaire Ford family of the US, announced here on Nov. 9 that he would renounce the world and devote himself to

the Hare Krishna movement launched by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Ford (30), who has assumed the name of Ambarish Das, told a news conference that the process of renunciation was on.

"I will come to India and settle here permanently to have the grace of the supreme God-Krishna", he said. (UNI Nov 10) □

SATI JUSTIFIED

Raipur : Jagatguru Shankaracharya of Govardhan Pith Niranjan Deva Tirtha of Puri is one of those religious leaders who still feel that the Sati system, ban on widow remarriage and child marriage, to name only a few, are the rights of the Hindus which they must be allowed to preserve. (Sunday Nov. 8) □

BAN ON RSS DRILLS

SIMLA : The Himachal Pradesh Government has banned the 'shakhas' of the RSS and the Anand Marg and drills in public places and school. They have been prohibited from holding demonstration with weapons, including lathis at public places. (UNI Nov. 3). □

[BAMCEF Chandigarh Convention: Cont. from Page 9]

masses to the cultural revolution which will involve them actively and wholly in all the processes - social, economic and administrative - of democracy of the Indian Republic whereas now the dumb masses are exploited with inferior corruptive incentives only in the electioneering of the political parties. BAMCEF as a recently emergent and formative factor in the social dynamics in India, heralds a sublime shift in the direction of future events of Indian national reconstruction. It is heartening to note that Maulana Abul Hassan Ali Nadwi, a great saint of Lucknow, has given a call of spiritual humanism which proclaims mankind to be God's family. It is that call which has associated this writer with the downtrodden and persecuted sections of the Indian society. □

CHRISTIANS RE-CONVERTED TO HINDUISM

BHOPAL : Jagadguru Shankaracharya of Badri Ashram said here on Nov. 6 1,200 converted Christians had been taken back into Hinduism recently in Bihar and another 15,000 were brought back to Hindu religion earlier—(Deccan Herald, Nov. 5)

HINDU MEET CRITICISED

PUNE : S. M. Joshi, Janata party leader, criticised the Hindu Ekta Andolan saying that it was trying to revive brahminism in the name of Hindu unity. He was speaking as the chief guest at a function to observe the 22nd death anniversary of late Kashavrao Jedhe, the political leader and social reformer of Maharashtra in the pre-independence era. (Times of India—Nov. 9-81) □

BEL DALITS ON WARPATH

BANGALORE : The SC/ST Welfare Association of Bharat Electronics here decided to resort to a relay hunger-strike in January if their demands are not conceded. Prof. S. S. Arakeri, MLA and Association President told newsmen here on Nov. 18. Demands are the non-implementation by the BEL management of 22.5 per cent reservation for SCs and STs, neglect on the part of the trade unions to protect the SC employees' interests and non-recognition of the association by the management. On many occasions the services of SC, ST employees had been terminated or suspended without assigning reasons. 11 SC, ST employees who had been sacked be reinstated without delay and that a liaison officer be appointed for them immediately, out of the 1,383 quarters, only 164 were provided for SC families and eight for STs. The dalit houses were placed in a segregated line and not mixed among other residents' quarters as per Government rules. (Deccan Herald, Nov. 21) □

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HIGH COURT CHALO: A NOVEL

DALIT PROTEST

(Our correspondent)

Bangalore Nov. 23: In the biggest-ever "High Court Chalo" demonstration here this morning over 1,000 slogan-shouting members of the Karnataka Dalit Action Committee were arrested after they burnt the effigy of Chief Justice D. M. Chandrasekhar. Burka-clad Muslim women, Christians, OBCs, a Brahmin journalist and even two black-robed lawyers joined the massive demonstration which had created considerable anxiety in the minds of the

judiciary and the police. The agitation was to demand implementation of the constitutional reservation in the High Court establishment to SC/STs & OBCs. They carried a huge portrait of Dr. Ambedkar and placards denouncing the anti-dalit stand taken by the chief justice. Hundreds of office-goers watched the demonstration. This is the fourth time the DAC was staging a protest demonstration against the High Court in the past four years but the High Court had refused to budge an inch, continuously flouting the Constitution. Instead of acting as the guardian of the Constitution, the High Court was itself violating the Constitution. D. M. Thimmarayappa, convener of the DAC, told the dalit demonstrators before getting arrested. The city police had erected a wall of constables to see that the defiant dalits did not enter the High Court. They had also tried their best to see that the effigy of the chief justice was not burnt. But the dalits refused to oblige the police. The arrests followed the moment the effigy of the CJ carried in a coffin was set on fire. The arrests foiled the proposed dalit march to High Court. The 18-point demand of the DAC included appointment of more dalit judges. Currently there was only one judge each from the SC, Muslim and OBCs. Women, tri-

bals and Christians had no representation. Only the three top castes—Brahmins, Lingayats and Vokkaligas—were dominating the bench. To some judges, the HC had become a family property. The "High Court chalo" had received indirect support from several influential circles. The State Chief Minister, several Ministers, senior Govt and police officers, a section of the lawyers, Marxist parties like the CPM & CPI, many legislators were said to be happy with the DAC action. If the HC refused to make amends, a bigger agitation would follow. All of them agreed that the judiciary in India had been always anti-poor. Meanwhile, the *Dalit Voice* has received information that dalits and persecuted minorities in other parts of India are preparing to follow the Bangalore example. The Tamil Nadu dalits had displayed the DAC posters in the Madras High Court. However, DAC authorities were pained to note that the white-collar dalit employees, who were the main victims of the anti-dalit stand of the HC, did not participate in today's agitation in full strength. It was mainly a show of the illiterate, poor village and slum-dwelling dalits and Muslims. Dr. Ambedkar had rightly expressed sorrow over the apathy of the educated dalits who were enjoying the fruits of the reservation. We hope this section would rise to the occasion and come in full strength when the DAC came up with another bigger programme. □

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