

DALIT VOICE

[The Voice of the Persecuted Minorities]

Adviser : Dr. Mulk Raj Anand

Vol. 1

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No. 18

TAMIL NADU SHOWS THE WAY

S.S.S. As Against R.S.S.

A UNI report datelined Puliangudi (June 13), where the latest Hindu-dalit clashes occurred killing ten people, takes us into an altogether refreshing social scenario that is taking shape in India. The report that got wide publicity in the "national press" is of far-reaching significance:- "The violence which rocked this town of 47,000 people and the neighbourhood last week, was the result of a polarisation of caste and communal forces in many parts of southern TN district of Tirunelveli. Muslims & Harijans have come together under the banner of the Samathuva Sahodarathva Sangham (SSS) which means an organisation for equality and fraternity, and the various caste Hindu groups have sunk their differences to face a perceived challenge from them. Dist. Collector Nirmal Singh Hira, talking to UNI, tacitly acknowledged that it appeared that in the clashes Muslims and Harijans were on one side and the caste Hindus on the other". (*Indian Express* - June 14) The longish report quotes Hindu leaders criticising the SSS and the dalit and Muslim leaders of the area supporting it. The report did not quote a single dalit or Muslim leader criticising SSS. Dalits, Muslims and Christians had already come together. That

they took out a joint march at Nagercoil following the RSS attack on poor Christian fishermen was also earlier reported. That these three persecuted minorities joined hands to form a selfdefence force will not be naturally liked by the persecutors. They will do everything to break this unity. They will also discredit those in charge, arrest them & if possible finish them. That even the communists are critical of such a unity did not come as a surprise to us. M. N. Govindan Nair, national council secretary of the CPI, told newsmen at Madras after a visit to Puliangudi (*Times of India*, June 18), that: "Harijans, however, had joined hands with Christians and Muslims under the banner of SSS to fight against social inequalities. Nair said the people of Puliangudi were now divided, with the caste Hindus led by the Hindu Munani (Hindu front) on the one side and, SSS on the other, relegating the political parties to the background. This division according to Nair, would spread to other parts of the State. Nair

said the Sangham had now established its units in 61 villages in Tirunelveli dt. In many places party men had pulled down their own party flags. Activists of the same parties had taken sides with the Munnani or the SSS, he said. His apprehension was that caste and religious feelings were going to dominate the State politics. This was a dangerous situation." The *Hindu* (June 15), normally the spokesman of those enjoying property and privileges, has given further evidence of the coming together of the dalits, Muslims and Christians and naturally demanded it must be crushed. Tamil Nadu has thus shown the way to the whole country. RSS, which is out to enforce *Varnashram Dharma* through a Brahminical class-caste fascist dictatorship, is today the single biggest strike force with a country-wide sweep. That the life & property of dalits & persecuted minorities are being increasingly threatened is evident for anybody reading the daily paper. Not a day goes without the killing of innocent lives. The Govt. of India has totally failed to protect them. In such a situation what else can they do? Where else can they go except organise themselves into a self-defence force? The Govt. of India had one year back assured the Parliament that it would set up a "village protection force" to save dalits from Hindu atrocities. A PTI report (*Times of India* May 16) said such a force "would be established soon". Another report said such a special riot police comprising dalits, tribals, Muslims and Christians had been already raised but the govt. had been extremely secretive about it fearing high caste Hindu wrath. In the absence of any protection either from the govt. or the

society, TN dalits, Muslims and Christians have formed their own self-protection force called SSS. We don't think any civilised opinion in the world can take objection to this move. The need for such a force became all the more urgent in TN because it was in this State that all these three persecuted minorities came under an organised attack. It was here that the country's first mass killing of Christians took place in Kanyakumari dt. on 1-3-1982. It was again here that the dalits staged their historic mass conversion to escape from the Hindu tyranny. It was here that the RSS formed its front organisation, Hindu Munnani, to fight Periyar E. V. Ramaswamy's cultural organisation, Dravida Kazaghham. The M.G. Ramachandran Govt. being completely a puppet in the hands of the RSS, dalits, Muslims and Christians here had no other go but to form SSS. It is the right of every civilised govt. to protect all its citizens particularly its weakest sections. And in India, the govt. itself has admitted that Untouchables, tribals, Muslims and Christians form its weakest sections. When the govt. also fails, society turns hostile, the press indifferent, what else these sections can do but make their own arrangements to defend themselves? What is wrong in that? Therefore, we wholeheartedly welcome the TN dalit efforts and commend this noble example to all other persecuted minorities in the rest of India, Untouchables, tribals, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and even OBCs. TN has become the melting pot—the laboratory for all sociological experiments. Tamils have become first in every thing. This is because of their characteristic-cultural background—the Thiruvallavar herit-

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A RIOT A DAY KEEPS THE REVOLUTION AWAY

(Our correspondent)

Bangalore: After a short lull, the killing of innocent, poor Muslims is back in full swing. The Yadava-Muslim clash at Phulwarisharif (Bihar) in the first week of June, 1982 has resulted in seven deaths. So much so even a notoriously communal English daily like the Hindu, was forced to come out with an agonising editorial (June 10) calling for an end to communal bloodbath. Three people were killed in the Hyderabad riot on June 3. This reminds of what the Statesman of May 18, 1981 said in a frontpage story under the heading, Anatomy of Communal Violence: "In spite of all the platitudinous statements made by the rulers of the country, communal clashes have become a feature of every day life. Between 1960-1977 & in 1979-80, there were 5,177 communal riots in the country. Bloodiest of all were the riots which took place in Ahmedabad in 1969 killing not less than 3,000 people." This statement is not from Muslims but a Hindu press owned by Hindu capitalists. The Deccan Herald, quoting an UNI report of the "official review" says (April 20, 1982) that "there were 321 communal incidents in 1971. After a declining trend, these sharply rose to 427 in 1980 and came down to 319 last year. The largest number of 375 persons were killed in violence in 1980," the official report says. The communal riots are no more confined to urban areas but spreading fast to rural areas as could be made out from the Beharsharif riots. Nor is it confined to North but it is coming deep into South and affecting even States like Kerala & Tamil Nadu, noted for communal peace. West Bengal is also joining. But the Prime Minister said in Saudi Arabia recently that communal riots in India are very low compared to the population of Muslims. Does it mean that riots should take place in proportion to the population of Muslims? In Karnataka, even the traditionally peaceful coastal district of South Kanara had a bout of Hindu-Muslim riot on May 20. Before this one person was killed on April 29 at Tiptur when clashes broke resulting in serious losses to poor Muslims. Bijapur had a series of clashes in April following the RSS-sponsored Hindu unity processions. The district had a very secular-minded superintendent of police, Narayan, but the Hindus blamed him and held him responsible for the riots. The same official was earlier transferred from Kolar on the complaints of the Hindu communal elements that he sided with the secular forces. At Bijapur, the Indian Express report charged A R. Infant, a young and able IPS officer, saying that he was responsible for the riots. The report also said Arab money was flowing into Bijapur. If secular-minded officers known for their integrity and honesty are transferred how could the Govt. then stop communal clashes? On the issue of the Gokak report demanding sole first language status for Kannada, once again the Hindu communal elements started attacking only Muslims. At Chitradurga three persons died of police-firing (April 17) when the Gokak agitation turned into an anti-Muslim riot. There were clashes at Ramdurg (Belgaum dt.) on March 16 following the RSS-sponsored Hindu Vishwa Parisad procession. Last year,

the then Minister C. M. Ibrahim's brother, C. M. Rehman, was killed at Bhadravati on May 29, 1981. The latest Ullal incident in the suburb of Mangalore was the result of grave provocation on the part of RSS elements who are very active in this area trying to let loose the poor, backward community of fishermen against Muslims. But this time their game did not succeed. One Muslim and one Hindu were killed in this clash. Another Muslim, Ibrahim Musliar was stabbed. The Hindu communal elements seem to think that one riot a day will keep the revolution away. Because the Hindu-Muslim riots are only between poor people. Only the poor among Hindus and the poor among Muslims are affected. Meanwhile," the All-India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawrat, a forum of Muslim parties and organizations, has set August as the deadline for the Government to take steps to safeguard the rights and properties of the Muslims in view of frequent communal disturbances. At a press conference in New Delhi on June 8, the Mushawrat blamed certain Hindu organizations for the communal riots and involvement of local Government officials in it. If petro-dollars can be used to build flyovers in Delhi and for the development of the country's economy, the Muslims have every right to use this currency for their own welfare and to highlight their problems", it was said at the Mushawrat's press conference. Among others who addressed press conference were Shaik Zulfiquarullah, the Mushawrat's president and a former Union Minister during the Janata Government, and Jawed Habeeb, a former president of the Aligarh Muslim University Students' Union. The Government must take action against anti-Muslim activities,

recruit members of the minorities in adequate proportion in the police and if the Government failed to do so the Mushawrat would launch an agitation, Habeeb said" (*Statesman*, June 2). S. Shabbudin, MP, referring to the position of Muslims in India, says: "Regarding the loss of life, limb and property in communal riots, I have often demanded community-wise figures. If the losses are so evenly balanced, let the government come out with the relevant statistics. Regarding the initiative, the 'facts' are often manufactured by an administration which is communal and therefore partial and untruthful. Also what is important is not who threw the first stone in an atmosphere charged with tension and violence but what led to the build-up of the tension. There is no point recalling history. The inhuman treatment of Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan during the partition riots was evenly balanced by equally inhuman treatment of Muslims in India. No community as such is responsible but both harbour irresponsible and anti-social elements who play upon mutual distrust and suspicion. But today the Muslim community suffers from deepseated insecurity because of the organised campaign launched by Hindu Rashtravadis. There is no Muslim equivalent of the RSS or of Patit Pawan or of Hindu Ekta, Raksha, Virat Sammelan. 1971 is a watershed for Muslim psyche but Hindu Rashtravad has gained strength thereafter. As for provocation from across the border, how many communal riots have taken place in Pakistan or Bangladesh since 1971? And why should a 'secular' society react to the acts of a 'theocratic society'? The Muslim community is not

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KANCHI SHANKARACHARYA PRAISES R.S.S.

Salem : The Sankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti, Peetam, Jayendra Saraswathi, has said that parents, who wanted their children to grow up in an atmosphere of discipline, moral uprightness, devotion and patriotism should send them to RSS camps. Speaking at the valedictory function of a State-level RSS training camp, which concluded here recently, the Sankaracharya said the RSS was the only organisation in the world which inculcated all these values. (*Deccan Herald*, June-6) □

CONVERSION TO ISLAM

Nagpur : Prema Wankhede, wife of Vazir Wankhede, embraced Islam. She will be known as Parveen Wankhede. Her Nikah with Vazir Wankhede was solemnised on April 14 by Prof. Rafiuddin at a simple ceremony. She is the sister of Damyantibai Dongre, former municipal councillor of Nagpur. Mrs. Wankhede was the President of Scheduled Castes Students Federation. Her husband had embraced Islam recently. (*Hitavada*, April 15. See also page-8) □

Marxist Support to Brahmins

Madras : A. Nallasivam, secretary of the TN unit of the CPI (M), on June 9 deplored what he termed as failure on the part of the police to take prompt and adequate measures against those denigrating the Brahmin community through posters and other means of propoganda. In a press statement, the Marxist leader said it was most regrettable that a section of DK volunteers was found indulging in violent & indecent activities in Puthur Agraharam on June 6. A similar incident took place at Valavanur Agraharam in South Arcot district on June 7 resulting in hospitalisation of three Brahmins, he said. (*Hindu*, June 10) □

BUDDHA'S FOREIGN TRIP

Colombo : Had the Buddha, whose teachings have reached far and wide, ever gone out of India during his lifetime? It would seem he had — or at least that was what President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka would have a World Buddhist Conference here believe. "The Mahawansa and other books record that the Buddha visited Sri Lanka during his lifetime and delivered several sermons", said Jayewardene in his opening address to the conference on June 1 (PTI). □

Dr. Mulk Raj Anand

New Delhi : The government has appointed Dr. Mulk Raj Anand, eminent writer, as honorary editor of art books to be published by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Dr. Anand, who is also a member of the ministry's Media Advisory Committee, has behind him a writing career spanning nearly half a century. He has to his credit more than a dozen novels, six collections of short stories and numerous other works of art and literature. (*Indian Express*, May 31) □

COW MANIA

New Delhi : The Ministry of Agriculture would urge States to adopt laws to ban cow slaughter, the Central Gosamvardhana Advisory Council was assured here on May 28 by Rao Birendra Singh, Minister for Agriculture. (*Statesman*, May 29) □

POPULATION - WISE RESERVATION TO ALL : O.B.C. CONFERENCE DEMAND

(Our correspondent)

Salem : The All-India Backward Classes Govt. Employees Conference, inaugurated here on May 30 by G. Lakshmanan, Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, demanded reservations to be given to each and every community and caste in proportion to its population. The conference, first of its kind after the Mandal Commission report on Backward Classes was published, generated tremendous enthusiasm and it was attended by different party representatives. The conference was addressed by K. Veeramani, general secretary of the powerful Dravida Kazhagam which has been spearheading the movement to implement the Mandal report, D. P. Yadav, MP, general secretary, National Union of Backward Classes, three other TN MPs & V. T. Rajshekar, editor, *Dalit Voice*. A. Chakrapani, chief whip of the Andhra Legislative Council, presided. Resolutions moved by Suba Seetharam, secretary of the TN unit of the All-India Federation of BC Employees, said BC people and dalits "should keep aside their small differences & stand united in all their fights to end the common oppression caused by their status as *sudras* & *panchamas* by getting themselves organised under one banner." The conference called upon the employees to fight for 52% reservation to OBCs as recommended by the Mandal Commission. It criticised the Central Govt for referring the Mandal report for the opinion of the State Govts. "The argument that efficiency would be affected due to reservation is purely selfish. The standard of administration is at low level because of the cunning cowards of high castes holding high and key positions," it said. B. B.

Burman, representing the Assam unit of the Federation, said Mandal Com. has included Kayasths, who are next only to Brahmins and holding all important positions in his State, in the list of OBCs. Ram Aranganal, president of the TN Democratic Party, also spoke. D. P. Yadav said "merit theory" is destroying the country. "It is because these merited people, who have been ruling us since thousands of years, the country has sunk so deep", he said. Deputy Speaker Lakshmanan said he was inaugurating the conference only because he was a *shudra*. V. T. Rajshekar said he had no hope of the Mandal report getting implemented. The caste composition of the govt. service being what it is, it will be impossible for any govt. to implement the report. The very idea will let loose violent resistance from the society. When the society is not prepared to accept the constitutional reservations to SC/STs, will it extend the benefits to OBCs? What happened in Gujarat? Hence the need of the hour is to educate the OBCs on Mandal report. Since Mandal report is benefitting Muslims & Christians, their support also must be taken. OBCs must apologise to dalits for their past misdeeds. Without the support of dalits, OBCs can do nothing. OBCs are suffering only because they are being used by the high castes to attack dalits, Muslims and Christians. Every attack on

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Letters to Editor :

Ashok Narwade, Aurangabad : DV is the best English journal we dalits of the Marathwada region found so far. Our deep gratitude to your editorial staff for producing so educative a journal for us. We support your struggle by selling DV here.

Prem Kumar, Nagercoil, TN : When we approach the Christian (dalit) converts, they say they are not ready to accept Dr. Ambedkar's leadership. They say (1) he only helped Hindu dalits by reservations, (2) he should have destroyed caste system by using his position as Constitution-maker. (3) Some of them admire K. Kamaraj (ex-Congress president) as he made education free and open to all. We want to convince them that Ambedkar did not hate Christian dalits. Some Nader Christians are the worst enemies of dalits here. It is they who protect the caste within the church. We want to win them over by convincing them the futility of continuing caste in church.

Dr. N. Srinivasan, West Sussex, UK : DV is helping us here to know the plight of dalits in India. Goutam Chakraborty, Amerajit Singh and we all recently discussed the possibility of taking up the problem of Indian Untouchables to the Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International etc., not in the hope of getting a solution to this centuries-old cruelty, but to make the world know this oppression of a single community by a set of people who claim caste supremacy.

J. D. Souza, Dacca, Bangladesh : I have gone through three issues of DV. They are excellent.

Geeta Gowri, Institute of Public Enterprise, Osmania University, Hyderabad : I

have read your books, articles and DV. I want to have discussions with you and the members of the Dalit Sahitya Academy to get more ideas. My best wishes are with you.

Ved Prakash Joshi, Bombay : I am writing this after my appeal to the RSS leaders against their party journal, *Organiser*, publishing sexy pictures of film actresses. My letter was not published by *Organiser*. I am not a RSS supporter, but I did not like *Organiser* starting a film review column. In its June 6 issue it has started selling sex. It published photos of three nude girls. RSS is going crazy, sexy. Hope at least you will publish this letter.

Ramnath Tripathi, Banaras : As a poor Brahmin, I can assure you that Brahmins are as much victims of Brahminism. I saw DV with a dalit classmate of mine in the Banaras Hindu University and liked it very much. As a Marxist, I support your fight against caste and Brahminism. There are ever so many poor Brahmins but the rich Brahmins never help them. Will the DV take up the cause of these poor Brahmins? (We want to devote half a page at least to support the cause of poor Brahmins willing to fight caste and join hands with dalits. Contributions are welcome—Editor)

Mohd. Saghir Husain, Allhabad : I chanced to read DV no. 15 and found it wonderful. It is doing a very noble work and is the urgent need of the hour. Accept our high tributes and best wishes.

Md. Zafarulah K. Rahmani, Madurai : DV is showing the path of progress to dalits, and minorities. Articles are very informative and impressive. We support your crusade to fight untouchability and caste.

Syed Asghar Husain, IAS (retd.) Hyder-

abad : Glad to note DV has gained popularity among weaker sections. Whenever I get persons from this section, I recommend them DV which is making an organised effort to fight the menace of RSS.

Sultan A. Patel, Bassein : DV is an epoch-making journal. I read the DSA book, *Brahminism*. It is simply soul-stirring, mind-shaking. I want this book to be read by Muslims, Christians and dalits.

Vazir Wankhede, Superintending Engineer, Nagpur : You will be happy to note that my wife embraced Islam on April 14 on the Ambedkar Jayanti day at a function here attended by doctors, engineers, lawyers and social workers. Her name is changed from Prema to Parvin and we got married as per the Islamic rites. Thus I had the privilege of marrying the same woman three times, as per Hindu rites (1956), Special Marriage Act (1973) & Islamicrites. She read-Shariat and other literature and willingly came into Islam. There is no compulsion. I am overwhelmed by the love and affection shown to me by our Muslim brothers and personalities like you.

Feizuruddin Ahmed Sazban, Jiribam, Manipur : I have translated DSA book, *Why Go For Conversion?* into Manipuri language. I hope to translate all your DSA publications also. We need your permission. DV is getting not only country-wide response but also international. I am always at your service.

Jothi Jothi, Salem dt. TN : I am in Communist Party (Marxist) from 1974 but as a dalit I am disillusioned with our Marxists. It is only after reading DV I came to know why Marxist leadership is not interested in dalits. DV (no. 14) edi-

torial, "Trade Unions, Dalits and Minorities", opened my eyes. It made me realise the casteism inside our communist parties. DV alone is exposing this communal communist leadership. Having been disillusioned I have started organising Ambedkar movement in Salem dt. Send us all dalit literature and introduce us to the Dalit Panthers, books of Ambedkar. I am living in a very interior place. We have no chance to develop our knowledge. Therefore, your Tamil edition, *Dalit Kural*, will be very useful to us. Dalits and minorities can't get salvation through the existing communal leadership of our communist parties.

K. Narayashawamy, principal, Govt. Junior Collegé, Srinivasapur, Karnataka : Until I got the May issue of DV I did not know of the existence of such a journal. I want all the back issues.

Prof. Viithal Banne, Gadinglaj, Kolhapur dt. MS : Devadasi system of prostitution is maintained in the name of god and religion. You have to expose the cruelty of this Hindu religious belief.

C. Madhavan, Trivandrum : The ruling class alliance won the election in Kerala. Dalits here are a house divided. They have no leader. Only a religious solution can save them. Just like your thesis in the *Class-Caste Struggle*, dalits should have alliance with forces of human spirit and justice. We can unite dalits only on communal and caste lines.

N. Elangovan, Cuddalore, TN : Congratulations for starting a Tamil edition of DV. We will spread its message in TN. You have rightly exposed the trade unions (DV no. 14) which captivated all dalits here. □

C.P.M. ATTACK ON TRIBALS & CHRISTIANS

(Our correspondent)

Bombay : CPM attack on tribals and Christians in the Thane district of Maharashtra is reaching a crisis point. Some Jesuit priests who have fallen out of the church because of their radical Marxist views, are helping the Warli tribals. But this was very much resented by the CPM which once controlled them. As the Kashtakari Sanghatna, the organisation of these radical Christians, proved more responsive, the tribals slowly switched on their loyalty from the CPM to the militant KS. And this led to series of clashes not only between CPM and tribals but many a time Jesuit priests were also attacked. The prestigious English daily, Times of India, has come out with several reports of such clashes. The latest occurred on June 7, 82 when two priests and two tribals were attacked by CPM activists in the Dahanu taluk of Thane dt. Fr. Oscar Perira of the Dhynamata Sadan said in a statement that the four had gone to Bordi to bring three tribal students to be admitted to a hostel. Fr. Salu Rodrigues, Fr. Blaze De' Mellow were the two admitted to hospital with head injuries along with the tribals. Fr. Perira said this was the sixth attack on them since Oct. 1980. According to the Times of India CPM had let loose a "vicious reign of terror in the tribal areas. The CPM-led Kisan Sabha wants to see that the tribals get out of the KS." The Jesuit priest-led KS is supported by Bhoomi Sena and many other organisations but CPM is isolated as it has turned anti-tribal according to the tribal representatives. KS said as a result of the CPM attack over 140 families of tribals have suffered. Such attacks on tribals by the CPM has made the party quite unpopular and the KS has become the single biggest organisation of

the tribals. Mrs. Godavari Parulekar, CPM leader and member of its Central Committee, was leading these Warli tribals. She had even written a book on them. The anti-tribal role played by CPM in Thane, Tripura, West Bengal and elsewhere, its anti-Dravida Kazagam and pro-Brahminical role in Tamil Nadu, its total silence on the growing atrocities on Untouchables, Muslims, Christians, its apathy towards the problems of the OBCs as highlighted in the Mandal Commission report, has worried the CPM cadres. A number of them are accusing the party leadership of the party getting increasingly alienated from these revolutionary sections. The mass-circulated weekly, Sunday, (June 6-12) said in Thane CPM sees KS as a threat to its existence. The June 10 attack on tribals "came from CPM goondas hired by landlords." Godavari Parulekar was once "called Rani Godavari because of the work she did there. But today she has become a jaded queen with hardly any following among the masses". □

Mandal Com. Report

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these sections was not committed by the high castes but by the OBCs. The recent Kanyakumari attack on poor Christians came from OBCs. The Meenakshipuram mass conversions to Islam took place because the dalits could not bear OBC violence on them. If the OBCs are interested in Mandal report they must join with dalits, Muslims and Christians, he said. □

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Muslim Problem

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interested in the 'highest positions'. Its interest lies in lower positions where it is horribly under-represented. I agree that Muslim society needs social reform. But I have no desire to follow Hemid Dalwai whom the Muslim community rightly rejected. And must a socially backward community be denied its due share till it reforms itself? The pace of transition of Indian Muslim to Muslim Indian would be faster if objectively the Muslim enjoyed greater security, suffered less discrimination and was less frequently asked to behave himself.

(Times of India, June 10)



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Editorial : [Cont. from page 2]

age, Periyar's historic self-respect movement, the leadership provided by the Dravida Kazhagam in the anti-Brahmin movement, the complete de-Sanskritized language which, according to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's research, was once the all-India language before the Aryans invaded India. This is the reason why TN had the first non-Brahmin govt. in the country, the first mass conversion of Untouchables to Islam, the first mass killing of Christians. First in all sociological experiments. Therefore, it is no wonder TN became first in the country by starting SSS to defend itself against the multi-million rupee worth RSS with agents in govt., police, Defence services, press and in everything that is Hindu. The high caste Hindu leadership of communist parties is, therefore, naturally worried about such a polarisation of social forces on caste and religious basis. Since dalits, Muslims and Christians belong to the poorest of India's poor, they automatically form a "class". And we have been repeatedly telling that in Hindu India 'caste' is a "class" and the Marxian concept of "class struggle" will take the form of "caste struggle". We are glad the TN persecuted minorities have accepted this social reality disproving the "Socialist Brahmins" controlling our communist parties. However, we are sorry that the OBCs are once again left in the lurch. Like all other previous attacks on persecuted minorities, the Pulangudi attack also came from the backward Thevars who are as poor as the dalits. If the OBC leaders are interested in implementation of the Mandal Commission report, they could force the govt. only when they join hands with the dalits, Muslims and Christians.

The OBC leaders will have to choose their allies - whether they want to go with the exploiters or with the exploited. Will the Dravida Kazhagam - which is the only organisation in the TN today openly fighting the RSS - join the SSS and take the OBCs with them so that the polarisation of social forces becomes complete?

Dalit Trade Union

Bangalore : Representatives of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes' Association of public sector and other industries here met recently and discussed the formation of a separate trade union of SC and ST workers, according to a press note from the HAL SC and ST Employees' and Officers' Association. It said all the participants were in favour of forming a separate union of SCs & STs. (UNI)

RSS funds for KK dt.

Nagercoil : The recently-formed Vivekananda Kendra International (VKI) has decided to give shape to a wide framework for an international organisation to spread Vivekananda's philosophy of "Vasudevah Kudumbakam", the entire universe is a family. Initially a Rs. 3-crore fund will be raised for this purpose, according to Eknath Ranade, founder - president of the VKI, a sister organisation of the Vivekananda Kendra at Kanyakumari. (PTI)

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DRAVIDIAN SHOW OF STRENGTH

Trichy (TN) : The powerful cadre-based socio-cultural organisation, *Dravida Kazhagam* established by Periyar E V. Raswamy, held its mammoth State-level convention here on June 12 & from all accounts it was a mighty show of strength of the vast exploited shudras groaning under the centuries-old high-caste domination. Coming after a series of dt-level conferences in different parts of the State, the Trichy convention is considered the biggest conclave that the DK has staged in history. The credit for organising such a disciplined show goes to its general secretary Veeramani & his able band of lieutenants. Observers said after the Trichy convention neither the pro-RSS MGR govt. of TN nor the Govt. of India could so easily ignore the rising aspirations of the suffering *shudras*. Trichy was also a turning-point in the history of DK. It has started securing the support of dalits, Muslims, Christians & even many progressives in upper castes. Many CPM & CPI cadres were seen attending the convention. While on one side RSS is growing in TN, DK has proved to be the only other force that could effectively counter its influence. The Left party leadership being in the hands of the high caste "ponool communists", they are getting increasingly isolated in the TN politics. Ram Vilas Paswan, Jaipal Singh Keshyap, Prof. D. P. Yadav, all MPs from North, told this reporter that they had never witnessed such a mammoth gathering in their life. The over mile-long DK procession of June 13 morning was some thing to be seen to be believed. One RSS worker watching the procession said that it excelled the best of their processions. Over 50,000 black-robed men and women participated in the orderly march. A highlight of the procession was that several hundred Muslim League boys waving green flags greeted Veeramani and garlanded him. When the procession approached the Christian area, seminary boys came up and garlanded Veeramanal. Dalits joined the procession in thousands. What gave added importance to the convention was a well-planned attack on DK boys by some Brahmins on June 6. The press and the police helped to give the widest publicity to this violence putting the blame on DK but the publicity only helped to attract thousands of people from different parts of the State to Trichy. The TN press went on publishing statements of different party leaders and Brahmin associations condemning the DK but this gave indirect publicity to the convention. Veeramani effectively countered the Brahmin charge saying that "DK never believed in criticising individual Brahmins, but only *Brahminism*." □

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