

# STAMP OUT THE DEMON OF COMMUNALISM NOW

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THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE WITNESSED AN ORGY OF COMMUNAL VIOLENCE INFLECTING TERRIBLE DAMAGE TO HUMAN VALUES. HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THERE WERE LARGESCALE ARSON, LOOTS AND OTHER CRIMES. NORMAL LIFE IN SEVERAL PLACES CAME TO A STAND STILL, ECONOMIC ACTIVITY SUFFERED A SETBACK.

THE most shocking aspect of these distressing events has been the spread of communal poison in the working class areas—Jamshedpur, Rourkela, Raigarh etc. where, so far, it could not take hold of the toilers' mind and drown their class solidarity and brotherhood in the blood of fratricide. This was a new development and the most dangerous one at that.

Political pundits have ascribed these incidents to a chain reaction of what has happened in East Pakistan. But that is not the correct answer. What about the real cause of these communal flare-ups who organises these slaughters? Certainly, the ordinary people busy in earning their daily bread by arduous labour do not jump into the fray all by themselves just by habit or seek to glorify their misdeeds in the name of dealing a retaliatory blow?

Sympathy and sentiment of common people are deliberately worked up to a fever pitch where basic human values are lost and man turns into a ferocious and bloodthirsty animal to be led into acts of massive carnage. All this at whose behest and why?

The riots, government says, have subsided and the situation has been brought under control. Army had been called in, firing had been resorted to, and police is "alert" against possible breach of peace that has been established for the time being. The trouble has been quelled. But it may not be the case everywhere.

## GRIM REMINDERS

Assuming that the situation is under control, we shall ask: is this enough? Will government after this temporary solution again put on that expression of smug complacency on its face for bringing back peace? The demon

of communalism has been raising its ugly head time and again in several parts of the country for quite some years now. Jabalpur, Calcutta etc. are places that remind us of the horrors in the near past, perpetrated under the very nose of government.

This is a recurring phenomenon. Efforts at national integration did not bear the desired fruit, and the tree of our secular democracy under Congress rule did not thrive. Despite the plethora of promises and platitudes, sections of political parties continue to nurse communal hatred, openly preach violence and incite people to fratricide. Well-known goonda gangs hold entire society to ransom.

How long will such things be allowed to happen? Are we not a civilised nation? A temporary scotching of riots here and there, a few arrests and launching of some criminal cases that would drag on for years, and half-hearted punitive measures cannot stamp



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out the cancer from our body-politic.

## ELIMINATE ROOT CAUSE

What is needed is a firm step definitely aimed at ending the root cause of organised vandalism and mass murders. Those leaders and organisations, like the RSS, the Hindu Mahasabha, Jan Sangh, Muslim League—irrespective of their religious faith—who provoke communal passion must be put down without any hesitation. Peddling of communal poison, openly or otherwise, in our country must be banned, however powerful the traders may be. This is the responsibility of the ruling party. Any wavering in this regard can only be taken as a betrayal of national ideals.

The Communist Party and several mass organisations have already been at the forefront of the battle against the communal frenzy. They have called upon the people to exercise maximum vigilance against the activities of communal elements and resist their manoeuvres at all levels. The conscious sections of the people will have to combat the menace and make it a priority task.

The demon of communalism must be destroyed, once for ever, and only an all-out effort of the community as a whole can ensure that. Communal harmony will not only have to be maintained at all costs, but it will also have to be ensured that it is never disturbed again.

# CARNAGE AT JAMSHEDPUR

## From OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAMSHEDPUR: Jamshedpur, the steel city which had the proud tradition of maintaining amity between Hindus and Muslims, between Biharis, Bengalis, Oriyas and Punjabis, men of all religions, communities and provinces even in the worst days of 1947 has fallen a tragic victim to communal frenzy.

FOR the last ten days special trains carrying East Pakistan refugees were passing through Jamshedpur and halting at Tatanagar station for hours together. The citizens of Jamshedpur had been organising relief to the refugees in the special trains. But soon communal elements entered the scene. Rumours were set afoot in the town giving harrowing and exaggerated stories of the atrocities committed on East Pakistan refugees.

In the background of the worst passions aroused by largescale and organised rumour-mongering which went on for days, three well-known goonda gangs of the city soon assumed control of the situation.

The first attacks were aimed notably at their rivals of the Jamshedpur underworld who belonged to the minority community. From this point, the goonda gangs were able to spread out to the various parts of the city.

They succeeded well in inciting the factory workers concentrated in Telco, Tube Co. and Cahle

Co. — workers who were new, direct from the villages, without the glorious traditions of the Jamshedpur working class.

In the largescale communal carnage that shook Jamshedpur to its very marrow, managements of certain factories also played the role of agents provocateur. Weapons were often found to have been manufactured or stocked in factories and groups sent out to augment the ranks of the rioters.

## RESCUE WORK

In the midst of this communal frenzy and madness which overtook Jamshedpur, leaders of the District Congress Committee, the District Communist Party and the Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union have worked untiringly to bring back sanity, evacuate members of the minority community to camps and to rescue Jamshedpur from the hideous grip of the communal goonda gangs acting in league

with the RSS and some of the employers. The car of the Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union with its red flag became the symbol of unity, courage and secularism.

Kedar Das, Ramavtar Singh, Satyanarain Singh, Barin De and U. Misra MP who rushed from Delhi, besides dozens of devoted cadres and leaders of the JMU and the Communist Party, along with Chotelal Vyas and Bhuvaneshwar Tewary and other leaders of the District Congress Committee, moved from bustee to bustee and area to area.

## NOBLE EXAMPLES

There have been also noble examples of class unity and solidarity. Many a family of Tisco workers and middle class and government employees gave shelter to Muslim families.

Businessmen like Murti Agrawal, Manikant Thakkar and others worked day and night to provide relief to members of the minority community. Their selfless and untiring work has kept alive the faith that all has not been lost.

The most deplorable aspect of the situation, however, was the total collapse of the administration in the face of this challenge to communal and industrial peace, in the face of a reign of wanton mass murders

which was let loose by goonda gangs and RSS organisations.

The same administration which handed over the city to the Army to crush the 1958 strike of Tisco workers and mobilised hundreds of magistrates and armed personnel a week before the one-day strike, was hesitant whether to call in the Army or not.

And even when the Army was called in, all that it was asked to do was to march on the streets, the mobs taking cover only when it passed.

The Chief Minister's visit to Jamshedpur has given hope and confidence to the minority community and he has taken some firm steps including the arrest of a personnel manager of a leading company in Jamshedpur.

One however wonders what impediments he is facing in taking firm steps against the known leaders of goonda gangs in Jamshedpur who enjoy the patronage of some very high-ups in Bihar and who were the main organisers of the communal holocaust.

Twenty thousand Muslims of Jamshedpur are today huddled together in a few camps—men, women and children without any food and medicine, without any sanitary arrangements. If the present situation continues, hunger and disease may start taking their own toll.

Communal reactionaries have not yet drawn in their talons. The city is full of all sorts of

rumours and attempts are being made to whip up more frenzy, directing it against the camps which have been set up.

It is therefore urgently necessary that firm steps are taken against the known goonda leaders who are still at large and the management and officers who have fanned the communal fire and acted as agents provocateur. The Army should be given specified responsibilities at key points and more camps should be opened with the minimum food and sanitary arrangements.

## SOUL OF STEEL CITY

But what is even more urgent necessary is to rescue the soul of Jamshedpur, that glorious city of Hazara Singh and Abdul Bari, from the deadly grip of communal frenzy and revanchism.

Not only the Communist Party, not only the Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union, not only a handful of Congress leaders, but the entire working class and the people need to be roused to realise the grim tragedy that has occurred in Jamshedpur.

All democratic and secular parties, all trade unions, all patriots must unite to keep India's fair name untarnished and fight against the demon of communalism to see that Ayub's game is not played ever again in India.





















# DEFENCE MUST BE SELF-RELIANT

## Pak Bellicosity With Imperialist Backing Underlined

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

Against the wistful looking-to-the-west policy of defence preparedness which has characterised the actions of the government since the Chinese aggression over a year ago and which is most welcome to those reactionary circles in the country who harp on American aid and attack nonalignment, the stand of the Communist Party for adequate and expeditious development of our defence strength on the basis of self-reliance, national interests and dignity was reiterated in the Lok Sabha when the demands for grants of the Defence Ministry came before the House.

**R**ENU Chakravarty who initiated the debate underlined the danger from Pak bellicosity against India and our predicament in that connection because of commitments made to the USA that whatever arms she had supplied us would not be used against Pakistan. She emphasised therefore the need for self-reliance in our defence build-up and a firm adherence to an independent defence policy.

Renu Chakravarty recalled that when Parliament voted huge sums last year for defence, the idea behind it was that we should be able to attain self-reliance in our defence and it was a declaration that we shall depend on our own resources first and foremost and we shall not join any military bloc.

Today Parliament was debating grants for defence in the background of China's continuing intransigence and refusal to accept the Colombo proposals together with her friendship with Pakistan. More, one of the biggest factors since last year has been the bellicosity of Pakistan against India.

In this connection Renu Chakravarty referred to the constant raids and attacks from Pakistan, construction of bunkers across the border, the stepping up of the cold war in the Security Council over the Kashmir issue, the whipping up of communal riots and the squeezing out of minorities from East Pakistan and most significant of all the support which Pakistan consistently receives from the United States and the United Kingdom.

In contrast to the arming of Pakistan by US and UK has been their reluctance to supply India with arms. Pakistan was given F 104 aircraft, but the same was refused to us. Pakistan had also been supplied with a submarine.

On the other hand we had our "joint air exercises" for training in the use of highly sophisticated radar equipment. But to what purpose? Renu Chakravarty pointed out that even after these exercises, a Pakistani helicopter could land in West Bengal, take photographs and take-off with impunity.

### Political Conditions

She referred to the political conditions attached to US arms supply to India and said that we could not even use these arms against Pakistan. Secondly the United States has the right to inspect and observe the use of arms she had given us. And she also has her observers here. The position was such that, she said, even the Seventh Fleet might be used against us and not against others.

"I say these are very serious points which I want the House to consider, because we have

decided last year—and I hope that we shall continue to stick firmly to the decision—that we must be able to build our own defence potential, our own military strategy and our own operational methods."

### LOK SABHA

Renu Chakravarty paid tributes to the workers in the ordnance factories who have been doing excellent work and she also spoke about the good work being done by our young scientists in the field of research for defence purposes. She asked the government to get over the "inferiority complex" of looking to the USA for help in defence production.

In this connection she referred to the visit of the US firm of consultants, Arthur D Little Inc., for formulation of plans of expansion of our defence production. This is a dangerous position and should be given up. She deplored the delay in the setting up of the six ordnance factories about which the Defence Minister had spoken last year. The main reason for the delay is said to be the difficulty of securing foreign exchange. Only one of the factories is in an advanced stage. This is a very serious matter and should be looked into.

### Production Priority

Renu Chakravarty gave priority to the production of supersonic aircraft. She pointed out that the entire structure of the Air Force has to be looked into in order to make it efficient in the use of the MIGs and guided missiles supplied to us by the Soviet Union. Referring to the MIGs, she said that whenever an American high-up visited this country, the story was splashed in newspapers that the MIG deal is off. She asked whether there was some political hesitation in this matter.

Renu Chakravarty voiced firm opposition to private sector being allowed to enter into the field of defence production. Is there a definite attempt by very high-ups in government to farm out more and more defence production to the private sector, she wanted to know. While not opposing the use of idle capacity in the private sector for the production of components and things like that, she said, we do not want any subversion of the Industrial Policy Resolution under the excuse of "public interest."

Another point in her criticism was the attendance of the band of INS Vikrant at the MRA show at Choupatra beach. She said that an MRA drama was also staged on board INS Vikrant. It is said that INS Vikrant officials had received instructions

from above to give all facilities to the MRA people and to provide accommodation to them. In fact, some of these MRA people stayed on board INS Vikrant.

Renu Chakravarty made a strong plea for a drastic reform in the relationship between jawans and officers. If we want to fight, we have to fight with the full healthy morale of the jawans and therefore the relationship between officers and jawans should be at its very best.

It is necessary to give up the old "brass hat" approach and Sandhurst snobbery. There is need to infuse new spirit and values into the training of officers and also the discrimination practised against Other Ranks in the mess and clubs and in the matter of special allowances and perquisites etc. should end.

The subject of grievances of the Other Ranks was taken up and further explained by A. V. Raghavan in his speech. He

demanding that 50 per cent of the annual vacancies for permanent regular commissions should be reserved for ORs and age should be relaxed to 35 years for selection from the reserved quota.

He also suggested that welfare officers should be appointed to hear the complaints of jawans instead of the present practice of asking them to voice their grievances in the presence of the Commanding Officer in the regimental 'darbar'.

Raghavan pleaded for increased pensions to the jawans. At present none of the allowances and perquisites are taken into consideration in fixing pension and the amount of pension is only Rs. 15-18. This is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. Some of the allowances which a soldier during his service has come to consider as part of his pay should be included in his pension.

The basic pay for purposes

of fixing pension should be the emoluments drawn by a soldier while he is on leave. He also sought representation for ex-jawans in the Soldiers Sailors and Airmen's Board. He asked the government to view with greater sympathy the question of providing family quarters and also suggested revision of the system of promotions.

Raghavan made a specific complaint that due to the practice of "police verification" in Kerala a large number of young men have been deprived of a military career. Most of the reports which were sent against them were baseless and inspired by interested persons for reasons of personal animosity, plain jealousy or imagined political grievances. He therefore suggested that when adverse reports were received the state Soldiers Sailors and Airmen's Board should be asked to look into them.

## LACK OF COORDINATED TRANSPORT POLICY

### Permits as Means of Corruption

The Ministry of Transport was under heavy fire from the Opposition when it came to the Lok Sabha on Monday seeking grants. Homi Daji who spoke from the Communist benches was unsparing in his criticism of the Ministry and said that it had no transport policy at all, particularly in relation to road transport.

**D**AJI said that in the field of road transport, it seemed that deliberately or out of incompetence, we stumbled from year to year without any coordinated policy. There was no coordination between the actions of the Centre and the states.

The states did not follow up the scheme of nationalisation envisaged in the Five Year Plan and of setting up road transport corporations. Daji accused that many of the state governments treat road transport as a means of political corruption, by issuing

licences and permits to their own kith and kin. Therefore they are not anxious to follow any coordinated policy.

Another important point he made was about the World Bank mission which originally came here to examine our coal transport problems and ended by interfering in the entire transport affairs of this country. The result was that the Transport Coordination Committee was brought into ridicule and its chairman Neogy resigned. Daji asked why the World

Bank Mission was allowed to expand its terms of reference and why the Transport Co-ordination Committee was not consulted at any stage. He was severely critical of the way the government allowed a free hand to the Mission.

Homi Daji urged rationalisation of the motor vehicle taxation scheme and also rationalisation of rules relating to load allowed to be carried so as to coordinate policies of states. In a reference to tourism which is also handled by the same Ministry, he criticised the bringing in of foreign capital even to build hotels here.

Regarding civil aviation, Daji wanted that all enquiries when accidents occurred should be entrusted to a

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### WHISPERING Gallery

## THE ONE-CRORE QUESTION

**D**EAD or alive, Congress ministers are haunted by the ghost of corruption. Datar is dead. Let him rest in peace.

But, of late, there has been a spate of reports in the Kannada, Marathi and English press about the cash he has left behind. Over ONE CRORE, if we are to believe these papers.

Datar was a Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs under the late Govind Ballabh Pant and later under Lal Bahadur Shastri.

So, for the last three weeks since the reports started appearing about the one-crore in currency notes, INSIDER has been expecting a contradiction from the Government of India. None has come so far. So you and I are left to guess.

According to the uncontradicted reports, the dead man's legacy came to light with his daughter going into litigation, having been allegedly denied her due share.

This is certainly not creating a climate for fighting corruption — this sphynx-like silence on the part of the government.

Talking about creating a climate, it is difficult to overlook the panel of lawyers set up by the Congress Working Committee. The panel is supposed to process charges of corruption and graft against Congressmen.

Some of the lawyers I find have been growing grey in the service of some of the multi-millionaires who have been practising tax evasion to artistic perfection.

One among them appeared for the Birlas before the Income Tax Investigation

Commission in 1949.

The report of this Commission, presented to the government by jurist Viswanatha Sastri, has never seen the light of day. Till it has the last breath in it, this government will not unlock the secret of the Commission's findings about the tax-evading capacity of some of its highly-placed patrons.

Company lawyers in the pay of monopolies and their companions in the profession of chartered accountancy are midwives to the worst manipulations that take place in the privacy of the private sector.

The major form of corruption today arises out of the liaison between the politician and the freebooting industrialist. And to appoint the die-hard company lawyers to pronounce judgment over such shady operation, as the Congress leadership has done, is a cruel joke.

— INSIDER