

# Communalism in India

By M. J. Audi

None can dispute that communalism poses the greatest danger to India today. Communalism is the offspring of Colonialism. Hence it needs an objective and rational assessment of India's history. Unfortunately, objectivity and rationalism are the first casualties as could be seen from motivated campaigns of the communalists. Communalism appeared for the first time under the Indian sky when this great country came under the colonial rule of Muslim and Christian invaders. The ultimate goal of both invaders was the total conversion of people of Hindusthan to their own religions by force and fraud. No wonder, communalism in India progressed from bad to worse and culminated in the partition of Hindusthan in 1947 on the basis of religion. It was victory of Muslim Communalism in India. Partition of 1947 teaches India that toleration of communalism always means encouragement to anti-nationalism which always ends in the disintegration of the Nation. Today, unity and integrity of truncated India directly depends upon nipping communalism in the bud. Prevention is always better than cure. It is sad but true that there are anti-national person in every religious community that exists in India. To suppress this basic reality is to behave like an ostrich.

The controversy over the Konkan Railway route in Goa has thoroughly exposed Christian communalism in India. A lobby of Catholic Church and the builders are opposing tooth and nail the rail route of Konkan Railway in Goa in spite of the fact that the route has been finalised by competent authorities of the Indian Railways. The lobby was bold enough even to approach the rulers of foreign nations begging the stoppage of economic aid to India if the route is retained. What else is anti-nationalism?

Ironically, the Prime Minister of India has patted the anti-national

elements by ordering suspension of work of Konkan Railway only between Mayem and Balli. Thereby, the Prime Minister has proved to be the statesman of very poor calibre. From Udupi, he declares that Konkan Railway is a prime *national project* which should be speedily completed. From Delhi, he orders suspension of work in Goa sector. Perhaps, the Prime Minister is also victim of the illusion carefully nursed by the enemies of India that Goa is the "Rome of East" and the voice of Catholic Church alone is the voice of Goa. 1991 Census figures are not yet out. A reliable source says that the Christian population is less than 30 per cent. And all Christians are certainly not the pawns in the hands of Catholic Church. Goa's greatest patriot T.B. Cunha was the spokesman of nationalist Christians during struggle against Portuguese colonialism in India. Today also there are many nationalist Christians in India.

Amusingly, this lobby sheds crocodile tears on the fancied destruction of culture and ecology of Goa. What has railway to do with culture? That railway destroys culture is absurd. That ecology of Goa will be destroyed only if the route passes through Salcete taluka but ecology will not be destroyed if the route passes through Ponda taluka clearly explains credulity of communalists. What, then, are real goals of the lobby?

Catholic Church is anxious to preserve Christian majority wherever it exists in Goa in order to preserve "Church card" to bargain with those political parties that grab power through the vote-bank of religious minorities and flatter themselves as the custodians of democracy and secularism in India. Catholic Church also feels that this railway route will put an effective end to Goa's isolation from other parts of India. And that will destroy another myth namely Goa's "unique identity". Architects and planners are anxious to safeguard their fat commissions and business negotiated by them with the builders for procuring land between Mayem and Balli. Understandably, both find that what is the *blessing* for India and her people is a *curse* for themselves.

The greatest Goan patriot T.B. Cunha was also the statesman of tall order. Cunha highlighted the troubles Catholic Church will create for India in Swarajya. He wrote:-

(1) "In the whole of India, no people is so denationalised as Goans... (the Goan is) a servile follower of everything foreign to his country, hybrid in manners and habits (and) living in disharmony with his natural surroundings".

(2) "The privileges granted to that element (Catholic religion) serve to entertain and foment here (in Goa) a *communalism* far worse than that in the neighbouring India", and

(3) "Nobody other than Goans is in a position to testify to the sad consequences that will result if the present lenient attitude adopted by India towards these foreign organisations is not modified". (T. B. Cunha: *Goa's Freedom Struggle*, Bombay 1961, pp. 59; 279 and 493-511).

An "appeal" advertised by the Archbishop - Patriarch of Catholic Church of Goa (Navhind Times, 2-4-93) shows how sound and accurate was T.B. Cunha's vision. Cunha had courage to call spade a spade. He masterfully dissected the work of Vatican, Jesuit missionaries and European colonialists in India. Fact of matter is that from very beginning it is the Catholic Church of Goa that has communalised the rail route. Yet the Archbishop complains that strong reaction of the nationalists to the suspension of the work of route is nothing but the "communalisation" of the issue.

This reminds one of Dicken's Oliver Twist who, having committed the theft, joined the crowd shouting "Stop Thief". Archbishop also tells that he owes it to "God" to change the rail route. It is true that entire universe owes everything to God, but that God is not the prisoner

of any religion anywhere in the world. And that God does not need any broker between Him and His Creation.

The Fault, of course, is not of the Catholic Church. Why should not Catholic Church encash upon pseudo-secularism? It is, therefore, high time for people of India to establish once and for all that every religion that exists in India is positively subordinate to Mother India. Every religion that exists in India must obey the directives of Nationalism. People of India must never tolerate any religion meddling with economic, social and political matters of their nation. They should show to Archbishops, Imams, Lamas Sants and Swamis their exact and proper place in India. Then and only then this ancient land will regain its lost glory and that is the sole aim of Swarajya. History repeats because nations repeat their mistakes. If the nationalists desire to prevent the disgraceful repetitions of the past they should at once implement prescriptions of T.B. Cunha.

Victory of vested interests is no more proof of existence of true democracy than the pampering of so-called religious minorities is the proof of existence of true secularism in India. To believe that ridiculous is sublime is to accept that gutter is Ganga. The British should be supremely happy that *divide and rule* is still the cardinal principle of governance of India. Existence of true democracy and true secularism everywhere in the world depends upon existence of true Nationalism. It means that loyalty to India must override loyalty to any religion that exists in India. For correct and exact knowledge of true nationalism, India's children must digest the wisdom of Lokmanya Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Yogi Arvind Ghosh, Krantivir Vasudev Balwant Phadke, Swami Vivekanand and Mahatma Gandhi.

For everything there is an end. Happily, the majorities in Hindu Dharma and Muslim and Christian religions are nationalists to the core. Together they constitute 95 per cent of India's total population. But they have been deliberately kept poor by powerful vested interests ruling India. Their time and energy are virtually wasted only on finding *dal and roti*. The poverty of the masses is ruthlessly exploited by the opportunists in every religion that exists in India today. Consequently, the nationalists cannot eliminate anti-national forces without eliminating poverty in India. In the meantime, it remains to be seen how Mother India preserves her Swarajya, her self-respect and national honour won by supreme sacrifices of valorous and valiant patriots between 1857 and 1947.

## Peoples & personalities

ALYQUE PADAMSEE: Shedding his Lintas responsibility apparently has made *Alyque Padamsee* more relaxed and a bit expansive. He talks about what makes him tick and what motivated him in life. The man they call God in the advertising world says he is a doer and not just a dreamer - which is the concept the average person has about God. And, he adds, deep within he is a softie - which is again what we would like God to be. says Padamsee, "At times I get accused of being domineering, of being a pocket dictator of sorts... If I am as domineering as my reputation has it, then why do people keep coming back to me?" The answer, according to him, is that, being a perfectionist he drives people hard, which is good for their theatre career - and so they keep coming back to him. "And above all, they know that beneath the beetled brows and the parade ground voice I am just a softie into whose ears they can pour their tales of broken romances and gloat of their triumphs, knowing I will cheer and sob with them," he says rather grandly.

## noble soul

J. Raj

inside a jam packed bus. A kind hearted person helped him to alight with the bag. Dr. Roberto was so touched that he invited him to lunch which the stranger declined promising to visit the next day. Accordingly, Dr. Roberto informed his wife that he was expecting a VIP to lunch the next day and to give the cook a menu befitting the guest.

Mrs. Marques was dumbfound on seeing a shabbily dressed man arrive at lunch time the following day. In contrast Dr. Roberto only saw a fellowman, knowing neither his name nor creed, he welcomed him with open arms.

After lunch, amazed at the sumptuous meal and overwhelmed by the love and attention showered on him, the guest confessed with a voice choked with emotion that he had come more to verify whether an insignificant bus passenger of the previous day would be recognised and with tears of gratitude streaming down his cheeks he bid them adieu.

As Dr. Roberto lived so he died — peacefully — at the age of 87 years and ten months, surrounded by his dear and near ones, without amon or a sigh softly breathing his soul into the hands of his Risen Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, on that glorious Easter Sunday of 1993.

## Blunt message

WASHINGTON: The President Mr. Bill Clinton, has expressed deep concern to Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa about "inadequate" US access to Japanese markets and called for a "rebalancing of our relationship".

Mr. Clinton was unusually blunt yesterday in calling for a "new partnership" to help reduce the 49 billion trade surplus Japan enjoys with the United States.