

LETTER

TRAGETING CHURCH

The attacks on Churches and the clashes (Dec 24, 2007) in Phulbani and other areas of Orissa are a matter of grave concern. The communal activities in the area have been intensified over a period of years on the ground that Christian missionaries are doing conversions by force and fraud. Dara Singh of Bajrang Dal used this propaganda, to instigate local people and burnt Pastor Graham Stewart Stains. The Wadhawa Commission which was appointed by the NDA Govt in the wake of this brutal killing concluded, neither was Pastor Stains doing any conversion work nor has the percentage of Christians in the area gone up. Incidentally the all India percentage of Christian population is on the constant decline as per the census figures of last four decades.

From last over a decade the RSS affiliated organizations have been doing the indoctrinating work and doing the hate propaganda against Christian missionaries in Adivasi regions. Many citizens inquiry commissions have brought out this fact. It is worth mentioning here that a Citizens' Tribunal, led by Justice K K Usha (Retired) of Kerala High court studied the issue in Orissa (Communalism in Orissa, India People's Tribunal, 2006) and pointed out that VHP and other RSS affiliates are doing the aggressive *Ghar Vapasi* (bringing Adivasis into the fold of Hinduism) and creating a situation due to which the communal conflagrations are taking place. In Tribal areas of MP and Gujarat also similar incidents have taken place in the past in and around Christmas time. It is a part of well thought out political strategy to divide the society. The nation should take note of this and curb the activities of these groups sowing dissensions in Adivasi areas.

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