

## COMMUNAL RIOTS IN U.P.

As pointed out above a fresh wave of communal violence started in different parts of India after the Kar Seva began on 30th October. Number of people were killed in the first wave of violence in Gujarat immediately after 30th October, 1990. According to the news paper reports on 30th and 31 October at least 34 persons were killed in Gujarat. Hindus and Muslims clashed in Juhapura, Vasna, Shahipur, Khanpur, Paldi and satellite Road in Ahmedabad. Juhapura was affected by large-scale looting, arson and stabbing. Two people were killed in the police firing itself. But according to the Chief Secretary of Gujarat Mr. Khan in all 24 people were killed. Seven towns in Gujarat Godhra, Baroda, Bhruch, Jamjodhpur, Padra, Halol and Ahmedabad were put under curfew. In Ahmedabad Army had to be called in. We will deal with riots in Gujarat which broke out after 7th December the second phase of Kar Seva later on.

The major riot broke out in Bijnor in U.P. on 30th October and violence continued unabated for three days. Unofficial sources put the death toll at more than 200 while official sources admitted very few deaths. But personal interviews with some eye witness indicated that toll was very heavy and unofficial claims were much nearer the truth. Apart from the loss of life, economic losses were also very heavy. Looting and burning of shops and other properties were quite extensive. The town was under curfew even after 10 days of the outbreak of violence. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi who visited Bijnour on 10th November was visibly moved by the pathetic tales

of woes and suffering narrated to him by the victims.

## DELHI RIOTS

Nex Delhi was worst affected. Muslims and Sikhs took out peace March together on Nov. 15 from Gurdwara Sisganj to old Idgah in Old Delhi. Delhi was also tense on account of exaggerated news reports about Kar Seva in Ayodhya on Oct. 30. Thus even peace march turned into bloody rioting. It is alleged that some youth were leading peace march and they raised slogans which were not very sober. The Hindus termed then as very provocative, when the peace march terminated at old Idgah, it was turned into public meeting. Muslims and Sikhs spoke. When a Sikh leader rose to speak, there was heavy brickbating from the vicinity. The news papers described it as "virtual breakdown of law and order". The Delhi police along with the presence of 10 companies of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) failed in its task of preventing another flare-up. In the end, the police had to fire several round to send the rioters packing.

The Hindus had resorted to brickbating in retaliation to the slogans and speeches and this brickbating began, according to the eye-witnesses soon after the three BJP leaders and members of Parliament from the Capital, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, Dr. V.K. Malhotra and Mr. Kalka Dass, Left the troubled area after a visit. The Commissioner of Police Shri Vijay Karan, however, denied any connection between the visit and the rioting. By the evening in all 6 persons were killed including the sub-inspector Bhim Singh of the CRPF who had sustained head injury. It is said that the trouble began when a resident of Qasabpura (a Muslim) went to buy some provisions in the shop in nearby Basti Harphool Singh. Some youngsters assembled there and warned the shopkeeper not to sell anything to the man as he belonged to another community. An altercation soon ensured and the man was very badly beaten up. Shortly thereafter heavy brickbating followed between the residents of Qasabpura and Basti Harphool Singh.

The residents of Qasabpura angrily alleged that the police openly sided with the Hindus during the skirmishes. Express news service reported that lending credence to this allegation was the fact that while policemen patrolled with ease Basti Harphool Singh, there was hardly a constable who risked going inside Qas-

