

LIBERHAN REPORT LOSES ITS CREDIBILITY

Indian as a nation was ashamed at the heinous act of demolition of the ancient Babri Masjid on 6 December 1992. This act of demolition was not only the destruction of an ancient religious structure, but was also a death-blow to India's traditional culture of secularism. Hence, the Indians, at least the majority of the Indians, wished that the culprits responsible for this heinous act should be brought on record and punished severely. With such a demand from the people of the country, the Justice Liberhan Commission of Enquiry was set up to fulfill the aspirations of the people.

But the course that the commission followed and the result that it produced was indeed a matter of great disappointment for the people. In fact, the commission started with much fanfare, but ended with something very insignificant. The commission dragged its fact for long 17 years, through 40 extensions, and submitted voluminous reports without recommending any penal action for the culprits. The ATR (Action Taken Report) of the Government was equally ineffective, without going for punishing the culprits. The government was rather more interested in soft-pedaling in the matter, without going for strong measures against the communal forces responsible for the crime.

The commission rightly identified all the front-ranking leaders of RSS/Bajrangdal and the BJP as well, including the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for the act of demolition of the mosque. But its report exposed itself as very biased, when it preferred to exempt the then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, who has miserably failed to control and restrain the miscreants and to prevent the act of destruction. At the time of incident, the Prime Minister was sitting at Delhi and was being posted with minute-to-minute information about the miscreants activities. But he didn't take any action whatsoever simply on the plea of "state-matter". The Congress(I) Prime Minister could not avoid his responsibility. By exempting him in the report, the Liberhan Commission has lost its credibility.

When the Commission has repeatedly pointed out in its report that the demolition was not an act of temporary emotional outburst, but was an well panned conspiracy with - wide spread preparations. If that be the fact why did he not recommend strong actions against the stalwarts who took part in the well-planned conspiracy? Obviously, all these caused loss of credibility for the Liberhan Commission Report. It appeared that the Commission was briefed to take soft attitude towards the Union Government and the Congress party as a whole. This loss of credibility of the Liberhan Commission will definitely go a long way in causing loss of confidence of the people in all such Enquiry Commission which the ruling party is very often prompted to form, at least to avoid the current problem for the time being.