

India is a great country of great people with a great future. In order to achieve this great future we need a good government of good and competent people with good intentions and sound policies. But it languishes because of one party rule without a National Alternative.

The State Of The Nation

The very existence of India as a civilised and democratic nation is at stake. Galloping prices, rising unemployment, massive corruption, acute shortages, and universal injustice - economic, social and political - have put an excruciating burden on the poor man, yet the only concern of the Congress leadership is to absolve itself of any responsibilities and shift the blame for the present situation on some opposition parties and foreign agencies that, according to them, have combined for political motivation.

The greater the failure of the Government, the more frantic becomes its search for scapegoats with the result that the Ruling Party has been paralysed into inactivity, lethargy and even inertia.

The present crisis has created untold confusion in the minds of the intelligensia and brought unprecedented hardships on the common man, whose condition is steadily deteriorating and his temper is likely to erupt in any number of violent ways.

The recent events in Gujarat and Bihar bear eloquent testimony of the rising anger of the people against Government's ineptitude to tackle even the simplest problems.

Another reason for these violent eruptions is the near impossibility of registering any institutional complaint, the ineffectiveness of opposition parties and the deprivation of legitimate rights of protest either through demonstration or through the ballot box.

The entire electoral process has been vitiated by malpractices which begin with gerrymandering of constituencies, playing the communal equations, creating and fanning religious hostilities, injecting massive amounts of money, on which the Ruling Party has a monopoly, and projecting its propaganda through state-owned or

controlled media, the intimidation of the electorate and when all else fails, the stuffing of ballot boxes. In spite of this the Ruling Party could not have secured even the meagre success it has, if it had not resorted to the ultimate electoral fraud of actually miscounting the votes and/or the substituting of ballot papers carried out through coincidental contrived electricity failures during the counting at the appropriate moment.

It is only when the frustrations of the people could not find its legitimate outlet through the ballot box, that the student community had to come forward and show us the way to political emancipation.

Today the Congress is like a rudderless ship, devoid of ideology, devoid of principle and devoid of policies. Even its recent backtrack on taxation, takeover of the wheat trade and the relaxation of import policy does not arise out of conviction that they are striking a new path, which is right and proper, but out of fear of having done something that just could not work, and therefore, something else had to be tried. Because they had realised the magnitude of the situation and admitted the monumental follies of the past, they could have taken certain bold and fearless decisions in re-orienting the economy.

It is quite evident from the above that the Congress has been working under pressure: the external pressure of the Soviet Union, the opposition pressure of the CPI and the internal pressure created by Communist infiltrations creating internal disensions within the Congress Party.

India has arrived at a stage in its history when its prestige is at its lowest ebb, when foreign countries interfere in our internal affairs and the country suffers it in silence, when our country is gradually getting reduced to the position of a satellite of the Soviet Union, when disruptive forces within the country are busily dismantling the national fabric and those saddled with responsibility seem to lack the will to curb them, when indiscipline amongst politicians, industrial workers and public servants

is openly encouraged, when almost every section of our people and every part of the country is engaged in furtherance of its own particular interest, oblivious of the larger national interest, when everybody is clamouring for rights and nobody is conscious of his duties, when moral standards have fallen all around and corruption of every kind is rampant, when purity or quality of means for attaining political ends have been brushed aside, when in the race for economic development, we have been left far behind by other nations, when India stands at the bottom of the economic ladder of the world, when unemployment is on the increase, when disparities in personal incomes are widening, and, finally, when people instead of living in hope have begun to entertain doubts about the future, with the result that utter despondency has taken hold of the nation.

The Alternative

Such an administration cannot last, much less govern for long, and the new Party must prepare itself whole-heartedly to present a National Alternative to the country.

The experience of 27 years of independence leads to the inevitable conclusion that India today needs, more than anything else, a National Alternative. The lack of an alternative is the real root cause of all the evils that have befallen the country.

An alternative party will first of all create hope in a frustrated nation. By policing the ruling party it will force it to behave and improve itself. It will curb its ambitions, fight its despotism, ridicule its arrogance, preserve the country's freedom and act as the voice of dissent and protest within the constitutional framework. If the ruling party does not respond, the alternative can replace it. Faced by a strong opposition, the ruling party will develop a responsible and responsive attitude towards the opposition, if for no other reason, for the simple expedient that it itself some day will have to be the opposition.

A National Alternative is also the only key to economic recovery. It is purely illusory to believe that the epidemic diseases of poverty, inflation, unemployment, corruption, shortages and injustice - social, economic and political - can be

unilaterally resolved by those who do not live in mortal fear of losing power and popularity. Alternately, it is foolish to expect the opposition to behave responsibly if it does not have any hope of replacing the Ruling Party. Therefore, without an alternative opposition party Indian Democracy is in danger and the economic and political problems will remain unsolved.

For any system to be successful it must first imbibe the native spirit, discover an indigenous ethos and understand the cultural and spiritual heritage of the people. The salvation of India will have to come through an Indian system, its development based on Indian ideas and its fulfilment consummated in an Indian summer. At the same time its needs of the 20th century in a shrinking world will have to depend on world trade and commerce with a familiarity with the education, science and technology of the advanced world. And therefore, for India it will have to be Buddha and Gandhi and not Marx or Mao. A nation which won its independence through Gandhi cannot develop through Marx.

The solutions suggested by Marx to cure an exploitative industrial society in the throes of an industrial revolution can hardly suit the emancipation of the Indian village from mediæval poverty to a prosperous rural community. Is it any surprise that we have failed?

The naked reality of India is half a million villages devoid of all economic viability supporting 80 per cent of its 600 million population juxtaposed against urban slums where human pressures in the heat and sweat have overrun whatever urban life existed prior to independence.

The picture has been further complicated by doctrinaire 5-year plans unconnected with the Indian reality which has accentuated the misery at both ends - in the villages and in the cities, giving relief only to a miserable minority consisting of dishonest rulers in collusion with crooked business men supervised by opportunistic bureaucrats.

Therefore, the alternative to the Congress will also have to provide an alternative to Marx. The Swadeshi Party is that alternative.

Gandhi's philosophy was never doctrinaire but pragmatic, evolving from time to time as circumstances changed and experience accumulated. To Gandhi the fear of inconsistency must not obliterate truth, which unravels itself from moment to moment, making each experience more precious, enriching life.

It was Gandhi and not Marx who laid the foundation of our Society. It was Gandhi and not Marx who fashioned our struggle for Independence. It is Gandhi and not Marx whom the Ruling Party has forsaken. Therefore, it is Gandhi and not Marx whom the new party is reinstating in the life of our nation.

Therefore the Swadeshi Party reaffirms its faith in Nationalism, democracy, secularism and social justice in which the welfare of the weaker sections of society will be of paramount concern. But no government or system or policy can succeed unless it is administered fairly and freely. Therefore the prime endeavour of the Party will be to provide an honest, clean and efficient government, working towards the reduction glaring disparities and inequalities in our Economic and Social system, which alone can ultimately raise the standard of living of the vast majority of our people.

The people of India are sick of tedious arguments and obscure policy statements projected by dishonest slogans through controlled media. Therefore the new Party is sworn to performance and wishes to be judged only on results and not only on policies.

This should be the objective of the 1st Real Swadeshi Five Year Plan.

Therefore the immediate objectives of the new party must be briefly spelt out under three broad heads - political, economic and social,

- Political:
- 1- To provide a National alternative
 - 2- To eliminate and punish corruption
 - 3- To provide clean and efficient government
- Economic:
- 1- To stabilize prices
 - 2- To eliminate shortages
 - 3- To create more employment

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- Social:
- 1- To eliminate untouchability
 - 2- To rehabilitate the weaker sections
 - 3- To erase communal prejudices

Population Control

The present economic crisis can never be resolved by the current economic policies pursued by the Congress.

Rising prices, uncontrolled unemployment, blatant corruption, acute shortages and cynical injustice are all man-made phenomena induced by following faulty imported economic ideas.

To fulfil the objectives of the Party to bring about a speedy Economic recovery we need to break through this vicious situation or crisis by performing a drastic surgical operation on the economy, which requires

- ✓ 1- Making the Public Sector perform efficiently on commercial lines within stipulated time, and if it fails to do so, dispossessing the unit and saving the tax payer from carrying this unbearable burden:
- ✓ 2- A drastic reduction in taxes, both direct and indirect, to curb tax evasion, to bring prices down and to stimulate production and therefore employment:
- ✓ 3- Deregulating the economy to stimulate growth, speed up economic recovery and eliminate institutionalised corruption:
- ✓ 4- Floating the Rupee and allowing it to find its international economic value to eliminate smuggling and remove the distortions arising out of the partiality inherent in foreign exchange control and the economic distortions it creates:
- ✓ 5- Investing all available resources in the rural economy with a view to restoring economic viability in the rural areas through a vigorous programme of infra-structure activities like roads, railways, afforestation, agro-industries, rural electrification, and minor irrigation, contouring, bunding, terracing, drainage and water conservation:
- ✓ 6- Revamping completely our educational system, making it more meaningful, more job-oriented and more on the basis of science and technology available in the country at any particular time, and making it free for all economically backward classes all the way upto graduation.

- ✓ 7- Creating a society based on merit, where there is complete equality of opportunity, regardless of creed or religion, and just rewards for work and efficiency.