

4131

**A New
Publication
Hindustan Times
FERTILIZERS FOR
MORE FOOD**

By
Mr K. C. PANT, M.Sc.

This book tells you in simple non-technical terms all you want to know about Fertilizers and their application in Indian conditions.

Pages 68 Price Re. 1.00
POSTAGE EXTRA

**THE HINDUSTAN TIMES,
NEW DELHI.**

The Hindustan Times
NEW DELHI

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1959

J. P. EXPLAINS

It is clear from Mr Jaya Prakash Narayan's new exposition of his plan for the "reconstruction of Indian polity" that more is involved in it than a change from the parliamentary system to "partyless democracy." In an address to the Indian Council of World Affairs, he has explained that one of his principal objections to the parliamentary system is that it is based on the "atomized individual." In that sense he thought it was a by-product of European industrialization and was alien to Indian tradition. Assuming that this is historically correct (though the institutions of the parliamentary system date back to the 13th century and the importance they gave to the atomized individual owed perhaps as much to the "Contract Social" and the theories of government of the early 18th century as to the pressures of the industrial revolution) there is no denying that it is the individual in relation to his family and caste who has been at the base of the Indian social fabric. It is true that the individual's vote, as the ultimate source of democratic action, is a comparatively new phenomenon but this is because democracy itself is a new phenomenon in this country. Mr Jaya Prakash Narayan thinks that village communities should be able to govern themselves through panchayats elected unanimously or by the drawing of lots. This method may be good enough for meeting the rudimentary needs of village life. But it is clearly inapplicable at the district, State or Union levels and Mr Narayan has not suggested any alternative against giving decisions to the panchayats nor even against the particular methods

of election which have been recommended for them. It is undoubtedly true that there is too much of the "umbrella" in our democracy with protection and initiative always coming from above. But an umbrella can be folded up when necessary. The pattern of corporate action envisaged in the new plan may substitute for it the permanent and irremovable protection of a dictatorship.