

4133

Alternative To Democracy Outlined

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

BANARAS, Jan. 2.—Mr J. P. Narayan yesterday urged leaders and thinkers of the country to take up his plea for "reconstruction of India" policy as a national programme. If they agreed, the scheme as visualized in his thesis was a better alternative to the present parliamentary democracy.

Mr Narayan was introducing discussion on his thesis at a seminar organized by the Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh at its headquarters here. Among those participating in the discussion are Dada Dharmadhikari, Mr Shankarrao Deo, Mr Minoo Masani, Mr A. Patwardhan, Mr Pyarey Lal and Mr Shriman Narayan. Acharya Kripalani and Mr Ashoka Mehta are expected to join later.

After four days of discussion, the executive committee of the Sangh will join the seminar to find out if it could sponsor the programme enunciated in the thesis as a practical proposition.

THESIS OUTLINED

In his thesis, Mr Narayan outlines the "forms of social life, particularly political life, that would assure the preservation of human values about which there is hardly any dispute in the world today."

He says his approach has been non-partisan and non-sectarian. He objects to parliamentary democracy on the ground that the people do not feel the glow and satisfaction of self-government. His plea is for "more satisfying, participating democracy."

In a society which Mr Narayan visualizes, there will be a wide decentralization of both political and economic powers. It will be a society in which people will live together in more meaningful understanding and controllable relationships.

He says India is the best country where reconstruction of community should be first attempted because the process of "atomization" of society here has not yet gone very far and in its 600,000 villages where 80 per cent of the people live physical basis on which to found a new community still exists.

On the political and economic systems of his future society, Mr Narayan quotes extensively from Indian and foreign scholars to justify his conclusions. "While I have been influenced a great deal by Gandhiji's ideas on the subject, I should like to make it clear that what follows is not bound to any particular ideology or school of thought."

Acharya Vinoba Bhave is believed to have expressed his agreement with the main ideas of the thesis. Encouraging response has also come from many foreign thinkers.

Sunday Standard
Jan 3

J. P.'s THESIS ON GRAM RAJ

Discussion At Varanasi Opens

From Our Correspondent

VARANASI, Jan. 2.—A week-long discussion on the 144-page thesis of Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, Sarvodaya leader, on a partyless democracy based on Gram Raj opened at the headquarters of the Seva Sangh here yesterday. Mr. Shankarrao Deo was in the chair.

Initiating the discussion, which was held in camera, Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan said that parliamentary democracy was no guarantee of democratic freedom and rule of law. The programme evolved by him was, therefore, the best alternative.

The discussion, in which Mr. Minoo Masani, Mr. Pyarelal, Dada Dharmadhikari and Mr. Ganga Saran Sinha took part, lasted three hours. It was gathered that while they agreed on the fundamental points made out by Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan they expressed doubts about the practicability of its implementation.