

# RAPID STRIDES TOWARD ECONOMIC FREEDOM

— ALOK MEHTA

Since the proclamation of Emergency in the country, discipline has prevailed in the social and economic sectors and the curb on disruptive forces has been the single biggest achievement. It is a tragic fact that the disruptive and destructive forces had been prospering on foreign money and support for years in the country. They sought to encourage separatist trends in thinking, based on linguistic and regional differences. Besides, they tried to impede the onward march of the country through the propagation of chauvinism. Deliberate attempts were made to turn the people against democratic system as a whole. They were instigated to indulge in riots on the flimsy pretext of fighting against linguistic hegemony. While the common man never participated in such activities, certain self-centred vested interests spared no effort to create disorder and chaos. The Prime Minister Smt. Indra Gandhi has recently warned that the propagation of the separatist trends will not be allowed in any corner of the country. The need of a strong Centre has always been urgently felt to facilitate the progress of all the states together at a common and uniform pace. This is why the demand for provincial autonomy raised in some quarters can never be conceded.

## FAITH IN P.M.

The Prime Minister has strongly refuted the propaganda abroad that the separatist trends have emerged stronger in India today. She was

quite right to point out that there are some self-centred elements in the country and abroad who have nothing else to do but to pull our legs and project our shortcomings in gross exaggeration. Besides, they try to sabotage our development programmes through misleading propaganda. Since Emergency, the people of the country have demonstrated to the world their unflinching faith in the Prime Minister, dedicated to the welfare of the masses. The wide prevalence of discipline also makes it clear that the opposition parties were never interested in the welfare of the people, they simply exploited them. The separatist and communal organisations have ever been exploiting and misleading the ignorant and illiterate millions. The new awakening that followed the proclamation of Emergency has swept them off their feet.

## UNINHIBITED PROGRESS

The D.M.K. has been demanding autonomy for Tamil Nadu. This certainly goes against the interest of the country and nobody in the country can tolerate it. Its attitude of confrontation with the Centre kept Tamil Nadu away from the mainstream and thereby impeded the progress of the country. The Constitution has already provided the states with sufficient powers to run the administration and the betterment of the people is possible only through the joint and coordinated efforts of all the states together. Separatism is essentially inimical to the uninhibited progress of the

country. No state can achieve progress on its own without seeking cooperation from the Centre. That was why, the Union Government ignored such demands and lent its financial support to the developmental efforts of the states keeping into consideration their size, population and requirements. It is, therefore, expected that such forces will no longer be allowed to raise their ugly heads and the country will continue to march forward smoothly.

## NEW AWARENESS

As a matter of fact, some countries were criticising us for not paying adequate attention to the menacing population growth. Surprisingly, these very countries are now attacking our family planning drive, characterising it as an "undue interference in the private life of the citizen." What a somersault! The measures designed to improve the life of the people by creating an awareness in them are being assailed as improper and unjustified. The fact is that the new awakening created among the masses, the correct guidance and the availability of necessary facilities have created among them keen interest in the family planning.

The whispering campaign against the family planning is as obnoxious as the propaganda that was made among the innocent and ignorant peasants following the independence, that the water drawn by power was useless for irrigation. Such rumours prove harmful. It is a pleasure to



elephant publicising F.P. camp.

note that the minority communities of the country have also now adopted family planning.

#### NO GROUND FOR COMPLACENCY

Since Emergency, several measures have been taken to strengthen the unity of the country and democracy and they have already begun to bear the results. Economic discipline provides a new ray of hope. But there is still no ground for being complacent. All of us have to keep a keen watch on inflation. Prices of essential commodities have to be kept in control. The rate of growth of our national income has gone up to 5.5 percent but there is still scope for further raise. The development efforts call for whole hearted cooperation on the part of the people. The growth of production depends not only on the governmental efforts but the people as a whole. The size of the Fifth Five-Year Plan has been increased by about Rs. 2 crores and the major share has gone to the Public Sector. To make the Plan a success, both the Government and the people have to put in their best

and coordinated efforts.

#### FEARS ALLAYED

The new drive for economic freedom puts an additional burden on us to ensure that the disruptive forces are kept in leash and foreign elements do not set their feet on our soil. Self-confidence should not be allowed to sag. The recent remarks of the Prime Minister regarding elections have allayed the fears, if any, about the state of democracy in India. Progressive measures will be undertaken under democratic set up and the people will soon reap all the fruits of economic freedom in its true sense. That is why precautions are taken to ensure that no step goes wrong. The largest political organisation of the country, the Congress and the Indian Youth Congress are working in close collaboration to achieve the desired. Interests of the people and the country, and not political consideration, are the criterion. It is believed that this tidal wave of construction will further strengthen the country enabling it to reach the forefront in the global race for development and progress.

## INDIAN YOUTH CONGRESS

### FIVE- POINT PROGRAMME

- **Family Planning :**  
for a prosperous future
- **Each One Teach One :**  
to achieve complete literacy
- **Planting of trees :**  
for ecological balance and forest wealth
- **Anti-Dowry Campaign :**  
to eradicate a social evil
- **Eradicating Casteism :**  
to destroy social prejudice

