

Whither Bharat?

Having attained independence, the question naturally ought to have occurred to us, “Now that we are independent, what shall be the direction of our progress?” But it is amazing that serious thought has not been given to this question, and today even after seventeen years of independence we cannot say that a definite direction has been decided upon.

From time to time, Congressmen or others declared Welfare State, Socialism, Liberalism, etc., as their aims. Slogans have been raised. Apart from slogans, they have attached little significance to ideologies or comprehensive and integrated thought-systems, which alone determine the direction one has to follow. I am saying this on the basis of personal discussions. A leading gentleman once suggested during a conversation that a joint front should be formed against Congress, so that a good fight could be given. Nowadays, political parties adopt this strategy. So it was not surprising to put forward this suggestion. However, naturally, I asked, “What programme shall we adopt? If such a joint front is formed, some ideal of the programme is essential. What will be our economic policy? What will be our foreign policy? These questions should also be tackled broadly.”

“Do not worry about them. Whatever you like, you can adopt. We are ready to support anything from an extreme Marxist to a downright capitalist programme.” The reply came as if this was natural. He had no difficulty in adopting any programme. The only object was that somehow the Congress should be defeated. Even now some declare that the Congress must be defeated even with the cooperation of communists and all the rest.

Recently, elections were held in Kerala. During these elections, the Communists, Muslim League, Swatantra Party, S.S.P., Rebel Congress known as Kerala Congress, Revolutionary Socialist Party, etc., entered into a variety of bilateral or multiple alliances. As a result, it was difficult to imagine whether any of these parties had a definite ideology, principles and aims. This is the situation as far as principles are concerned.

Congress too, is in a similar state. Even though the Congress has proclaimed ‘Democratic Socialism’ as its goal, the behaviour of various Congress leaders shows one thing clearly, that there are no definite principles, no single direction in the Congress. There are staunch communists in the Congress fold. There are also those who have faith in capitalism and oppose