

him to the high post of General Secretary of the party. It was in this conference that he declared with great admiration, "If I could get two more Deendayals, I will change the whole political map of India."

The same session took the decision to put Deendayalji in charge of the Satyagraha on the Kashmir problem. Entrusted with this new responsibility Deendayalji had to shift his headquarters from Lucknow to Delhi.

A wave of new consciousness on the Kashmir problem ran throughout the country. A series of meetings was held in various towns and at last the campaign culminated into a satyagraha. The slogan of the new movement was "Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan" (One Constitution, One Flag, One Prime Minister). With saffron caps on their heads and saffron flags in their hands Jana Sangh volunteers from all over the country began to offer Satyagraha in Delhi. The jails filled up as days passed. Dr. Mukherji himself led a batch of Satyagrahis towards Jammu and Kashmir. He was arrested and put in Srinagar Jail, where, after a few days, he died in suspicious circumstance.

The whole nation was shocked. Meetings were held all over the country and telegrams poured in from different places demanding a post-mortem examination of the body and an enquiry into the circumstances of Dr. Mukherji's death. But Pt. Nehru was deaf to them all.

The death of the founder-president was a great blow to the Jana Sangh, which was then an infant organisation. The whole responsibility of the party now fell on the shoulders of Deendayalji. Putting aside his grief at the loss of the leader, Deendayalji plunged into the task of building up the party. For 15 years, from 1953 to 1967, he remained the General Secretary and nursed the party, which was a tender sapling when he came to it, into a mighty banian tree. The same Jana Sangh which was an insignificant entity in 1952 was next only to the Congress in 1967.

By his unique organising skill Deendayalji lifted the party from the slough of despondence into which it had fallen after Dr. Mukherji's death. The mighty demonstration of August 16, 1965, in which five lakh volunteers marched through the streets of Delhi with saffron flags in their hands and raising the slogan, "Repudiate the Kutch agreement, else vacate the seat of power", was organised by him.