

practical way of life", forget to milk this 'Kamadhenu' as often as we should and do not care to drink deep at this perennial fountain of efficiency. After all this is the only practical, natural, quickest, easiest, surest, shortest, safest, the least expensive and the best way to attain Moksha, which is nothing but the highest manifestation of efficiency supreme'. Let the author speak for himself:

"The miserable discontent which exists nowadays in our country [even after 12 years of independence and two doses of democratic planning] is due very largely to our utter failure to recognise our own ancient, original, perfected and integrated system of efficiency which comes very easily with the genuine understanding of Karma yoga and the doctrine of non-attachment which are our special inheritance and

which cannot but be productive of most beneficial results to us".

All that is needed is for New Delhi to coordinate' our 'original, perfected, integrated system of efficiency', make it 'comprehensive' and then we would not need these five year plans any more. Instead of wasting his time on Ramus and Jains, why does not the energetic author ask Nandaji to lend a hand?

Letter from Moscow

Reaction to Kerala

Samar Sen

WHAT is the Russian reaction to Kerala? In India, I would have been rather inquisitive and waited for some indication. Not that there could be any doubt about the reaction, but what matters in such cases is the way the reaction is voiced—it is the phrase that matters. In Moscow, I was indifferent, because I did not expect the Soviet Press to display much interest in matters that do little credit to the Nehru Government. One of the prices that Russia pays for co-existence is ceaseless silence whenever a friendly Government does something unfriendly to a party that is friendly towards the Soviet Government. Egypt was a notable exception, but then it was not quite an internal affair—Iraq was involved. And after the first few exchanges, the matter was dropped altogether—Nasser continued to rage, but the Russians did not take further notice; Soviet supplies to Egypt continued in a steady flow. The Aswan Dam was much more important than the anger of the Egyptian President.

To return to Kerala. The Kerala coverage has also turned out to be an exception, though a very minor one. The agitation against the Communist Ministry was reported now and then, the agitators being described as reactionary. The dismissal of the Ministry occupied a prominent place in 'Pravda', followed by reports of mass protests and demonstrations. A French Agency message from Paris saying that about 100,000 people took part in the Calcutta demonstration was quoted. There was no comment—the comment was implicit in the news.

Journalists tend to make mountains of mole-hills and it would be wrong to attach much importance

to what may be described as objective reporting in the Soviet Press. Kerala or no Kerala, Indo-Soviet relations will continue as before on the official level. Soviet aid will be generous. And it will be wrong to belittle the gesture behind this aid without strings: Every rouble matters to Soviet Russia, every piece of machinery is vital to a country engaged in construction on a gigantic, breath-taking scale.

But Kerala will perhaps serve to do one thing on an unofficial level. It will perhaps cure the Russians of their ignorant enthusiasm for everything Indian, an enthusiasm that irks because it is so much clothed in unreality. A Georgian was rather annoyed with me when I told him in a remote and beautiful seaside resort last year that I believed in belonging to no party. Not even to the Congress Party? he asked in surprise. And I was equally surprised: A Russian wanting me to join a bourgeois party! To the Georgian, there was no difference between Nehru and the Congress.

Only a year has passed and last week a comrade again surprised me by saying that what Nehru had done to Kerala reminded him of Anthony Eden and Egypt: Encourage provocateurs to attack some one, then ask both the provocateurs and the attacked party to come to terms, and when the attackers refuse to negotiate, overpower the injured party.

I have my own political views, but like most Indians abroad, I keep quiet about them when talking to foreigners, even if my views may please them.

There is one thing about the Russians that has surprised me ever since my arrival here thirty

months ago. They never attempt to indoctrinate poor foreigners fallen among Bolsheviks. They avoid political discussion, not because they dread their own militia but because they are courteous to foreigners. Also because, the theory of peaceful co-existence has become an article of faith with them in the past two or three years. They retaliate when the provocation is great, they make one or two sarcastic comments when they are very intimate. And intimacy is hard to achieve because of the language curtain, the only curtain we have encountered so far.

The fund of goodwill for India is immense. Sometimes we wonder what we have done to deserve it? Neutrality? May be. But it is not the whole story. Russians have a soft corner for those poor countries of Asia and Africa which have struggled for, and won, independence and are now trying to set their house in order. After all, Russia is half-Asiatic, and the Asiatic part lived through the same bondage, the same dark night of poverty and degradation in Czarist times.

The goodwill for America, though not so effusive, is also abundant. There is secret admiration for the United States: Is it not the end-all of the gigantic Russian production drive to catch up with, and surpass, America? It is hard to escape the feeling that if America makes a genuine gesture of friendship, Russia will go all out to reciprocate the friendliness. That is why there was universal rejoicing when the news of the Eisenhower invitation broke through. And perhaps, if there is some entente, some of the weaker countries will be forgotten for some time.