

R.S.S. TO ABANDON POLITICS

PROVISIONS OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION

BOMBAY, May 24.

The Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh, under its draft constitution, will have no politics of its own and will be "wedded to purely cultural work". The Swayamsevaks (members) will, however, be free to belong to any political party.

The R.S.S. was declared illegal shortly after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi 16 months ago. The Madras Liberal leader, Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri, who has been making efforts in recent months to persuade the Government of India to withdraw the ban on the organisation, drafted the Constitution after an interview with the head of the R.S.S., Mr. M. S. Golwalkar in jail in March, and later submitted it to India's Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The draft constitution, a copy of which was made available to the Associated Press of India in Bombay to-day, describes the aim and object of the R.S.S. as "to weld together the many and diverse groups within the Hindu fold, and to rejuvenate and revitalise the Hindu Samaj (society) on the basis of its dharma (religion) and Sanskrit (culture), so that the samaj may properly fulfil its obligations in the all-sided development of Bharatvarsha, our motherland".

The programme of the R. S. S. will be to give physical training by means of exercise and games organised at a convenient hour every day, to arrange occasional talks and lectures to impart intellectual training and inculcate love for the ideals of Hindu dharma and culture, to celebrate festivals of cultural importance and to establish agencies and institutions to disseminate knowledge of the Sangh's ideals and activities. "In general" Article 20 of the Constitution says, "the organisation may do all such things, and carry on any other work capable of being undertaken in connection with and calculated, directly or indirectly, to promote and achieve any of the objects."

A Central Executive Committee, called the "Kendriya Karyakari Mandal" will be the highest executive authority of the Sangh, while the policy and programme will be laid down by the All-India Council of Representatives (the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha), whose members will be elected by the provincial units.

The head of the organisation will be the "Sar-Sangh Chalak", at present Mr. M. S. Golwalkar, who will nominate his successor as and when necessity arises with the consent of the Kendriya Karyakari Mandal.

The "Sar-Sangh Chalak" will be "the guide and philosopher" of the organisation, and "he may attend, summon, or address any assembly of the Swayamsevaks (members), Pratinidhi Sabhas (Representative Councils) and Karyakari Mandals (Executive Committees) severally or jointly". He will, however, have no executive functions.

Article 5 on the R. S. S. flag states, "While respecting the State flag, the R. S. S. has the Bhagwa Dwaj, the age-old symbol of Hindu culture, as its flag". Male Hindus of 16 years or above, who subscribe to the rules and regulations of the Sangh and take its pledge, will be registered as members (Swayamsevaks). The primary unit of the organisation will be the village, town or city centre, known as "Shakha" which will maintain a register of all members, active or otherwise. Elections to the various branch Representative Councils will be held after every three years, all active Swayamsevaks of at least one year's standing being entitled to vote.

CHOICE OF OFFICE-BEARERS

Office-bearers of political parties will not be eligible as candidates for election to any post. A candidate standing for election as also a person to be appointed to any central organisational post will have to be an active member for six continuous years and will have to work without any remuneration. All appointees to the provincial posts will have to be active members for three years. All candidates or appointees for the post of Sangh Chalak (head of a branch) will have to be active members for at least a year.

In Provinces in which the work of the organisation has not developed to an appreciable level, elections will not be held, and the Prant Pracharak (the provincial organiser) will be solely in charge of the work. The province shall be deemed to be developed when the number of active Swayamsevaks reaches one thousand in that province, and when the Central Executive Committee is satisfied with the general progress of work there. The Central Executive Committee may, however, provide to "undeveloped" provinces due representation in a manner it deems fit.

The interpretation of the Constitution and its clauses by the Central Executive Committee will be final.—API.