

## OPENING ADDRESS\*

K. N. Wanchoo

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome you all here in connection with the Seminar on Property Relations which the Indian Law Institute has organised. It has been possible to hold this seminar in this beautiful town of Ootacamund because of the kindness of the Madras Government who have been good enough to be the host to those who are participating in the Seminar. Incidentally I may mention that today the Municipality of Ootacamund is celebrating its centenary. I take this opportunity on my behalf and on behalf of the Indian Law Institute to congratulate the Municipality on the services it has rendered to this beautiful town and wish it many many centuries of useful existence in the service of the people of this town. I have no doubt that people living in this country centuries hence will find this town more beautiful than it is today.

We are particularly grateful to the Chief Minister and the Law Minister who very kindly helped us to hold this Seminar in this beautiful place. But for their assistance, it would not have been possible for the Indian Law Institute to hold the Seminar in this place. We are very grateful to both of them for joining us in this inaugural function. I know very well how difficult it is for Ministers of Government, particularly the Chief Minister, to find time. Their presence here today shows the great interest which they take in questions relating to law which will be debated in this Seminar for six days from today.

As you know, the subject of this Seminar is 'Property Relations in Independent India'. Man generally has, to my mind, three main ideals for existence. First he has to concern himself with life, then with liberty and thirdly with property. Some people may perhaps say that property comes even before liberty. But I for one think that life, liberty and property follow in that order. It is the third of these aspects that we are going to consider in this Seminar. You must have read the papers which have been prepared in this connection and it is not necessary for me to make any reference to them in detail, for that will be done during

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\* Delivered by Mr. Justice K. N. Wanchoo. Judge Supreme Court of India to the Seminar on *Property Relations in Independent India: Constitutional and Legal Implications*, organised under the auspices of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi.

the various sessions which will be held from today till the 31st December. But I may take this opportunity to indicate briefly that we are going to consider the subject of property in four distinct aspects. The first aspect is: property in relation to our Constitution. You may have read the papers on this subject and it will be really interesting to hear discussions on this aspect. The second aspect is about the agrarian and urban aspects of property. The third aspect that we are going to consider is the corporate aspect of property, for in these modern days of industrial advancement and technological improvements which are taking place from day to day, corporations have come to take a large place in the life of developed and developing countries. It is therefore but meet that this Seminar should consider questions relating to corporate property also. Fourthly we are going to consider the social and regulatory aspects of property. Those days are gone when a person could live isolated in society, keep the property all for himself, and ask the State not to interfere. At the same time this Seminar will have to consider how far interference with property rights in the interest of social regulation is justified. I understand that on the last day the Seminar will consider the trends and prospects in property relations in our country.

I do not wish to stand between you and the other speakers who have much more to say. I have stood up only to extend on my behalf and on behalf of the Indian Law Institute a welcome to all those who have come here. In the end I welcome the Chief Justice of India and Mr. Pathak. One of them is the President of the Institute and the other is the Vice-President and I thought that they should be the last to be welcomed because they are part of us.

Thank you very much.