

February 25, 1963

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My dear Rajaji,

I trust you received my letter of 23rd re: advertisement of our statement and also acknowledging your letter of the 20th. Since then I have been looking into the matter of the Parliamentary by-elections. The position in regard to Parliamentary seats is as follows.

The Gujarat seat - Dohad (Reserved) - is a scheduled caste seat vacated by the sad death of our own member Mr. Baria. I am contacting the Gujarat Party as to whether they are proposing to put up a candidate.

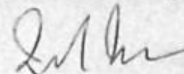
About the Madhya Pradesh seat, we know nothing and, in view of our total non-existence in that State, we might as well forget about it.

Of the three seats in U.P., Acharya Kripalani is contesting the Amroha seat and I know the Jan Sangh have appropriated another. I am dropping a line to our U.P. friends to find out whether any of the three seats there is worth contesting.

That leaves the Belgaum seat which has been vacated by Datar's death. I am having inquiries made of the possibilities there though, at first blush, they do not look too rosy. We have nothing by way of organisation in Belgaum district. I am asking Jinaraja Hegde to pay a quiet visit to Belgaum to make soundings and to meet us, if possible, in Coimbatore on 3rd March, when you and I will both be there for the District Convention. We can then discuss the matter further. We can also at that time exchange views about the Budget.

I arrive in Coimbatore by the plane reaching at 12 noon on the 3rd and will be leaving for Delhi via Hyderabad at 2.10 p.m. on the 4th. I have promised Ranga that I shall be available for discussions with him and his colleagues in Parliament on the Budget on the 5th.

Yours sincerely,



(M.R. Masani)

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