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## CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Since the publication of the last issue, the National Executive and the General Council have met once.

### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

The National Executive met in Bombay on November 12th.

#### Condolence

The Executive mourned the death of Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman, ex-President of the Punjab Unit of the Party and a member of the General Council.

#### Mid-Term Report

The Executive discussed, considered and finalised the draft of the Mid-Term Report submitted to it by a special sub-committee appointed for the purpose. It was to be placed before the General Council meeting on November 15 and 16. The Report is divided into two parts: the first part dealing with a critical review of the Party's progress since the last general elections of 1967; Part II deals with the programme of the Party from 1st October 1969 till February 1972.

#### Current Political Situation

The Executive then reviewed the present political situation in the country including the events which have taken place in the last few days culminating with the decision of the Congress Working Committee in removing Mrs. Indira Gandhi from the primary membership of the Congress Party.

#### Parliamentary Affairs

The Executive considered the programme of the Party for the Current Session of Parliament starting

on November 17 and it was decided to direct the Party's Parliamentary Group to table or support a motion of no-confidence in the Government on the issue of the Government's participation in the Rabat Conference. The Executive was firmly of the view that Government as a whole was responsible for the country's humiliation at Rabat and not any individual minister or ministers.

Its attention was drawn to a joint memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister by a number of M.P.s including some Swatantra M.P.s in the matter of decontrolling cement, distribution and prices, and the need for continuation of the freight pool arrangements. It was sorry to note that in spite of the earlier whip some Swatantra M.P.s had agreed to join the memorandum which was also signed by several Communist members. In consonance with the accepted policy of the Party the Executive expressed itself against any governmental regulations whether in the matter of prices or distribution control over cement or compulsory freight pool arrangements. However, it was decided that Mr. M. R. Masani, Mr. N. Dandekar and Dr. R. C. Cooper should use their good offices to get together the interests concerned to explore the possibility of evolving a voluntary arrangement among the producers which is not against the interests of the consumer.

#### Gujarat

The Executive's attention was drawn to certain statements reported to have been made by Mr. C. C. Desai, Swatantra M.P. from Gujarat and some others on the question of toppling the Congress Government in Gujarat. This purported statement said in the event of any move to topple the Congress Government, the entire body of 56 Swatantra legislators in Gujarat will



support such a move. In this connection, the National Executive also considered the press rejoinder to the above statement issued by Mr. H. M. Patel, President, Gujarat Unit. The Executive regretted that Mr. C. C. Desai should have mentioned that Swatantra M.L.A.s were bound to take the line indicated by him although neither the State Unit nor the Gujarat Swatantra Legislature Group had considered or decided upon the line of action to be followed in the present political crisis.

While approving the rejoinder of Mr. H. M. Patel, the Executive decided that neither the Gujarat Unit of the Party nor the Swatantra Legislature Group should take any action in the matter without prior consultation and approval of the Central Parliamentary Board.

#### Uttar Pradesh

The Executive next took up the question of guidance to be given to the Party's M.L.A.s in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly in the event of fresh efforts being made to topple the Ministry in that State. It reiterated the decision taken earlier by the Central Parliamentary Board on 29th August 1969, that Swatantra M.L.A.s should not participate in attempts to topple Governments. This implied that the Party's Legislature Groups should not become a part of any S.V.D. Opposition.

In case, however, the present Government in Uttar Pradesh was toppled despite the neutrality of our M.L.A.s, the Executive decided that they could support an S.V.D. Government provided such a Government did not include Communists. As regards joining in Government, it was decided that we could consider it:

- (i) Only if our M.L.A.s were invited to join; and
- (ii) Provided such a Government did not include Communists.

It was, however, decided that in case of any unforeseen situation not contemplated above, the Party's Legislature Group should first consult the General Secretary or the National Headquarters.

#### GENERAL COUNCIL

The General Council met two days later in Delhi on the 15th and 16th.

#### Condolence

**Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman:** The General Council condoled the death of Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman. The President, Prof. Ranga recalled that Sardar Pheruman was amongst the first three M.P.s who had responded to the call of the Swatantra Party at the time of its formation. Prof. Ranga observed that while Sardar Pheruman had resigned from the Presidency of the Punjab State Unit of the Party, he had continued as a member of the General Council. The Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the departed leader.

**Sardar Ram Singh:** The services of the late Sardar Ram Singh, M.P., to the Party, were eulogised by the President while paying tributes to former. Sardar Ram Singh was, at the time of his untimely death, President of the U.P. State Unit of the Party. The General Council observed a minute's silence in honour of his memory.

#### Mid-Term Report

It may be recalled that the Fifth National Convention called upon the General Council to prepare a Mid-term Report of the Party's performance in the Legislatures and outside since the last General Elections and what the Party proposed to do between now and the next General Elections. Before being considered by the Mid-Term Report a document had already passed through two stages: the first when it was discussed by the Mid-Term Report Committee; and the next stage when the National Executive considered the Report. The Report was finally adopted by the General Council on the 16th. Readers of the Newsletter will receive a copy of the Mid-Term Report in due course. The following resolutions were, after discussion, adopted unanimously:

- (i) Mid-Term Report.
- (ii) Misuse of Preventive Detention Act.
- (iii) Communal Disturbances in Ahmedabad.
- (iv) Violence in West Bengal.
- (v) Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman's Ashes.
- (vi) Natural Calamities.

The texts of these Resolutions form an annexure to this issue.

## FOCUS ON ORISSA

#### PAY COMMISSION'S REPORT

The important features of the recommendations of the Pay Commission's Report in respect of Government Servants submitted during June 1969 are:

- (1) The number of pay scales be reduced from 91 to 28.
- (2) The minimum remuneration should be Rs. 110.00 per month and the maximum

Rs. 2,250.00. No D.A. on pay above Rs. 750.00 though there may be marginal adjustments upto Rs. 799.00. Other recommendations made by the Pay Commission include: (a) Principles for creation of selection grade posts; (b) Sanctioning of special Pay; (c) Compensatory allowance, house rent and city allowances; (d) non-practising allowance.

These recommendations will affect more than 1.55 lakhs of the State Government employees. The Commission is also expected to submit its report on (1) the pensionary benefits of Government servants, (2) Pay Scales of teachers in aided institutions, and (3) the principles of grant-in-aid to local bodies and aided institutions.

#### **FLOOD AND CYCLONE RELIEF**

The State Government have provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs 65.50 lakhs to educational institutions affected by cyclone and flood. The amount is to be used for repair and reconstruction of their damaged buildings as also to compensate the loss incurred by them on account of remission of fees granted to students.

Of this, Rs 3.150 lakhs has been placed at the disposal of the Inspector of Schools and District Inspector of Schools, Rs 20 lakhs at the disposal of the Director of Community Development while the balance of Rs 14 lakhs has been granted to the respective educational institutions towards the loss of their fee income.

#### **CENTRE'S REFUSAL TO EXTEND CONCESSIONS TO SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES**

The Central Government has expressed its inability to allow any concession to the small-scale industries in the matter of purchase of stores for the Cuttack-Paradeep Railway line; the plea was that 'it does not conform with the normally accepted purchase procedure.'

Below is given a summarised version of the correspondence exchanged in this connection between Mr. Harihar Patel, Minister for Industries, Orissa, and Mr. Ram Subah Singh, the then Union Minister for Railways:

In his letter to Mr. Singh, Mr. Patel said that due to economic recession a number of industries in Orissa, particularly in the small-scale sector, were either closed or threatened with closure due to lack of suitable markets for their products. Foundries were lying idle for more than a year. As the State Government's budget was strictly curtailed, he requested that the Centre should come forward to help the State Government.

What Mr. Patel actually wanted was that instead of the present system of calling for tenders, for purchase of materials from Calcutta, it would greatly help if the S.E. Railway placed their orders with the small-scale industries in Orissa by negotiation or otherwise. His plea was that though many industries were registered with the S.E. Railway, they were finding it extremely difficult to go to Calcutta for inquiries, submission of designs etc.

The Union Railway Minister regretted his inability to comply with the request on the plea that "recession experienced in Orissa was nothing exceptional" and "it would not be possible to restrict the purchase of Stores for the Paradip Railway line to small-scale

industries in Orissa only." He further added that it was not in keeping with "normally accepted purchases procedure."

#### **DOMICILIARY RESTRICTIONS REMOVED**

The State Government have decided to remove domiciliary restrictions in the matter of admission to educational institutions.

This decision has been taken on the basis of recommendations of different bodies from time to time. In a resolution issued to this effect the Home Department has stated that a student while seeking admission to educational institutions in Orissa will not hereafter be required to produce a certificate of domicile. It further added that the Departments of Government would now regulate the rules for admission of students to all institutions in the State.

#### **NO-TRUST MOVE FAILS**

Yet another no-confidence motion against the Swatantra-led Government fell through when the Legislature met on October 8 as the mover, Mr. Nishamoni Khuntia (PSP) failed to be present in the House to move his motion.

Mr. R. N. Singh Deo, Chief Minister, said that the Opposition had adopted a "strategy" of absenting itself from the House after it had failed to discredit the Government by creating law and order problems. Describing the decision as "most undemocratic and irresponsible", the Chief Minister reiterated that the State Government would not condone lawlessness. "We are here to rule according to the Rule of Law", he asserted.

He also referred to Mr. B. Patnaik's (former Congress Chief Minister) statement that the coalition government would collapse by March 1970. Such statements, said Mr. Singh Deo, only smacked of frustration and disillusionment of a man whose attempts to topple the Government has failed and who was now inciting the students to indulge in violence. He said, "We are as stable as before".

#### **THE KHANNA COMMISSION REPORT**

Speaking in the State Assembly on October 8, the Chief Minister announced that the Government had lodged a complaint with the police against former Chief Ministers, Mr. Biju Patnaik and Mr. Biren Mitra, as a follow-up action on the Khanna Commission's Report. The One-Man Commission constituting Justice H. R. Khanna, had submitted its report, in respect of "allegations" made by the present State Government against Mr. Patnaik and Mr. Mitra on January 16, 1969.

The following is a summary of the Commission's Report:

#### **Findings**

In its findings the Khanna Commission has observed that the Kalinga Industries had been started by Mr.



Biju Patnaik and members of his family. After Mr. Patnaik became the Chief Minister, his wife became the Chairman of the Company.

On February 13, 1960, Mr. Patnaik in a letter to the Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, had suggested the setting up of more furnaces to distribute overhead expenses, failing which the plant would be running uneconomically. In the same year Mr. Patnaik wrote to the then Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, repeating the request for expansion to which, the Khanna Commission points out, "there was no favourable response from the Prime Minister for taking over the plant by the Central Government". The Commission has further pointed out that "the Kalinga Industries was not in a position to meet the cost of expansion and faced with the above situation, Mr Patnaik who occupied the Chief Minister's office took the initiative in 1963 for transfer of the low shaft furnace plant to the Industrial Development Corporation, a Government of Orissa undertaking. Auditors selected were those associated previously with the Kalinga Industries and the Kalinga Tubes and no technical evaluation of the plant was made."

#### **Charges against Mr. Mitra**

The charges against Mr. Biren Mitra relate to dealings with a company owned by Mrs. Mitra, utilisation of official residence and telephone of Mr. Mitra when he was Dy. Chief Minister and later Chief Minister, pecuniary benefits by abuse of powers and transactions relating to the Kalinga Engineering Works. The Commission has said that "the assessed income of Mrs. Mitra which was only Rs. 69,143 during 1960-61 before Mr. Mitra became Deputy Chief Minister, rose to Rs. 1,02,000 in 1962-63 and went up to nearly Rs. 7 lakhs the following year. The total amount spent by Mrs Mitra on the acquisition of land and construction of building after Mr. Mitra became Chief Minister was Rs. 95,000".

As regards the Company owned by Mrs. Mitra the Commission has said that it received orders from the Public Health Department of the Government of Orissa for Rs. 34.75 lakhs without sales tax.

#### **Charges Against Mr. Patnaik**

With regard to the charges against Mr. Biju Patnaik in connection with Kalinga Industries, the Commission has said that Mrs. Patnaik became Chairman when Mr. Patnaik assumed office as Chief Minister and members of his family had great interest in the said company. Shares to the value of Rs. 77.91 lakhs were purchased by different departments and particular corporations of Orissa Government from Kalinga Industries after Mr. Patnaik assumed office as Chief Minister in 1961 till 1963.

#### **ORISSA CABINET RESHUFFLE**

Three Deputy Ministers were elevated to Cabinet

rank and one new Deputy Minister was appointed by Mr. R. N. Singh Deo recently.

The portfolios of all Ministers are given below:

#### **Cabinet Ministers**

1. Mr. R. N. Singh Deo (Swatantra): Chief Minister; Finance, Home, (excluding Jails and Reformatories, Public Relations and Tourism), Planning and Co-ordination.

2. Mr. P. M. Pradhan (Jana Congress): Deputy Chief Minister; Political and Services (excluding Administration of New Capital and River Valley Development), Mining and Geology.

3. Mr. Raj Ballabh Mishra (Swatantra): Community Development and Panchayati Raj, Labour, Employment and Housing, Agriculture (excluding Animal Husbandry and Fisheries).

4. Mr. Surendranath Patnaik (Jana Congress): Revenue (excluding Registration), Irrigation and Power.

5. Mr. Harihar Patel (Swatantra): Industries, Commerce, Education, (Text Book Press at Bhubaneswar) and Home (Public Relations and Tourism).

6. S. K. Das (Jana Congress): Excise, Revenue (Registration) Political and Services (Administration of New Capital and River Valley Development).

7. Mr. N. Mahapatra (Jana Congress): Supply, Cultural Affairs.

8. Mr. H. P. Mohapatra (Swatantra): Law and Forestry.

9. Mr. D. Naik (Swatantra): Works and Transport.

10. Mr. M. P. Misra (Swatantra): Health and Co-operation.

11. Mr. Banamali Patnaik (Jana Congress): Education (excluding Text Book Press at Bhubaneswar).

12. Mr. M. M. Tudu (Jana Congress): Tribal & Rural Welfare.

13. Mr. K. C. Majhi (Swatantra): Urban Development and Public Health Engineering.

14. Mr. G. Pradhan (Swatantra): Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Jail and Reformatories.

#### **Deputy Ministers**

1. Mr. H. S. Padhi (Jana Congress): Revenue, Irrigation and Power.

2. Mr. A. N. Singh Deo (Swatantra): Industries, Commerce, Community Development and Panchayati Raj.

3. Mr. B. Tripathy (Swatantra): Planning and Co-ordination.

4. Mr. G. Munda (Swatantra): Agriculture (excluding Animal Husbandry and Fisheries), Labour, Employment and Housing.

5. Mr. D. Majhi (Swatantra): Works and Transport (excluding Public Health Engineering).

## Economic Policy or Quackery?

Addressing the Study Group of the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, on 29 September, Mr. M. R. Masani M.P. declared that "the economic policy resolution of the Congress and the Government is a quackery". He said that the 10-point programme was not so much pernicious as irrelevant; it was only a policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

### The Indian Scene

Giving a quick survey of the present economic scene, Mr. Masani quoted extensively from the "censored" part of the World Bank President's speech during February 1968. He said that after 20 years of independence, Indians had yet to feel "the feeblest manifestation of independence", and went on to say that hope had dwindled to despondency. Per capita income had gone down during the last few years and savings had fallen from 8% in 1965-66 to 6.6% in 1967-68. From 1964-65 the per capita consumption of cloth, edible oils and sugar had gone down by 11, 14 and 17% respectively.

While the Green Revolution was being much talked about, in places like Rajkot (Gujarat) where there had been scanty rainfall, the situation was appalling. There had been little irrigation work done by the Government as whatever money that was available was being spent on "white elephants" like Bhilai and Durgapur.

### The Socialist Dogma

Mr. Masani said, "today Socialism has become an opiate with the people of India. This may mean the Naxalite thinking of a revolution, the democratic socialism of the PSP or the 'socialism' of Mrs. Gandhi".

Denouncing the economic measures of the Government as "futile" Mr. Masani said nationalisation was not going to benefit anybody except that the Government would have to pay a lot of compensation to shareholders. As regards nationalisation of imports, it meant only transference of money from one pocket to another.

### Monopoly and Controls

Speaking in a sarcastic vein, Mr. Masani said that the Government's bid to control prices while allowing inflation to increase was like a fashionable lady attempting to remove physical defects at one place by plastic surgery when it grew at another place.

On the subject of monopolies he said the State enterprises ate up 70% of the national savings and foreign aid. For instance the H.E.C. had so far suffered a loss of "only" Rs. 44 crores out of a total capital of Rs. 250 crores, invested in it.

### The Solution

It was Mr. Masani's suggestion that the "socialist" programmes be abolished, and quoting Prof. Galbraith in his support he said "only a competitive economy is good for a developing country like India. Democratic Socialism is good for a country like the USA where the industrial revolution is complete". An "honest rupee" could be given to the people only by abandoning inflationary policies.

Among other curatives were cutting down of taxation, a policy of decontrol of licences and permits and changing of the order of priorities with agriculture coming first followed by consumer goods and heavy industries.

## Ceiling on Urban Property

Five Swatantra MPs, Messrs. Loknath Misra, R. R. Singh Deo, S. K. Tapuriah, C. C. Desai and N. Shivappa, issued during October a Statement deploring the proposal of the Union Government to impose a ceiling on urban property:

"The Statement by Shri K. K. Shah, Union Minister for Health, Family Planning, Works, Housing and Urban Development, that a ceiling on urban property would make land available for construction of houses for low and middle income groups, displays the same naivete which led to the adoption of other economic policies of the Government of India which have failed miserably to stand the test of time.

"Persons or families which own more than one house do not aggravate the housing shortage but rather ease it since these are rented out to middle

and low income families. Mr. Shah can examine the official statistics to convince himself of the fact that majority of employed families in cities need and prefer flats. Multi-storied buildings with either rented out flats or flats sold on ownership basis reduces the price of land in urban areas. Government should therefore encourage house building societies and liberalise credit facilities for this purpose.

"Rs. 200,00,00,000 revolving fund, as suggested by Mr. Shah, would not even make a small dent in the housing problem. His own Ministry had stated two years back that they would need about Rs. 170,00,00,00,000 to solve the country's housing problem. Therefore, if the Government of India are interested in solving the housing problem, they have to stop thinking that housing is a dead investment.



On the contrary investment in this field generates more employment than investment in any shape of industry.

We are of the firm belief that following steps must be adopted by the Government of India immediately:

1. Liberalise housing credit;
2. Banks should be permitted to advance loans against housing, particularly in rural areas;
3. LIC must earmark a much larger amount for house building activities than it does now;

4. LIC must also change its present policy of advancing loans for housing in big cities only: 60% of premium collection must be advanced in the districts of origination; and
5. It should be made obligatory on industries, other than small scale industry, through a statute to provide houses for some of their employees.

Therefore, any ceiling on urban property without the abovementioned steps will only aggravate the housing problem and will also lead to increase in rents thereby increasing the burden on the middle and low income groups.

## NEWS FROM STATE UNITS

### ANDHRA

*(Below is reproduced a summarised version from the report of the Andhra Unit for the period 20-5-1968 to 6-4-1969)*

#### Meetings

The State Council met once, the Executive Committee seven times and the Parliamentary Board thrice during the period under review. As many as 64 resolutions were passed covering a wide range of subjects, prominent among them being "Agitation against Land Revenue Enhancement Act, 1967", "Drought and Famine Conditions in Andhra" and the "Telengana Agitation".

#### Organisational Activities

As many as 417 members were enrolled besides one life-member. Two renewed their membership. Organising Committees have started functioning in the Rayabeema, Citears and Telengana areas.

The State Unit participated in the National Convention at Bhubaneswar, Orissa, in October 1968, with a contingent of 200 delegates.

#### By-Elections

Prof. N. G. Ranga, President, Swatantra Party, was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Srikakulam Constituency but the election to the State Assembly from Koduru was lost by the Party.

Mr. J. Chandramouli was elected to the Rajya Sabha and Mr. K. Rosiah to the Legislative Council.

#### Other Activities

The Swatantra-Sevak-cum-Political School at Kankapalam imparted training to over 150 students from all over the State during the month of June 1968.

#### Alur

A party workers' meeting was held at Yemmiganur on 10 and 11 August under the chairmanship of Mr. Y. G. Gowd, M.P. and President, Kurnool District

Swatantra Party. It resolved to request the Collector to make arrangements for supply of drinking water to villages of Alur Taluk and to implement the scheme of supply of protected water as early as possible.

### BIHAR

A meeting of Swatantra Workers was held on October 23 at Bettiah under the presidentship of Dr. Mahadeo Singh. The speakers at the meeting emphasised the need to be vigilant as the Congress Party was drifting towards Communism and called upon the people to assert themselves.

### BOMBAY

At a meeting held on Tuesday, November 4, the Regional Unit observed the first death anniversary of its past president, Mr. Murarji Vaidya. Tributes to his memory were paid by Mr. Lalchand Hirachand, the present President and Mr. Madhu Mehta, Joint Secretary, Maharashtra Region.

The Bombay Unit arranged a public meeting under its auspices where Prof. N. G. Ranga, Mr. M. R. Masani, MPs and Mr. H. M. Patel, MLA, spoke. The Speakers mainly dealt with the situation in the country, with the in-fighting in the Congress Party and called upon all nationalist and democratic elements to forge a common platform. Mr. Lalchand Hirachand, President, Bombay Regional Unit, presided.

### KASHMIR

The General Secretary, Swatantra Party, Kashmir Region, reports that the Party won 12 seats in different panchayats in the recently held Panchayat elections, out of 24 candidates set up for the same. In the Kangan Panchayat Board our candidate Mr. G. M. Rather was elected defeating the Congress nominee by 37 votes and in the Kawa-Cherwan Panchayat our nominee Mr. A. R. Magrai defeated the Plebiscite Front candidate by six votes. Subsequent to the elections, a Congress candidate Mr. Ghulam Mohammed of Wangat Panchayat has left the Congress and joined our Unit.

## MAHARASHTRA

If legal action could be taken against Jana Sangh leader Prof. Madhok for his alleged communal speeches, the same should apply to the Communist leaders for their reported public declarations on "wrecking the Constitution from within", said Mr. Madhu Mehta, Joint Secretary, Maharashtra Unit on October 7.

In a letter to the Union Law Minister, Mr. P. Govinda Menon, Mr. Mehta said, "If legal action can be taken against Mr. Madhok for violating the law of the land by arousing communal hatred, your Ministry should also have applied its mind immediately to the Statements made by various communist leaders who have publicly declared their intentions to subvert and smash the Indian Constitution." He also offered to supply all the relevant evidence in respect of the utterances of the Communist leaders to both the Union Home and Law Ministries, should they require it.

## MYSORE

### Hassan

The Executive Committee, Hassan District Unit met on 11 August. It passed the following resolutions:

- (i) Condemning Bank Nationalisation.
- (ii) Condemning the West Bengal Government for encouraging lawlessness in the State.
- (iii) Removal of Zonal and other food controls in the country.

### Shimoga

From reports received from Mr. N. K. Ganapaiah, Jt. Secretary, Mysore State Unit, over 50 members have been enrolled and there are signs of more activity for the future.

## AGRICULTURISTS' CONFERENCE

The Agriculturists' Conference convened by Mr. N. K. Ganapaiah, Joint Secretary, Swatantra Party, Mysore State, was held on 28th September at Saklasapur. Speakers at the meeting included Dr. H. R. Arekere, Director of Agriculture, and Dr. Mari Gowda, Director of Horticulture, both of Mysore State.

Resolutions were passed (i) urging the Government to open a soil testing laboratory, (ii) to restore the old rate of electricity charges recoverable on an annual basis, (iii) to suitably amend the present Mysore Land Reforms Act, (iv) to do away with increase in duties on agricultural imports, (v) to do away with the system of procurement through levy paying a low rate in view of the improved food position, and (vi) to remove the existing land classification and replace it by a three-classification scheme, viz., dry, wet and plantation crops.

## ORISSA

### State Executive Meets

The State Executive met on 14th July under the Chairmanship of Mr. R. N. Singh Deo. It was attended by 16 members and 8 special invitees.

It expressed its deep sorrow at the sad demise of Mr. Ramaseshaiah, Orissa's Minister for Health and observed a two-minute silence. It noted that though land revenue had been abolished by the Swatantra-led Government yet the authorities were treating land revenue as arrears while in urban areas it was being realised from agricultural holdings. Therefore, Mr. H. Mahapatra was authorised to study the problem and suggest means for remedying the same.

The State Executive felt the need for lifting restrictions on foodgrains inside the State. It was of the opinion that they must be lifted early. It condemned the unholy Congress-Communist alliance's agitation in connection with the tax on Bus Passenger fare and called upon the Party's various District and Primary Units to mobilise public opinion against the agitation. It also passed a resolution which reviewed the background to the imposition of the tax and why the Government had to resort to it and condemned the agitation which has led to destruction and violence.

### Congress-Communist Conspiracy

The General Secretary, Mr. K. M. Panigrahy, in a statement issued on 10th September, maintained that the alleged attack on teacher-squatters in front of the Education Minister's residence was the "outcome of a pre-planned conspiracy of the Congress, the Communists and their satellites of adopting Communist tactics to attract popular attention towards the teachers' agitation which even after three weeks' squatting did not rouse any popular response".

He suggested that a thorough enquiry should be made to get at the bottom of the conspiracy. He said, "The Communist Party which is pastmaster in political hooliganism has accused the Government and the ruling parties of having a hand behind it. It is also not surprising that the UPCC Chief, the partner of the Congress-Communist unholy alliance would corroborate the Communist surmise. It is significant that after the rejection by Mr. S. Patnaik, Secretary, Orissa Jana Congress, the frantic appeal by them to break the coalition, the incident took place".

"The manner in which", he added, "the incident has been published and wild allegations made to whip up excitement and the state of one-sided condemnation which have appeared so promptly leave no room for doubt that this was a pre-planned conspiracy and was politically motivated".

## PONDICHERRY

Inaugurating the Pondicherry Regional Unit on October 5, at a meeting convened by the adhoc Committee, Mr. S. S. Mariswamy, MP, General Secretary,



Tamil Nadu State Unit, said that the Party was opposed to bank nationalisation and emphasised that the basic policy of the Government of India should be modified. Mr N. M. Hussain, Convenor, presided. Mr. Upagaraswamy welcomed the gathering and Mr. Kami Chetty, M.L.A., was one of the speakers.

## RAJASTHAN

### Famine Relief in Jaisalmer District

*(Reproduced below is a summarised version of the Report of Thakur Mandhatta Singh, Treasurer, Rajasthan State Unit).*

Though famine relief works have gone a long way in ameliorating the conditions of the people, it must be said that there has been much mismanagement resulting in wastage of public funds. To cite an example, from Ramdeora to Nachna a road was built after the Pak invasion; this is in a bad state, hardly motorable; but instead of repairing it, another equally bad road has been constructed, resulting in two parallel roads, both in dismal state. Another is the amount of money, about Rs. 3 to 4 lakhs, spent in the digging of the Salimsagar Tank at Pokaran, and at Rajmathai where the work has been held up for lack of tools. In the first instance it would have needed only Rs. 1 or 2 lakhs for the work while in the latter case it is simply a case of lack of supervision.

There are complaints of delayed payment of wages to labourers, especially in places like Balesar, Loharki and Chhayan. As for medical facilities provided at camps, the less said the better.

There is however a redeeming feature. The Rajasthan Relief Society has provided fodder at cheaper rates and an other organisation, CASA has undertaken construction of school buildings and the like.

## TAMILNADU

### Madras

The T'Nagar Unit held its First Political Conference on 22 June.

After passing condolence resolutions for Dr. Zakir Husain, Sir Homi Mody, Mr. Annadurai, Mr. Ramasethaiah, Health Minister, Orissa, and Mr. A. Govindaswamy, Minister for Agriculture, Tamil Nadu the Conference passed resolutions on: (i) Urban Land Tax, (ii) Madras City's water supply, (iii) State Bank Strike, (iv) Privy Purses, (v) the tax structure, (vi) unemployment, (vii) the Tamil Nadu Government's proposal to nationalise the publishing of school text-books upto the S.S.L.C., (viii) the current political situation, and (ix) the Slum Dwellers' problems in Madras city.

### Tirunelveli

On 18 July the President of District Unit, Mr. Peppin Fernando issued a statement calling on all the members of the party to participate in a black flag demonstration on 23rd to register the party's protest against the proposed visit of Mr. Nagi Reddi, the Naxalite Leader to Tirunelveli.

On 23 a procession consisting of a large number of members of the public and the party marched towards the Travellers Bungalow where Mr. Reddi was staying. Among others Mr. Fernando, the District President, Mr. T. R. Sankaranarayanan, Vice-President, Tamil Nadu State Unit, Mr. Muthiah, M.L.A. were in the forefront. Despite the warning given by the police that they would be arrested, the members went ahead and were arrested and subsequently released.



# *from the General Secretary's desk*

## **ABOLITION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION**

Dear Friend

The newly formed Congress Marxist Party of Smt. Indira Gandhi has started a very dangerous move for amendment of the Indian Constitution to remove the fundamental right to property. Already 50 members of her Party have tabled a resolution calling for abolition of the fundamental right to property at the forthcoming Marxist Congress plenary session, in Bombay.

Smt. Indira Gandhi's newly formed Congress Marxist Party is communist dominated and controlled. Even its new Working Committee consists of members who were till recently of the Communist Party.

### **What Does Abolition of Right to Property Mean?**

The proposed amendment of the Constitution to abolish fundamental rights to property will have the very serious effect of depriving the small farmer of his land and the small shopkeeper of his business without payment of adequate compensation. It will mean that the small farmer will be deprived of his land and become a landless labourer. The small shopkeeper in the village will be deprived of his shop which would then belong to the Government and he will become an employee. In both cases the Government will not be liable to pay adequate compensation.

### **What can Swatantra Party do in this matter?**

It is the duty of every member and worker of the Swatantra Party to immediately start educating people in rural areas against this most dangerous move on the part of the followers of Smt. Indira Gandhi to deprive the poor farmers and small shop keepers, in millions of India's villages, of their small but hard earned lands and properties.

It is the duty of every State, District and Primary Unit of the Swatantra Party to organise the members and the workers of the Party to start the process of education of India's crores of villagers and rural folk.

### **How can Swatantra Party Start Implementing This?**

The task of educating crores of Indian villagers is formidable. It is suggested that following steps be taken immediately:

1. State and District Units should immediately translate this Circular in their own regional language.
2. Cyclostyled or printed copies, in the regional languages, should be distributed in sufficient quantities to primary units in every rural area of your State.
3. Primary Units, Members of Swatantra Party and workers in rural areas should be instructed to use

these regional language circulars as speaking points in the process of educating the small farmer and the small shop keeper in the villages.

4. A series of public meetings, small group discussions and individual dialogue should be started with self-employed farmers, shop-keepers, etc. in rural areas, to awaken them to the threat posed by Smt. Indira Gandhi's Marxist Congress Party the other Communist Parties and mobilise their support to build up a movement to prevent such an amendment to the Constitution which will permanently and finally destroy the last vestige of democracy in the country.
5. Kisan Morchas should be organised throughout the countryside.
6. Millions of villagers should be asked to write or tell their local MPs and legislators to oppose such a move, as also a signature campaign to be sent to the President of India.

### **How to Finance This Scheme?**

It is suggested that funds should be locally collected in each area for financing this scheme. If Party Workers were to approach individual farmers and shop-keepers in villages, they will readily donate small sums of money to safeguard their own rights. The larger farmers and more well-to-do in the villages should be persuaded to donate larger amounts of money.

This self-financing process for Party work will have the following advantages:

1. The individual farmers and villagers will realise that the Party has their interest at heart and is working for it.
2. It will develop closer contact between the members of the Swatantra Party and the public in rural areas.

### **What are the Main Speaking Points to be Used for This Process of Education?**

1. The newly formed political party of Smt. Indira Gandhi is admittedly a Marxist Congress Party.
2. It is Communist controlled and Communist dominated.
3. It is calculated to bring Communism into the country through the back door.
4. The leaders of this new Party have alliances with the various Communist Parties who are out to destroy Indian democracy.
5. Members of the Working Committee of the new party consist of people who, till recently, were

members of Communist Party. These people have joined the new Congress Marxist Party as infiltrators to destroy democracy.

6. Immediately on its formation the new Congress Marxist Party of Smt. Indira Gandhi has started the move for abolition of fundamental right to property which means:
  - a) depriving the small farmer of his land,
  - b) depriving the small village shop-keeper of his business,
  - c) making the small shop-keeper a government employee,
  - d) denying the farmer adequate compensation for his land when taken away by the government, and
  - e) denying the small village shop-keeper of adequate compensation for the business when taken away by the Government.
7. Do not support or vote for a Party which wants to take away your lands, shops and business.
8. It should be made absolutely clear in every single case that the Swatantra Party does not stand for promoting big business and making the rich richer. On the other hand, it is the Congress Party which has by its policies of permit-licence promoted big business and the rich richer.
9. The Swatantra Party believes fundamentally in "Social Justice" which means
  - (a) protection of the small farmer and the small village shop-keeper,
  - (b) improving the standard of living of the downtrodden and the weak,
  - (c) protecting Indian democracy, and

- (d) fighting any attempt on the part of the Communist and other like-minded people to destroy democracy in India and to make every Indian a servant of the State.

#### **Report to the National Headquarters**

The National Headquarters is certain that every State, Regional, District and Primary Unit of the Party, as well as every member of the Swatantra Party and every worker, will respond to this formidable challenge and start working immediately.

It is suggested that reports be sent by the State Units of the action taken in this matter and the extent to which it is implemented at every level within the State.

If any further guidance or assistance is required in this matter, the State Unit is requested to contact immediately the National Headquarters.

#### **"Protect the Small Farmer & Small Shopkeeper Day"**

Organise a "Protect the Small Farmer and Small Shopkeeper Day". Among other things, your State Unit is requested to select a suitable date on which public meetings and processions should be organised by various units throughout your State to agitate this matter and oppose the move to amend the Constitution to abolish the fundamental right to property. On that day a tremendous effort should be made throughout the State to focus attention on this most dangerous move on the part of the followers of Smt. Indira Gandhi to bring in the Communist era in India.

Jai Swatantra

R. C. COOPER

*(Since the publication of this letter, Mr. N. Dandekar has resumed his functions as General Secretary from 1st December.)*



**Mid-Term Report**

Having adopted the Mid-Term Report, the General Council leaves it to the new National Executive to spell out in greater detail a programme of action for Party workers, based on the general recommendations made in the Report.

**Misuse of Preventive Detention Act**

The Council deplores the gross abuse of the Preventive Detention Act by the Government of Gujarat in arresting and detaining members of the Legislative Assembly and certain prominent citizens of Borsad, a Taluka headquarter town in Kaira district, long after the atmosphere of communal unrest had disappeared and in particular when no communal violence had taken place in the town during or after the period of communal disturbances in Ahmedabad and surrounding areas.

The General Council earnestly urges the Gujarat Government to reconsider the action taken by it against the Editor of *Jai Hind*, a prominent Gujarati daily published simultaneously from Ahmedabad and Rajkot, as the circumstances in which the action has been taken has every appearance of an attempt to throttle the freedom of the Press.

**Communal Disturbances in Ahmedabad**

The General Council notes with profound sorrow and distress the communal disturbances in Ahmedabad and surrounding areas which resulted in heavy loss of life and property. The Council expresses its deep concern at the breakdown of law and order and the growing tendency to violence in many parts of the country. It considers this to be due as much to administrative incompetence as to the failure to recognise the vital importance of maintenance of law and order.

The Council welcomes the appointment of a Commission under the Chairmanship of a judge of the Supreme Court to inquire into the communal riots in Gujarat and trusts that the Commission will complete its work speedily and its recommendations will help in the evolution and adoption of a sounder and more effective approach to the problem of prevention of violence and maintenance of law and order.

**Violence in West Bengal**

Bearing in mind what has taken place and is taking place in Kerala and West Bengal, the General Council reiterates the repeated demands it has been making for banning forthwith the Communist Parties of all varieties.

The General Council in particular draws attention to the complete breakdown of law and order in West Bengal where on the admission of the Chief Minister of the State himself, the life and property of the ordinary citizen is no longer safe. This is a state of

affairs which ought not to be tolerated for a day longer. The General Council therefore demands the immediate dismissal from office of the West Bengal Government and the declaration of a state of emergency leading to President's rule in the State till such time as full normalcy is restored and the people regain their faith in the capacity of law enforcement agencies to maintain law and peace.

**Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman's Ashes**

This meeting of the General Council strongly disapproves the Punjab Government's failure to allow the family of the late Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman to dispose of his ashes. The Council calls upon the Punjab Government to allow Sardar Pheruman's relatives to dispose of the ashes in the customary manner which is their inalienable right.

**Natural Calamities**

This meeting of the General Council of the Swatantra Party expresses its distress with the totally inadequate attention being paid by the State Government of Rajasthan to the famine situation prevailing in the border areas, particularly in Jaisalmer and Jalore. The famine has become so acute that the population and cattle have been compelled to migrate and those who remain are obliged to live on bread made from cactus and roots.

The only relief offered to the famine stricken people is work on the Rajasthan canal which is so far away from their homes that they are not in a position to go there abandoning their families and cattle. It is tragic that the famine relief department of the Rajasthan Government appears to have neglected this area on purely political considerations. The Council demands that the Central Government should institute an impartial enquiry into the administration of famine relief in Rajasthan.

Natural calamities have also brought considerable suffering to people elsewhere in the country. Andhra has for the third time within 12 months, been hit by cyclone and over 170 fishermen are reported to have died in the latest fit of nature's fury. It may be recalled that only in May this year 200 persons were swept away by cyclone. Gujarat too has had more than its share of natural calamities this year and so also Orissa. The Council expresses its sympathy with the people of these States and calls upon the Centre and the State Governments to organise and provide adequate relief. The General Council of the Swatantra Party is strongly of the opinion that the distribution of famine relief should be placed in the hands of non-political, socially motivated organisations such as the Ramakrishna Mission in order to avoid partisan distribution and corruption in the distribution of famine relief.

*(For Private Circulation)*