

Sri Harihar Patel,
President,
Swantantra Patty,
Orissa Unit.

312-Kharvel Nagar,
Bhubaneswar-1.

sri Nabakrusha Choudhury,

April 4, 1975.

My dear Sri Choudhury,

I wrote to you a letter dated 20-2-1975 intimating support and offering cooperation for a Bihar type movement in Orissa which has been acknowledged receipt by Sri Binod Mohanty intimating that it will be placed before you on your return from tour outside Orissa. I did not get any reply. However, in the meantime I telephoned to the Jayaprakash Narayan's Reception Committee Office on several days, but was always told that the telephone was out of order. Then I came to the office one day to meet Sri Madanmohan Sahu, (Secretary of the Reception Committee) but could not find him and returned after purchasing one rupee coupon from the office. Thereafter I came on another day and could meet Sri Sahu and talked with him for a few minutes, gathered some literature, a copy of the tentative programme and informed him that I will be attending the public meeting from Jharsuguda to Bhubaneswar. Sri Sahu wanted to give me a book of one rupee coupons, which however he could not give as the person who kept the books was absent. I told Sri Sahu that I was going to Sundargarh within a day or two and came back.

I went to Sundargarh on 26th and toured in some villages on 27th making some propaganda for the Jharsuguda meeting. On 29th early morning I started for Jharsuguda to join receiving Sri Jaya Prakash at the station, but unfortunately the train reached somewhat earlier than that day and I was late by a few minutes for which I could not join there. After that I attended the public meeting at Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

On 31st March in the night I had a talk on telephone with Sri Madanmohan Sahu when he was putting up in the State Guest House and came to learn that Sri Jayaprakash Narayan would be meeting the opposition leaders on 1st April at 1 P.M. at the State Guest House. He could not tell me whether invitations would be issued or the party leaders will come by themselves. I informed him that I will be attending that programme. On 1st of April I came for the purpose to the State Guest House about 10 minutes to 1 P.M. and came to know that the programme had been altered to be held at the residence of Sri Biju Patnaik. I could see that cars were being sent to Sri Biju Patnaik's house carrying various persons. I met Sri Biju Patnaik who was standing near the vehicle in which you and Mrs. Choudhury were sitting and on query he told me that the programme had been changed and Sri Jaya Prakash Narayan was coming to lunch at his place. He did not extend me any invitation and it thus became difficult for me to proceed towards his house for the purpose.

I then left a note mentioning about this to Sri Jayaprakash Narayan and later could meet him slightly before his departure for the Bhubaneswar public meeting when he acknowledged receipt of my letter in which I had also mentioned about Swantantra Party's support and offer of co-operation to the movement. Later I attended the public meeting of Bhubaneswar.

My purpose in writing about all these to you is to tell you that the J.P.'s movement is a people's movement and we are anxious to be in it and offer of cooperation and participation

should not be frustrated in such manner. It is necessary that the movement proceed under one discipline and is controlled to that effect. I am happy to tell you that what Sri Jayaprakash said about the role of political parties with regard to the movement had exactly been told by me to the Swantantra Party members in the month of November last when the State Council meeting was held i.e. the political parties will have to sink their differences and join in programmes to be carried out on behalf of the people with non-partisan spirit. I hope you will agree with me that after you have taken up the responsibility for ushering in the type of movement in the State one has to look to you for proper control and discipline in that direction. I am making no complaint now about what happened as it might have happened possibly due to your remaining busy and occupied otherwise on account of the programme and you could not pay any attention to this. I thought it proper to inform you about it, however, as it has put me to some embarrassment in replying to queries regarding my absence in the meeting of the opposition party leaders. I would only like to hear from you that it was only unfortunate and will not recur or if you think that there was nothing wrong in what happened and you can't help to prevent such things happening I may just be told about it frankly so that I will be in a position to know as to how things stand.

In conclusion I will only beg excuse of you to say once again that the people in Orissa are ready for the movement and can achieve many things if only the opposition political parties are not given free scope to project their various interests into it and foil it. In the public meeting at Bhubaneswar itself Sri Jaya Prakash Narayan happily dealt with the subject and has sounded a note of warning that the People (Janta) will not excuse the political parties for any misdeed. I have full faith in your personal honesty, integrity, sincerity of purpose and appreciate your introspective nature. I am not writing anything more with the hope that you fully realise what I intend to say and will give me needed assurances in the matter. I am going to Mysore to attend a programme of the Farmers' Federation of India and other programmes and will be back by 14th of April '75. I can be available for any personal discussion after that if you so desire.

With my sincere regards,

Yours sincerely,

(HARIHAR PATEL)

Copy forwarded to:

Sri G.K. Sundaram, President, Swantantra Party,
India for information.

(sd) *Harihar Patel*

Harihar Patel.

9-4-75.