

CENTRAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEETS

Madras was the venue for meetings of the Central Organising Committee, the Parliamentary Board and the Organisation Sub-Committee of the Party on August 3 and 4.

Reconstitution of State Committees

Meeting first on August 3, the Organisation Sub-Committee devoted its attention to the reconstitution of State Committees. State Committees in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra, Tamilnad and Bombay City were reconstituted.

Ministerial Corruption in Orissa

Mr. R. N. Singh Deo, President of the Orissa unit of the Party and Leader of the Opposition in the Orissa Legislative Assembly, related the circumstances leading to his acceptance and subsequent withdrawal from the assignment offered him by the Orissa Chief Minister to enquire into allegations of corruption against the Deputy Chief Minister of Orissa. A resolution tabled by our Party's Group in the Orissa Legislative Assembly calling for an enquiry into charges of corruption against certain Ministers in the State Government was noted with approval by the Central Organising Committee.

Functioning of Parliamentary Group

The functioning of the Parliamentary Group in the forthcoming session of Parliament was discussed by the Parliamentary Board meeting the same day, and guidance provided to the Group on various matters.

Participation in Agitations

The oppressive taxes, the Compulsory Deposit Scheme, the Gold Control Order and other economic measures have engendered tremendous dissatisfaction among the people. Naturally there is agitation to protest against such policies. The Central Organising Committee therefore laid down certain broad principles to be followed by our Party units throughout the country:

- (a) Wherever the purpose of an agitation is legitimate, the State unit may use its discretion whether to join with other democratic parties or to go it alone;
- (b) While direct action at present is not permitted, State units are free to join other democratic opposition parties in a one-day token strike;

- (c) In any event our Party should not join any agitation which would benefit the Communists.

Electoral Understanding in the Punjab

The Committee welcomed the electoral understanding for impending by-elections reached between democratic opposition parties including our own Party in the Punjab, with the help of Acharya Kripalani and commended it as a good example to be followed in other States as well.

"Maintenance of Democratic Processes"

The present political situation in the country arising out of the continuance of the Emergency was discussed. The Central Organising Committee reiterated the resolution of the General Council passed at its meeting in Bombay on February 10 (see March issue of the *Newsletter*). A resolution entitled "Maintenance of Democratic processes" was adopted unanimously (Annexure 'A').

Constitution (17th Amendment) Bill

The most important political resolution was the one dealing with the proposed Constitution (17th Amendment) Bill scheduled to come up for discussion in Parliament shortly. The Committee felt very strongly about the sinister nature of the Bill and said so in no uncertain terms in the course of a Resolution on the subject (Annexure 'B').

No Confidence Motion in Parliament

The position to be taken by the Party's members in Parliament towards a no-confidence motion during the forthcoming session of Parliament was considered and the C.O.C. decided to empower the Party's Parliamentary Group to define its attitude, in the event of such a motion coming up, in the light of discussions with other non-communist opposition groups in Parliament.

VOA and Joint Air Exercises

In a reference to the controversy over the Voice of America agreement, the members of the Committee expressed themselves in favour of the agreement and felt that the commitment entered into by the Indian government should be honoured. The proposed joint air exercises between the Indian, U.S. and U.K. Air Forces were also welcomed.

Reorganisation of Party Membership

A scheme for the reorganisation of Party membership was approved by the Central Organising Committee. The scheme as approved, envisages radical changes in the structure of the Party by dropping the 25 nP. membership which was adopted by the Party from the Congress and placing membership of the Party on a serious and modern basis, common to democratic Parties throughout the World. Readiness to work for the Party will be one of the essential elements of Party membership. In addition to this category of devoted and active members, there will be another category of Associates of the Party, who will indicate their adherence to the Party but pay no subscription. The text of the scheme as adopted by the Central Organising Committee is attached (Annexure 'C').

The Central Organising Committee decided that since the adoption of the scheme would require amendment of the Constitution, the necessary amendments should be drafted and placed before the next meeting of the General Council and the National Convention of the Party which would meet towards the end of this year.

A MASS RALLY IN MADRAS

Speaking at the Gokhale Hall in Madras on July 13 to a packed audience which had assembled to felicitate Mr. M. R. Masani over his success at Rajkot, Rajaji said that Mr. Morarji Desai as the Union Finance Minister was doing everything necessary to ruin the country. It would be good, said Rajaji, if the Prime Minister scrapped the Budget of oppressive taxation, Compulsory Deposit Scheme and Gold Control Order, and bundled the Finance Minister out with it.

The elder statesman commented that the Prime Minister's recent remarks about opposition parties being 'intoxicated' by their success in the by-elections sprang from 'anger' at the Congress reverses.

He remarked that it would be a worthwhile job for the CID to investigate how the Congress won elections, inspite of running the administration of the country in the ruinous manner in which it was doing now.

Commenting on the Prime Minister's compliments to certain Chief Ministers, the founder leader of the Swatantra Party said that it seemed that only those ministers who could win elections for the Congress were considered clever. "Do not think I am referring to the Madras Chief Minister when I say this. It applies to some other States also," he added.

Prof. N. G. Ranga who addressed the meeting said that he found the people today as they had been with the British between 1940 and 1946. The British Government sensing this feeling, had left, but the Congress was not inclined to do so.

Mr. M. R. Masani, was wildly cheered when he stated that the verdict of the electorate at the Rajkot by-election could be summed up as asking the Congress 'to mend its ways or go'.

The General Secretary emphasised that 'unity of action' among the democratic opposition parties on those issues over which there was agreement would

be feasible, for it would leave each Party free to go its way in regard to other matters according to its own convictions.

Mr. Masani stated that Mr. Nehru was wrong in dubbing the party weak because it wanted the government to seek the help of other countries to defend the nation against Chinese aggression. No country in the world today could defend itself alone, he affirmed.

Referring to the Prime Minister's statement that he would not relinquish power unless the people told him to do, Mr. Masani said that it was now upto people to make their intentions clear.

Mr. P. T. Rajan declared that any real change in the administration could be brought about only by ousting the Congress from the Centre. Rajaji, he said, was "the Indian Nestor".

Mr. S. Narayanaswamy, referring to the economic chaos in the country said that the people had reached a stage of "economic exasperation."

The Yuvraj of Pithapuram expressed the hope that with Prof. Ranga and Mr. Masani back in the Lok Sabha, the Swatantra Party would be able to refute the Congress though unfortunately not out-vote it.

ABOLISH C.D.S.

A meeting was organised in Bombay demanding the abolishment of the C.D.S. Various Swatantra leaders addressed the gathering.

Mr. M. A. Master, an eminent economist, stated that it was a national crime to introduce the Compulsory Deposit Scheme at a time when people were already groaning under high taxation and spiralling prices. He doubted the legal competence of the C.D.S. and said that every effort should be made to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court on his issue. Though taxation had grown from Rs. 750/- crores in 1952-53 to Rs. 2,100/- crores in 1963-64, the money raised was not enough. Government expenditure must be curbed; economy could be a great source of revenue, Mr. M. A. Master remarked.

Professor P. J. Shroff said that the C.D.S. which is expected to raise about 60 crores annually will impose great hardships on about five million families thereby affecting about 25 million people. Besides the collection of this amount will involve tremendous cost.

In the Second Plan period the Government had raised additional taxes to the tune of Rs. 1044 crores out of which more than Rs. 600 crores were used up for non-plan and non-development purposes.

Mr. R. V. Murthy said that simultaneously with the introduction of the Compulsory Deposit Bill in the Lok Sabha on April 22, the Finance Minister had also come forward with certain major amendments to the Bill, which establishes the fact that not much thought had been given to the implications of the scheme.

The estimated annual receipts from the C.D.S. would be Rs. 65/- crores to Rs. 70 crores, and to collect this amount according to the Finance Minister the Government will have to incur a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. ¼ crore and a recurring expenditure of Rs. ¼ crore per annum, plus an annual interest charge of about Rs. 3 crores. The net realisation, therefore, would be less than Rs. 50/- crores.

Mr. Morarji Vaidya in his speech from the Chair said that the Congress Government had taken one step after another to bring the savings and financial resources of the people under Government control.

Whether this type of concentration would strengthen the process of economic development was the vital question.

COMMUNIST CRITICISM OF THE UNION PRESIDENT

The Party's Parliamentary Office in New Delhi has in a statement criticised the National Council of the Communist Party for the bad taste and ill manners displayed in their criticism of President Radhakrishnan's pronouncements in the United States.

The statement referred to the Socialist members' behaviour at the time of the Presidential address to Parliament during the last budget session and said the Communist spokesmen were "most outspoken and explicit" at that time that the statements and formal behaviour of the President were "mere reflection of the policies and decisions of the Government and the President, therefore, must, under no circumstances, be criticised personally on that account."

The statement asked: "Why have the National Council of the Communist Party of India now bypassed this salutary norm of conduct when they find that parts of the joint communique of both the Presidents are distasteful to them?"

MASANI IN MYSORE

The following report by *Swarajya* editor Mr. Pothan Joseph on Mr. Masani's visit to Bangalore last month in the July 28 issue of *Mysindia* makes interesting reading.

"Mr. Masani, who is Secretary of the Swatantra Party found an opportunity of explaining how the victory at Rajkot should be modestly interpreted and followed up. Quoting C. R., he expressed concurrence with the view that the losses suffered by the Congress over the prestige seats recently proved that the Prime Minister and his ruling party in possession of power are not 'Invincible'.

"Without a trace of bravado or any anticipation that Mr. Nehru would instantly resign abashed by defeats, the hero of Rajkot gave his audience an account of the reaction which followed the announce-

ment of victory on a field held by the Congress for 30 years..."

"The audience in Bangalore he held spellbound and Mr. Masani had his answers. The cream of the intelligentsia by their appreciation strengthened his hands, so much so that Mr. Masani felt it was an anticlimax that shortage of finance to maintain an Opposition Bureau in New Delhi should have been mentioned at all in Mysore.

"It is good to begin in a small way, since the Serajuddin type of cash reservoirs fed from many pipes at work, might enhance only disrepute. The poet T. S. Eliot once wrote that he had never corrupted a Government official, for he had never found a Government official who was not already corrupt."

"WE CAN DO WITHOUT NEHRU" — RAJAJI

Addressing a public meeting in Madras on July 28, Rajaji referred to an observation by Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit that her brother, Mr. Nehru was wearing himself away. The elder statesman said that it would be well with the country if the Prime Minister and the Government would go. It would involve the country in no loss.

If, notwithstanding the reverses suffered at the hands of the Chinese last year, the Nehru Government was still in power, this was due, Rajaji thought, to the stand taken by the Congress that it alone had the power to deliver the goods. This would not have been possible in any other country, and it had been described by a foreign paper as an Indian miracle.

ORISSA UNIT BACKS SINGH DEO

Elsewhere in this issue we have reported the references made into the business of enquiring into certain charges of corruption against Orissa Ministers by our State President, Mr. R. N. Singh Deo. News has now come in that the Parliamentary Subcommittee of the Orissa Swatantra unit in a resolution approved the stand taken by Mr. R. N. Singh Deo, in withdrawing from the proposed enquiry into the business dealings with the State Government by companies or firms connected with the ministers or their near relatives."

NEWS FROM THE STATES

BOMBAY

"SWATANTRA PARTY WEEK"

The Bombay City Unit observed a Swatantra Week on the occasion of the Party's 4th anniversary. The highlight of the week was a public meeting on August 2, addressed by Sir Homi Mody, Mr. M. R. Masani, Mr. Piloo Mody, Dr. (Mrs.) Shantabai Gulabchand and Dr. R. C. Cooper. The President of

the Maharashtra and Bombay City Units, Mr. N. Dandekar presided.

Sir Homi Mody said that the Swatantra Party would support the Government in an emergency if it would give resolute leadership to galvanise the nation, and take decisive steps to end corruption and inefficiency. But instead of a stimulated militia programme, the Emergency was being used for wrong ends. Uncalled for promotions were made. In the Madhya Pradesh Cabinet alone eight more Ministers have been added.

Corruption and graft had become rampant, and most of the Chief Ministers of the States were quarrelling with the organisational wing of the Congress Party.

Mr. Masani, in his speech, accused the Government of committing fraud on the Constitution and the people by proposing the 17th amendment to the Constitution. He said the amendment sought to 'empower the Government to take over any land without paying adequate compensation. By this, the peasantry, comprising 52 per cent of the population would be liquidated and one of the fundamental rights of the citizen extinguished. Almost 124 pieces of land legislation were of "doubtful validity," one of which (from Kerala) had been vetoed by the President and another struck down by the Supreme Court. Every time the courts came in the way, the law was changed and this had been the "consistent practice."

Dr. Shantabai Gulabchand, the Vice-President of the Bombay Unit spoke on the general progress made by the Party and the success it had attained. She said that the Party forms the official opposition in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Bihar.

Dr. R. C. Cooper attacked the Gold Control Order. He said various loop-holes would encourage corruption, like under-invoicing in export of 22 carat gold ornaments or corruption among low-paid excise inspectors at refineries. According to latest statistics, during the last five years more than 44,000 Government servants were actually detected resorting to various irregularities and offences.

Speaking on the Compulsory Deposit Scheme, Dr. Cooper said that while working classes are hard-hit, the most crushing burden will be on the urban lower middle class persons where one member often supported an average family of at least four persons. The Compulsory Deposit scheme will also aggravate the spiralling prices higher. A recent study has estimated the rise in prices of essential commodities during the last few months at 45 per cent.

Dr. Cooper also stressed that oppressive taxation was curbing business activity; foreigners were hesitating to invest in our country; the share market has not recovered substantially since the Budget.

Earlier on August 1, amongst a gathering of Party Workers and sympathisers, the Vice-President of the Bombay Region unfurled the Party flag. Mr. Madhu N. Mehta, the General Secretary, Bombay Region, addressed the assemblage.

Later, a large number of the congregation went to Chowpatty and paid their homage to the memory of Tilak. Dr. (Mrs.) Shantabai Gulabchand, addressed the people, after which the children of the Swatantra Bala Kendra danced the lazim and regaled the crowd. In the afternoon, a subscription lunch was held for the members.

It was a most successful week, and Mr. P. S. Koppikhar deserves to be congratulated.

The Bandra Unit is invariably humming with activity. Mr. Shashikant Gavaskar distributed free books and stationary to the Bala Vikas Kendra. Dr. Shantabai Gulabchand addressed a group of people of the Bandra Sports Club and a women's meeting was held to discuss the potentialities of opening a Women's

Wing in Bandra. Among others, Mrs. Athaide addressed the women present.

A deputation of ten women members of the Swatantra Party, led by Mrs. V. Mondonca Braganza, called on the Governor, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit and submitted a memorandum demanding the abolition of the Compulsory Deposit Scheme.

Between August 2 and 7 Party offices and Service Centres were opened in different parts of Bombay City by Messrs Piloo Mody, Madhu Mehta, Mahinderlal and Mrs. Shantabhai Gulabchand.

DELHI

Various workers' meetings were held. Speaking at a meeting held in Shahdara area, Colonel H. R. Pasricha, President of the State unit and Mr. A. C. Bisaria, General Secretary explained the aims and objects of the Swatantra Party. Colonel Pasricha said that public opinion must be crystallized against the Congress Government which was moving towards a totalitarian regime.

At a meeting in Devnagar in Karol Bagh Zone, the convenor, Shri Mohan Lal and Colonel H. R. Pasricha addressed the gathering.

A new unit was inaugurated at Anand Parbhat and Mr. Thakur Dass, Mr. Budh Singh, Mr. Ram Singh and Mr. Babu Lal were appointed to organize the party work in the locality.

The Delhi Unit has started a new Hindi weekly called the 'Lok Bharati'. Its success will greatly whet interest in the Party. A Swatantra Club meeting was addressed by Sardar Man Singh.

KERALA

The Party's Central Zone office was officially declared open by the President Sri A. S. Krishna Iyer, who unfurled the flag and made a short speech.

A public meeting was held to mark the event.

The Secretary, Mr. K. V. Vaidyanathan, welcomed the gathering and read messages of felicitations received from Sri Rajaji, Mr. M. R. Masani, Mr. K. M. Munshi, Mr. G. K. Sundaram, and others.

Mr. P. A. Venkateswara Iyer, Vice-President of this Zone, spoke at length about the policies and principles of the party and how the failing of the present rulers was affecting the people. He said that the Swatantra Party would act as a deterrent to this misrule and lead the country towards the right direction.

Mr. K. Narayana Iyer, Mr. A. M. Sabastin, Mr. Joseph Kunju Kalapurakkal, Mr. Sabastine Kakkannand, Mr. V. K. Sugunan, Mr. Mathew M. Varghese, and others also spoke at the meeting.

Mr. M. S. Kurien, Joint Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks.

An orchestral performance by the Swatantra Cultural Arts Centre ended the function.

ORISSA

The Orissa unit's executive committee met in Bhubaneswar on June 5 and 6 when several problems affecting the Party as well as the State in general were discussed.

Reviewing the recently concluded by-elections to the State Assembly, the Executive deplored the gross misuse of power by the ruling party. It called for a code of conduct to ensure a fair and free exercise of the vote.

In a reference to the Rajkot by-election the meeting congratulated the electorate of Rajkot for rejecting the Congress and returning a Swatantra candidate.

The Orissa Government came in for severe criticism by the Executive on the grounds of being responsible for the acute scarcity in foodgrains in the State. The meeting deplored the negative and undemocratic attitude of the State Chief Minister in responding to the leader of the Opposition Mr. Singh Deo's plea for an early session of the Assembly to consider the grave situation. Positively, the Executive Committee suggested measures for meeting the crisis among which were the immediate stoppage of the export of foodgrains outside the state; the need to obtain adequate quantities of paddy and parboiled rice from the Central reserve; the stocking of foodgrains in rural areas before the onset of the monsoon and the opening of Fair price foodgrain shops in the various panchayats.

On the 15th of that month, the State President, Mr. Singh Deo presided over a public meeting at Balangir to protest against the Orissa government's food policy.

The following day Mr. Harihar Patel, M.L.A. presided over a meeting organised by the Party in Jharsaguda. Among those present were the State President, the State General Secretary Mr. G. C. Roy and Mr. Debanand Amat.

Earlier over 100 workers of the Party met in

Jharsaguda where problems of an organisational nature were discussed.

Circumstances compelled the party's unit in Balangir to resort to satyagraha as a protest against the unfair treatment meted out to Party members by the authorities in that town.

RAJASTHAN

Maharawal Laxman Singh, President, Swatantra Party, Rajasthan, toured Sirohi District and addressed public meetings.

Various other organisers have also been touring their respective districts and setting up local committees to give a fillip to the Party's propaganda work. Mr. Ayuwan Singh and Mr. Gopidanji Bareth toured Sirohi and Jalore District. Mr. Devi Singhji, Secretary, Rajasthan Swatantra Party, accompanied by Mr. Gopidanji, toured the Beewar Assembly constituency in Ajmer District. Dr. Balmukandji, Mr. Mohanlalji Shastri, Vice-President and Secretary, District Swatantra Party, Ajmer, were also on the same tour.

Mr. Gopidanji also toured the Sujanga and Ratanagarh Assembly constituencies of Churu District. Ad hoc committees have been formed. Two organisers were sent to the Alwar District in order to study the field for organisational work.

Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singhji, the Vice-President of Jaipur District Swatantra Party, is touring villages of Jaipur District. Mr. Nathlalji Karol, M.L.A., toured his constituency, i.e. Chaksu in Jaipur District.

Jaipur City celebrated the triumph of the Swatantra Party in Rajkot by holding a mammoth meeting.

ANNEXURE A

Maintenance of Democratic Processes

In view of the reports of fresh danger from Communist China confirmed by Government statements and the repeated claim of the Prime Minister that there should be no internal controversies regarding Government policies during this emergency, the Central Organising Committee recalls the previous decisions of the Party and reiterates the Party's view that the declaration of Emergency should not be made into a charter for winding up Parliamentary Government and that the Opposition should carry out its responsibility of criticism whenever it is neces-

sary. The press and statesmen of the country should not hesitate to speak or write as they feel and advise the Government and guide the people from time to time.

The operation of the Defence of India Act and regulations needs now as before, to be closely scrutinised and watched so as to ensure that it does not curtail the fundamental rights, democratic processes and the rule of law more than is strictly necessary in furtherance of the actual defence effort.

ANNEXURE B

Resolution on the Constitution (17th) Amendment) Bill

The Central Organising Committee examined the Constitution (17th Amendment) Bill 1963 and came to the conclusion that it is a most dangerous attempt to erode still further the fundamental rights given by the Constitution without a mandate from the electorate. By extending the word 'Estate' to include every form of landed property owned by the most humble peasant in full freehold right, the Bill seeks to hold the sword of Damocles over the majority of the population of India in respect of what they consider to be their most sacred possession. The expropriatory

principles so far applied to Zamindars and other feudal landlords and intermediaries are now sought to be extended to ryotwari holders, who are full owners of the land, as well as to every other type of land ownership. The attempt to give retrospective effect from 26th January 1950 to this distorted definition of Estate which was all along used to cover intermediaries between Government and the true owner of land makes this amendment a gigantic fraud on the Constitution and on the people of India.

The fact that this amendment to the Constitution is

sought to be made in order to undo the recent judgement of the Supreme Court of India makes it all the more reprehensible, being unabashed disrespect for the law and the independence given by the Constitution to the Judiciary.

In view of the extended interpretation of a public purpose to cover doctrinaire experiments in land reform, the Central Organising Committee cannot help coming to the conclusion that this Constitutional amendment is designed as an instrument held in *terrorem* over the peasants of India by which the collectivisation of the land could be legally enforced. Those in authority who seek to copy the system of collective farming which has been a signal failure in Soviet Russia and which has brought Communist China to famine now seem determined to move on from the deception of co-operative farms to coercive methods. If this amendment becomes law, the smallest peasant can be faced with the brutal alternatives of surrendering his land to the so-called co-operative farms or of being expropriated by law on payment of nominal compensation which he cannot challenge in a court of law.

The Central Organising Committee regrets that, at a time when according to Government reports the Chinese Communist forces are concentrating on our frontiers threatening another invasion and when the need for national solidarity is pre-eminent, the Congress Government should propose to inject into the

public life of the country one more issue of a highly controversial nature such as this which affects the masses. It even now hopes that this attack on the lands and liberties of the people will be abandoned and that the energies so spared will be diverted to the urgent tasks of foreign policy and defence.

The Swatantra Party was established in 1959 to defend farm, family and freedom in this country. This new amendment, which seeks to destroy the farm and through it the family and freedom, cannot but meet with the strongest opposition from the Swatantra Party. Members of the Party in Parliament will naturally oppose this amendment and seek to prevent its passage. In order to strengthen their hands it is necessary that public opinion should be educated and the implications of this amendment explained. The C.O.C. calls upon the units of the Party in the States, districts, talukas and villages to launch an intensive campaign to educate the rural people about this matter and to give expression at public meetings and otherwise to their protest. It is hoped that a large number of people will send petitions to Parliament urging that this amendment be dropped. Since the amendment in question is likely to come up for discussion at the session of Parliament commencing 13th August, the issue is one of urgent importance and should be treated accordingly by all members of the Party.

ANNEXURE C

Scheme for Reorganisation of Party Membership

1. Every person above the age of 18 who subscribes to the principles of the Party, pays the prescribed fee and expresses his readiness to work for the Party will be eligible for membership of the Party.

2. Work for the Party will be deemed to include:

- (a) Introducing new members;
- (b) Collection of funds;
- (c) Acceptance of executive responsibility;
- (d) Preparation or distribution of literature;
- (e) Organisation of meetings, study circles and other functions;
- (f) Honorary work to help with the running of the Party Office;
- (g) Attending to civic and other grievances on behalf of the Party and securing their redress;
- (h) Working, when called upon, as prospective candidate of the Party for Parliament or State Assembly.

3. Decisions in regard to enrolment of members shall normally be taken by the State Executive Committee. While no application for membership may be rejected outright by the State Executive, the State Executive may recommend to the Centre that an application be not accepted and an appropriate body at the Centre will consider the matter and decide

whether or not the applicant should be enrolled as a member.

4. Each member of the Party will pay a subscription of Rs. 10/- per year, or a life membership fee of Rs. 100/-. The State Unit will be given freedom, in special cases, to collect these fees, if they so desire, in reasonable instalments. Those who have already become permanent members of the Party under the present system by the end of 1963 will be entitled to be exempted, if they so desire, from paying further subscription as Life Members.

5. Membership of the Party will continue so long as a member pays his dues. Each member of the Party will be issued an identity card.

6. There will be another category of Associates of the Swatantra Party, consisting of those who indicate in writing their adherence to the principles of the Party. No fee will be payable by such Associates. Associates of the Party will have no right to vote in any Party elections. Meetings of such Associates will, however, be convened from time to time and they will be given an opportunity to be consulted and to make suggestions.

7. In place of 250 members, which is the minimum for the formation of a Constituency Committee under the present Constitution, 20 members will suffice.

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