

PARLIAMENTARY BOARD'S DECISION ON PANCHAYAT AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

in June

In the course of a circular to State units of the Party, the General Secretary has announced the decision of the Parliamentary Board in regard to Panchayat and Municipal Elections.

The Parliamentary Board has resolved:

1. That the Party should adhere to its stand *not* to contest elections to Gram Panchayats in the name of the Party
2. That a decision in regard to whether or not elections to Zilla Parishads, Panchayat Samitis or Municipal bodies should be contested in the name of the Party should be left to each State Unit.

It will thus be seen that the Party's position of abstaining from contesting elections to Village Panchayats in the name of the Party stands and that whoever uses or misuses the name of the Party in this context acts in an indisiplined manner.

In the course of the Circular, the General Secretary drew attention to the decision of the All India Congress Committee which had subscribed to this view and has directed its District Committees to bear in mind this general approach of the Congress Party. The AICC has also expressed the hope that other parties would follow-suit.

The General Secretary while reaffirming that this had always been the stand of the Swatantra Party, hoped that the AICC resolution would allay the fears of those apprehensive of the Congress Party taking undue advantage of the Swatantra Party's absence.

TRADE UNION WORKERS TO MEET

With a view to evolve a clearer picture of the Swatantra Party's policy in regard to Labour and to offer better guidance to members of the Party functioning in trade unions throughout the country, the Central Office of the Swatantra Party is convening an informal meeting of Trade Union workers on July 28 and 29 in Bombay.

The discussions at the meeting will of course be within the framework of the Party's policy in regard to Labour and workers' rights set out in broad terms in the Party's Statement of Policy and Election Mani-

festos. The meeting will consider measures for better co-ordination of the efforts of individual members of the Party engaged in trade union work in different parts of the country.

'EXCESSIVE TAXATION AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE WEEK'

The observance of a week from 3rd to 10th June to mobilize public opinion against excessive taxation and wastage of public funds has been observed by State units in various parts of the country. Not all the reports have yet come but the following activities have been reported the Central Office.

DELHI

Three meetings were organised by the new State Committee in Delhi in furtherance of the Week. A meeting was held in Ajmal Khan Park at Karol Bagh on June 3. In spite of other political Party meetings held simultaneously the Swatantra Party meeting was accorded a warm response.

Amongst those who addressed the gathering were Shri Keshar Lal M.P., Rajamata Sashank Manjari Devi, M.P. Shri and Smt. S. N. Rekhi, Shri Mohon Lal Jatava, Shri Ram Chand Rawat, Shri K. N. Middha and Colonel H. R. Pasricha. Shri A. C. Bisaria, a member of the executive committee, generously met the expense of this meeting.

Another meeting was held on June 4 at the Bengali Market, under the Presidentship of the Raja of Poonch. It was organised by Shri R. C. Sharma, a member of the Executive Committee. This meeting successfully held the interest of the audience for over two hours.

At the Constitution Club, under the Presidentship of the State Convenor, Colonel H. R. Pasricha, a meeting was held on June 7. Shri P. K. Deo, Raja of Kalahandi—Acting leader of the Party in the Lok Sabha—and Shri M. R. Masani, the General Secretary were amongst those who addressed the meeting.

Shri M. R. Masani brought home the imminent crisis in the economic sphere. He severely criticised the Finance Bill, which was then under discussion at the Centre. He said it was the "worst of a bad bunch of Budgets which have brought India to the brink of bankruptcy."

He further stated that the entire pattern of planning needed to be re-organised, laying priority on

the common man's basic needs. Agriculture and light industry should be placed above slow-return heavy industry. He pointed out that the Chinese Communist dictatorship has realized this and, after great hardship to the people, had now adopted the same order of priorities as was recommended by the Swatantra Party. Our Government's policies however remain unchanged, being patterned after Soviet Russia, where they were formed under totally different conditions.

This year no less than 62 per cent of the additional taxation fell on commodities. The limits of direct taxation had already been exceeded, as admitted in the Third Plan. The greater the quantum of taxation, the larger the proportion the poor must shoulder.

He further pointed out how Land Revenue drained the already poor farmer.

Mr. Masani suggested the following fiscal measures: 1. Abolition of land Revenue. 2. A drastic reduction in excise duties on the necessities of life, raw materials and intermediates. 3. A reduction in corporate taxation and in direct taxes on income. 4. Strict abstention from deficit finance and other inflationary measures; and 5. Pruning civil expenditure and checking the proliferation of the bureaucracy so as to make the other measures possible.

RAJASTHAN

General meetings were held in the various constituencies in Jaipur City, like Bandri, Purani Basti, Chote-Chanpur, Narike-Naka and Tup Khana Hazari. Resolutions were passed protesting against the excessive taxes and malpractices in the Government.

Handbills were distributed throughout the City. Posters on the subject of excessive taxation and wasteful expenditure were exhibited on a widespread scale.

Eight public meetings organised in different important localities unanimously passed anti-tax resolutions and copies of such resolutions were forwarded to the Union President, the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and others.

A meeting of the City's grain merchants was also convened to protest against the imposition of heavy taxes on their trade.

Similarly a meeting of Secretaries and Presidents of various Trade Associations was also convened on the occasion.

BOMBAY

Mr. Murarji Vaidya presided over a public meeting held at the Swatantra Party Office. In his address he stated that economists had denounced the Government policy of increased taxation as a hindrance to economic development. He emphasized the great need to create more capital for investment and thus increase production. He also severely criticised the

Union Government for the increase in expenditure, for that affected the peoples' savings as well.

Prof. P. J. Shroff in his speech declared that the Defence Ministry was diverting its resources and energy into manufacturing equipment which could be done by others. While defence expenditure was rising, the frontiers of the country lay poorly guarded.

Mr. R. V. Murthy pointed out that in the first two years of the Third Plan, nearly as much taxation had been imposed as was contemplated for the entire plan period. The increased taxation had resulted in the high cost of production, and thus export was hindered in the world market. Dr. R. C. Cooper added, that the 10% rebate allowed by the Government with regard to export profit had lost its significance due to this factor.

Mr. Piloo Mody, Vice President of the Swatantra Party, Bombay Branch, made a statement in which he declared, that the people of Maharashtra will be paying well over Rs. 12 crores in additional taxes this year; more than half of it to be collected by the State. He further stated that the people should rally to prevent the Government who, under the guise of socialism, collect taxes for purposes other than those of the country's development.

WEST BENGAL

The West Bengal Unit held various group and public meetings all over Calcutta. The Week came to a triumphant end with a public meeting held at the Indian Association Hall on June 10. Mr. Dev Shankar Roy presided and amongst those who addressed the meeting were Mr. Bireswar Bhattacharjee, Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar, Mr. Satyananda Nandi, Mr. Sachindra Nath Chatterjee, Mr. S. P. Agarwalla, Mr. Harendra Nath Bhattacharjee and Mr. T. M. Paul.

Mr. S. P. Agarwalla, seconded by Shri Atul Chandra Kumar, moved a resolution which was unanimously carried; it re-emphasised that rising taxation and indiscriminating Government expenditure was bleeding the common man white.

Mr. S. Nandi said: "The Swatantra Party stands for a sound system of taxation, a sound management of our public debts with simultaneous provision for their re-payment."

According to the *Statesman*, of June 11, "Speakers declared that they would try all constitutional methods to oppose the Government's present taxation policy".

MYSORE

Bangalore was the venue of a public meeting held under the auspices of the Mysore unit of the Party on June 5 to protest against the taxation measures of the Union Government. Mr. K. H. Srinivasan, Vice President of the State unit, presided. Messrs. K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, State President, Mr. B. V.

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Narayana Reddy and Mr. P. H. Seshagiri Rao spoke on the occasion.

MADRAS

The Government of India's Plan and the latest taxation proposals came in for severe criticism at the hands of Rajaji who said that planning had been done wrongly and the taxes had impoverished the people. He was addressing a meeting on the occasion of the Party's observance of Excessive taxation and Wasteful Expenditure Week as well as the third anniversary of the Party. Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy, M.P., presided.

Rajaji said that compliments paid by other nations to India's economic progress were only part of the cold war. But Prime Minister Nehru thought that they were *bona fide* compliments.

Calling socialism a "grand hoax", Rajaji said that it was unfortunate that people were made to believe that socialism was doing good to them and that anybody who opposed it acted against their interest.

Referring to the taxation proposals, Rajaji said that there would be incentive to pay tax if there was some immediate return for it. The taxes, he added, were all-embracing. He affirmed that unless they voted down the Congress the progress of the country would be hampered.

Speaking earlier, Prof. Ruthnaswamy said that the budget was not a people's one but a planner's one. It was meant to collect money for the implementation of the Plan.

The President of the Andhra unit of the Party, Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi, said that taxes were being levied indiscriminately and indirectly and even the poor were not spared.

Among others who spoke were the State's General Secretary, Mr. S. S. Mariswamy, Mr. S. Narayanaswami and Mr. K. Balasubramania Aiyar.

THE ANTI-NUCLEAR CONVENTION AND THE SWATANTRA PARTY

In a press statement made in Madras on the eve of his departure to attend the Anti-Nuclear Arms Convention in New Delhi, Rajaji made it clear that he was going there in his personal capacity and not as a Swatantra Party leader. He said: "I shall present my views at the Convention on my own behalf and it has nothing to do with the party."

Giving his own views on unilateral suspension of nuclear tests, Rajaji added: "I hold the view that the demand for international inspection as a condition precedent for banning the tests, is superfluous and has hindered and delayed an agreement being arrived at. All nuclear powers can obtain by their own national arrangements all necessary information without international inspection which is objected to legitimately as leading to spying in the absence of a complete and general disarmament."

Adverting to differences of views on this point among members within the Swatantra Party, Rajaji concluded by saying: "Swatantra Party members may probably hold different views on this question. The Party leaves all such questions to individual opinion and makes no party dogma over such matters."

A day later Mr. M. R. Masani, the Party's General Secretary, speaking at a meeting in Bombay to pay homage to the memory of the martyrs of the Hungarian Revolution, referred to the meeting that was then concluding in New Delhi and asked: "How many more people like Imre Nagy and Paul Maleter will have to be murdered by Khrushchev's regime in breach of faith before the amiable gentlemen at present meeting at the Anti-Nuclear Convention in Delhi and suggesting that the world lay down its arms and trust to Khrushchev's pledge to disarm come to realise the dangers of their misguided idealism?"

After recalling the numerous occasions when Soviet Russia had violated their pledged word and broken treaties, Mr. Masani concluded by saying:

"In the face of a long series of treaties and pledges broken by the Soviet Government since 1945, to invite the Democracies to lay down the nuclear deterrent without proper safeguards in the way of effective international verification and control is to play directly into the hands of Moscow and Peking which are poised for world conquest and whose massive land armies could then overrun the whole of Europe and Asia. "What a pity that these good people do not concentrate their protest against the Soviet Government which alone refuses to enter into an agreement which would guarantee that all Governments are made to observe the banning of the nuclear bomb," observed Mr. Masani.

THE ROLE OF TAXATION IN A PLANNED ECONOMY

Delivering a public address in Bombay on June 1, Mr. Masani, the Party's General Secretary, suggested that the first priority in all planning should be the provision to every household in the country of its basic needs of food, clothing and shelter within a few years and that the entire pattern of taxation should be revamped to assure the right to work and the right to live.

He observed that in a planned economy taxation should serve the purpose of advancing economic development consistently with the demands of social justice.

Concluding, Mr. Masani said that the present budget aggravated the burden on the poor. This was of course inevitable since the limits of direct taxation had already been exceeded. "Those who wish for social justice must realise that this involves a reduction in taxation. The greater the quantum of taxation, the larger the proportion that would fall on the shoulders of the poor," he observed.

Positively, Mr. Masani urged the taking of the following fiscal measures:

- (1) Abolition of Land revenue
- (2) A drastic reduction in excise duties on necessities, raw materials and intermediates,
- (3) A reduction in corporate taxation and in direct taxes on incomes,
- (4) Strict abstention from deficit finance and other inflationary measures
- (5) Pruning civil expenditure and choking the proliferation of State Capitalist bureaucracy in order to make all the other measures possible.

OUR MEMBERS IN PARLIAMENT

Mr. P. K. Deo Acting Leader of the Party in the

Lok Sabha participated in the debate on the Finance Bill. Elsewhere in this issue we have reproduced an abridged version of his speech. (Appendix A)

THE ORISSA CHIEF MINISTER AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

We reproduce (Appendix B) the correspondence between the Chief Minister of Orissa, Mr. B. Patnaik, and Mr. R. N. Singh Deo, President of the Orissa unit of the Swatantra Party and Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly. A perusal of Mr. Patnaik's reply to the well-reasoned letter of Mr. Singh Deo protesting against the illegal seizure of Kendu leaves used in the manufacture of bidis once again indicates the arrogance with which Mr. Patnaik prefers to deal with a democratic opposition.

NEWS FROM STATE PARTIES

DELHI

The newly established State Committee in Delhi, with Col. Pasricha as the Convener has got down to its work in right earnest. In the last few weeks, two local units consisting of more than 250 members each have been established and other local units are in the process of being established in Greater Delhi.

MYSORE

The Executive Committee of the Mysore State unit at its meeting in Bangalore on 4th May took several steps to implement the Central Organising Committee's decisions on membership enrolment and Party elections. The manner in which the Mysore unit went about the task is briefly outlined for the benefit of units of the Party elsewhere.

(a) The State Committee will appoint ad-hoc District Committees in Districts in which such Committees are not now functioning with a view to enrol members.

(b) The District Committees are empowered to appoint *ad hoc* Constituency Committees in the respective districts to enrol members.

(c) The Constituency Committees are authorised to appoint Village or other Committees to function under the respective Constituency Committees.

(d) The last date for 1962 Membership shall be 30th September.

Various organisers were appointed in the districts to implement the State Committee's decision.

A Sub-Committee was nominated to assist the Party's members in the State Legislature consisting

of Mr. P. H. Seshagiri Rao, Mr. G. S. Subbarathnam, Mr. B. V. Narayana Reddy and Mr. V. T. Sreenivasan.

The Committee also resolved to hold a Candidates' Convention in July during the session of the Mysore Legislature.

In the course of a communication to the Party's District Organisers and Committees informing them of the State Committee's decision, it is stated:

"The District Committees and Organisers should make special efforts to secure the assistance of such candidates in enrolling members in their districts. The unsuccessful candidates should not lose interest or feel disheartened as they should know that today the Swatantra Party is the second biggest political party in the country and voted to that responsible position by not less than nine million voters in the country. Undoubtedly it has acquired greater strength than all other parties except the Congress within 2 years of its formation. This proves that the Swatantra Party has endeared itself to an appreciable number of voters and there is no other real opposition party in the Country."

ORISSA

Shri R. N. Singh Deo, Leader of the Opposition in Orissa and President of the Orissa Unit, made whirlwind tour of western Orissa, touching Balangir, Bhulbani, Sambalpur, Kolabandi, Dhenkarnal and Sandargarh districts.

In spite of the blazing sun and scorching heat, Shri R. N. Singh Deo in 30 days covered 5,453 miles, and addressed 88 meetings in furtherance of the Party's cause.

PUNJAB

Jathedar Udam Singh Nagoke, the President of the State Party, participated in two very successful rural conferences in the Districts of Amritsar and Gurdaspur. He explained the aims and objects of the Swatantra movement and its policy on agrarian matters. This has kindled interest in the rural population, thus encouraging enrolment of new members.

A meeting of the State Executive and sympathisers of the Party was convened at Ludhiana on May 13, at the residence of the District Unit's General Secretary, Professor P. S. Chaabra. Some resolutions were unanimously passed on current matters of State politics.

Two Sub Committees were appointed:

Press Advisory Committee. Its purpose is to formulate a scheme for publishing a political weekly in Urdu/Punjabi, as its need is earnestly felt. The editorial policy of the "People's Guardian", published from Chandigarh by Mr. Paramjit Kumar was discussed and it was decided that this journal should receive encouragement.

Special Re-organisation Committee. This Com-

mittee consisted of seven members who are to formulate policies designed to give an impetus to the organisation. There is to be a drive for enrolment and renewal of membership. Collection of Party funds re-organisation of the existing district committees, and forming party units in other districts at Assembly Constituency levels, are its particular activities.

The Union Government's heavy taxation policy and the Punjab Government's fresh levy of Rs. 8 crores tax was criticised. Additional Taxes was denounced.

Chaudhri Ram Singh, the leader of the Swatantra Group in the State Legislative Assembly, is now a member of the Co-ordination Committee of the joint Opposition Front in the State Legislatures. The Punjab Unit of the Swatantra Party had pioneered in forming a United Board. The Communist Party have not been included the Opposition Front.

Sardar Basant Singh, Secretary of the Punjab Unit, in a letter to the *Tribune* said that the opposition should focus its attention on the fundamental rights of the common man, the abolition of excessive and irrational taxation the separation of the Executive from the judiciary. It should aim at the formation of a two-party system and polarize public opinion towards that end.

APPENDIX A

Abridged version of the speech made on the Finance Bill on 13th June by Mr. P. K. Deo, Acting Leader of the Swatantra Party in the Lok Sabha

Mr. P. K. Deo speaking in the Lok Sabha discussed the various strategical and economical aspects of the country.

He mentioned the excessive taxation and the rampant wasteful expenditure in the country. A critical analysis of the fiscal policy of the Finance Bill will prove its arrant uneconomical bent. In the Second Year of the Third Plan, the Central Budget showed a deficit of Rs. 71.7 crores. The Minister of Finance proposes to wipe out this deficit by raising Rs. 27.2 crores and Rs. 44.5 crores from direct and indirect taxes respectively. The contribution of indirect taxation is no less than 62 percent of the additional taxation. It is proposed to be levied on cotton yarn, matches, tea, jute manufacture, asbestos sheet and other items of similar nature.

Unlike the Income-tax where exemption is provided for a certain limit, the poor peasant with even a small holding has to pay tax in the shape of land-revenue.

The Swatantra Party since its very commencement has been advocating that land revenue should be abolished and progressive and agricultural income-tax should be levied on food production.

After the high taxes that have been levied on the Textile Industry, certain concessions have been made; but if the powerloom and the handloom in-

dustries are to thrive, then they should be completely exempted from the proposed duty on the processing methods.

Similarly the proposal to tax asbestos sheets, would put up the cost of housing. Unmanufactured tobacco which is largely consumed by the Adivasis, in their rituals and social life is now also taxed. Tea, too would now be brought under additional taxation. Its quality was deteriorating as the tea-gardens were constantly changing hands. A cordial labour relationship and better cultivation of the tea-leaf would heighten its export.

The Swatantra Party had categorically stated that direct taxes in the Third Plan had reached their ceiling, and the increase in the rate of the levy of income-tax and super-tax would destroy the impetus to industrialization. All these questions were considered in the Income-tax Act of 1961, when the Income-tax Bill was introduced, and was sent to the Select Committee. This Bill was to come in force from April 1, 1962, but it was scrapped by the introduction of the Finance Bill. This over-riding has made a complete mockery of parliamentary procedure. Such actions are unthinkable in a democracy; they can be only possible in a totalitarian State.

People are becoming reluctant to save and invest, as their faith in the economic stability of the country

is shaken. Already the pre-war Rupee to-day is worth less than 20 nP.

Regarding capital gains and losses, Mr. P. K. Deo said: The proposal as envisaged in the Finance Bill is indefensible by any process of reasoning. The proposal is very astounding, as it puts the thrifty citizen who helps in the growth of the nation by saving and investment, in a worse position than a gambler or a speculator. As it stands today, the capital losses are set off against gains and any unabsorbed capital loss would be carried over and set off against the capital gains in subsequent years. That can be done for 8 years. The effect is that even long-term capital losses of past years in respect of which a right has accrued to carry forward losses are now dead losses and they are completely ignored.

Continuing Mr. P. K. Deo added: I quote a passage from a very interesting article written by Shri Palkhivala in the *Economic Times*. He compares the impact it will have on the speculator, on the trader and on the investor:

"Mr. Speculator can carry forward his speculative losses for eight years and set them off against speculative profits of a subsequent year.

Mr. Trader can carry forward his trading losses, which may have risen purely as a result of gambling on fluctuations in the market, for a period of eight years and set off such losses against profits of any business whatever of a subsequent year.

Mr. Investor who lays by his capital for the long-term development of the country, is not

allowed to carry forward his capital losses at all."

Now this has been changed and he is allowed to carry forward for four years. But I think this is inadequate. The man who deserves to be treated most fairly in the hands of the State, is the man who saves and makes investment which helps in the progress of the country, but he has been harshly treated in this way.

Our foreign exchange reserves had dwindled to Rs. 100 crores. Senator Symington and others were successfully using their influence at the U.S. Senate, to bring a cut in American Aid to India. If the commitments of the members of the consortium who agreed to support us economically for the implementation of our Third Five Year Plan should fall short, the plan would be forced to suffer a drastic cut.

In the context of Chinese aggression and Pakistan's designs, there is a strong case for enhanced defence expenditure, which can be justified even though it is not productive. It should be properly channeled. It is distressing that even constructive criticism, is objected to in the House by a responsible Member of the Cabinet.

Regarding the purchase of MIG planes he referred to the "All World Aircraft", an authoritative publication on aircraft production and technology. This magazine mentions that the MIG's are produced in China in an aircraft factory near Mukden with Russian collaboration. In case of war between China and India, the spare parts will naturally become a problem. Thus this purchase gives a lot of food for thought. It also drags India into the cold-war.

APPENDIX B

Correspondence between Mr. B. Pattanaik, the Orissa Chief Minister and Mr. Singh Deo, Leader of the opposition & President of the Swatantra Party, Orissa.

My dear Chief Minister,

You are aware of the fact that people have got the fundamental right of enjoyment and disposal of their property. Kendu Leaves (Control of Trade) Act, 1961 has imposed unreasonable restrictions on the people's fundamental rights. Many land owners and rayats have collected, processed and stored Kendu Leaves from their holdings and even though they have a constitutional right of disposal of the same to their best advantage, since the present has imposed unconstitutional and unreasonable restrictions on the transit and disposal of the Kendu Leaves, many people have approached me for advice. Even though there is no need for consulting any one in exercise of the constitutional right of disposal of the property, we want that the problem should be solved in a peaceful manner. Kendu Leaves are valuable but perishable goods and unless urgent steps are taken to facilitate their disposal by the land owners and rayats, the latter will be put to great loss. I

therefore request you either to advise the Agents to purchase the Kendu Leaves of the land owners and rayats at the prices which the latter may demand or in the alternative to permit them to transport and dispose their leaves at the best market of their choice. I have come to know that land owners and rayats of Baudh were able to sell their Kendu Leaves at Calcutta at the rate of Rs. 173/- and Rs. 212/- per bag last year. In view of the poor storing facilities of the majority of land owners and rayats and the approaching rainy season, urgent action on the part of Government to find a solution of the problem is called for.

I also wish to draw your attention to the fact that numerous reports have been received by me of delay in disposal of the applications for registration of growers who grow more than ten maunds of Kendu Leaves and many persons have been put to harassment and loss by the dilatory and unreasonable attitude and procedure followed in the disposal of such

applications. I have also received reports of illegal arrests of persons although the Kendu Leaves Control of Trade Act does not empower Police to make any arrest. There are also reports of threats and intimidation and of illegal seizure of Kendu Leaves collected and stored by land owners and rayats from their own holdings. I hope Government will get all such complaints quickly enquired into by an impartial agency and take suitable disciplinary action against the officers who in their greater zeal for safeguarding the profits of the monopolists Agents, than for the protection of the people's rights and properties, have acted in excess of the law. Much loss and damage would be caused unless the seized Kendu Leaves are quickly released and the cases promptly disposed of before the onset of the monsoon rains. I trust your Government will take urgent action in the matter.

Yours sincerely,
R. N. SINGH DEO

ORISSA STATE

B. PATTANAİK,
Chief Minister.

D.O. No. 550 C.M.
BHUBANESWAR
The 30th May, 1962

My dear Leader of the Opposition,

I have received your letter of the 27th May, 1962. I am glad that at last you have thought it necessary to consult me regarding Kendu Leaves. I can assure you that Government is taking all necessary action to ensure that the Act passed by the Assembly in regard to Kendu Leaves is smoothly implemented in the State. Government are in possession of reliable information that various factors and agencies had tried their best to make this Act of Orissa Legislature inoperative, but fortunately for Orissa, they have failed.

All reports portray that you and the members of your Swatantra Party have been tendering advice at various places to defeat the passage of law, and not, as you say, "many people have approached me for advice". It also reads queer when you say that

"the present law has imposed unconstitutional and unreasonable restrictions on the transit and disposal of Kendu leaves." If so, there are constitutional relief agencies to seek and amend the law that was passed. Again, you talk of illegal arrests. There is also constitutional remedies to correct that.

Finally, you who have been a Law Minister yourself, would, I am sure, readily appreciate that law must be allowed to take its own course and certainly should not be interfered with by a Minister. I, as a Minister of Government, can only implement the law as interpreted and passed in the Assembly, and can assure you that I am trying my best to do so.

Yours sincerely
B. PATTANAİK

SRI R. N. SINGH DEO, M.L.A.,
Leader of the Opposition,
& President, Orissa Swatantra Party

BALANGIR
Dated 4th June, 1962.

My dear Chief Minister,

Your D. O. letter No. 550 CM dated the 30th May, 1962 in reply to my letter dated the 27th May, 1962.

Our ideas about the smooth and proper implementation of the Act in regard to Kendu Leaves so as not to interfere with the people's rights and in regard to true interest of the State appear to be diametrically opposite. You are aware of the fact that myself and the Swatantra Party are opposed to the monopoly system in the Kendu Leaves trade with all its consequential evils. I am sorry that you have failed to appreciate the implications of the points raised in my letter. It was not my suggestion that the Minister should interfere with the law, but a democratic and popular Government is certainly expected to take steps to remove the lacunae in the law and prevent abuses in its administration.

Yours sincerely
R. N. SINGH DEO

(For Private Circulation)