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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 de-controlling 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.

Ministers. Two Cabinet Ministers, Shri M.P. Tripathi (JS) and Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal (SSP) were included in it on November 4 while more Ministers were inducted on November 11. The newly appointed Ministers were: **Cabinet Ministers** Sarvashri Kailash Prakash (Congress-O); Prabhu Narain Singh—(SSP); Shanti Prapanna Sharma (Congress-O); L.R. Acharya (Congress-O); Krishnanand Rai (Congress-O) Balbir Singh-(BKD); Bishan Lal-(BKD); Sripati Misra-(BKD); Anwar Ahmed (BKD); Ram Kinkar (BKD); Roop Nath Yadav (SSP); Himmat Singh (Jana Sangh); Malkhan Singh (Jana Sangh); Trilok Chand (BKD) and Begum Aizaz Rasool (Congress -O). **Ministers of State:** Sarvashri V.K. Tripathi, Rajindra Pratap Singh, Kalpanath Singh, Dharam Vir, Prabhakar Tripathi (all Congress-O); Manohar Lal, D.N.M. Tripathi, Asrar Ahmed, Ram Singh Khanna (all BKD); Ramdhari Shastri and Moti Lal Dehalvi both SSP; Munshi Lal Chamar (Swatantra) and Krishna Swaroop Vaish and Dr. P.D. Kapoor (both Jana Sangh). **Deputy Ministers:** Sarvashri Mani Lal, Ram Parsad Deshmukh, Dunder Singh, Ram Bachan Yadav, Habibur Rehman Naumani, Sachidanand, Raghubir Singh, Jagannath Singh, Bharat Singh Chauhan, and Syed Murtiza Hussain Khan (all BKD); Smt. Indira Mohani, Shri Ahmed Loot Khan, Shri Ganga Prashad and Shri Mohan Lal (all Congress-O); Anisur Rehman Sherwani (SSP); and Ram Bachan Yadav (Jana Sangh).

Subsequently, two more Ministers were added to the Cabinet on November 14 with the swearing in of Shri Ram Sagar (Jana Sangh) as a Cabinet Minister and Shri Sarvasukh Singh (BKD) as a Deputy Minister. Shri Shyam Surat Upadhaya (SSP) who was also invited to join the Cabinet as Deputy Minister on November 14, declined to do so as he was unhappy with his party's alliance with the

other constituent units. Portfolios among Ministers are yet to be allocated.

In the wake of the formation of the new SVD Government amidst much political uncertainty in the State, a number of legislators changed sides during the period under review. Shri Om Prakash Singh (BKD) a Deputy Minister in the previous Congress (R) BKD coalition Ministry, resigned from the party on November 8 and joined the Congress (R). Earlier on November 3, a Congress (R) member of the Assembly, Shri Sukh Lal left the party to join the BKD. Shri M.D. Visharad on November 12 changed over to Congress (R). Shri Visharad alleged that he was leaving the SSP for its failure to come up to the expectations of the people. The same day, Shrimati Sia Dulari, a Harijan Member of the Assembly belonging to Congress (O) resigned from the party in protest against the party leaders' attitude of ignoring the Backward Classes and Harijans in the formation of the new SVD Government in the State. It was not immediately known as to which party Shrimati Dulari would join.

Giving the reasons for the rejection of writ petition, jointly filed by Shri Ram Puran Patel (SSP) MLA from U.P. and another SSP leader, Shri Dharam Vir Goswami, requesting the High Court for declaring *ultra vires* the Presidential proclamation issued on October 2 under article 356 of the Constitution imposing Central Rule in the State, their lordships held that it was not open for the Court to go into the validity of the proclamation issued by the President because of the provisions of Article 361 of the Constitution. This is because the article relates to the protection of the President from being answerable to any Court in exercise of his powers. The Court also declared that it was concerned with only the legal aspect of the matter and not with the the political propriety of the action of the Governor.

DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD

BURMA

Resignation of Minister

The Burmese Revolutionary Council on November 15 accepted the resignation of the Minister of Relief, Resettlement and Social Services, Brigadier Tim Pe. Brigadier Pe was understood to have resigned from the country's Cabinet as well as the Revolutionary Council on health grounds. The portfolios held by him would now be held by the Information and Culture Minister, Brigadier Thaung Dan.

CAMBODIA

Draft Constitution

The Draft constitution of the recently proclaimed Cambodian Republic comprises a total of 131 Articles dealing with political, economic and social aspects of the country's governance. Besides envisaging reduction in the voting age from 20 to 18, it

deprives the Buddhist monks and soldiers in the country of the right to vote. The Constitution proposes that the President of the Republic would be elected for a period of five years on the basis of universal suffrage. It seeks to establish a parliamentary rather than the presidential form of government in the country. The erstwhile Council of the Kingdom has been replaced by a Senate as part of reorganisation of the nation's parliamentary system.

CANADA

Declaration of Emergency

The Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Pierre Trudeau invoked for the first time the Special War Emergencies Act on October 16 thereby suspending all the civil liberties of the people in the country. Mr. Trudeau had to take recourse to such a drastic action following the kidnapping of two top officials, including the Labour Minister who was later killed by the separatist organisation, Front Liberation Quebec

PARTY POSITIONS IN THE UNION PARLIAMENT AND STATE LEGISLATURES IN INDIA

(As on November 15, 1970, unless otherwise indicated)

Sl. No.	Union, States and Union Territories	Congress (R)@	Congress (O)	C.P.I.	C.P.I. (M)	Jana Sangh	B.K.D.	Swatantra	P.S.P.	S.S.P.	D.M.K.	Akali	Muslim League	Republican	Nagaland Nationalist Organisation	A.P.H.L. Conference	Independents	Nominated	Others	Seats Vacant	Total Seats	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	
1.	Lok Sabha* (As on 5.12.70)	228 (225)	65 (63)	24	19	33	10	35	15	17	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49 ¹ (55)	3 (2)	522 [‡]	
2.	Rajya Sabha* (as on 5.12.70)	88	40	10 (9)	8	15 (14)	3	12	5	8	7	3	4	2	—	—	—	—	33 ² (34)	2 (3)	240	
3.	Andhra Pradesh* { Assembly Council (As on 15.10.70)	175 52	14 6	10 3	8 1	3 5	—	19 3	—	1 —	—	—	—	2 —	—	—	10 3	1 —	40 ³ 16 ⁴	5 1	288 90	
4.	Assam* (As on 15.10.70)	75	—	7	—	—	—	2	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	—	1 ⁵	9	126	
5.	Bihar { Assembly* Council*	85 (80) 33	28 (32) 22	25 2	2 —	32 5	8 1	3 —	18 —	53 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	31 15 (14)	1 —	28 ⁶ 12 ⁷ (13)	4 (5) —	318 [‡] 95 [‡]	
6.	Delhi*	21	2	—	—	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	61	
7.	Goa, Daman & Diu† (As on 21.8.70)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	27 ⁸	—	31 [‡]	
8.	Gujarat*	25 (8)	107 (108)	—	—	1	—	23 (24)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9 (23)	—	—	—	168	
9.	Haryana*	54 (53)	6	—	—	6 (7)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	12 ⁹	—	81	
10.	Himachal Pradesh*	43	—	2	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	63	
11.	Jammu and Kashmir { Assembly* (As on 15.9.70) Council* (As on 15.10.70)	60 26	— —	— —	— —	4 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	3 —	— 8 ¹¹	— —	4 ¹⁰ —	4 2	75 36
12.	Kerala*	33 (32)	4 (—)	16	32 (28)	—	—	—	3	7 (6)	—	—	11	—	—	—	— (12)	—	27 ¹² (25)	—	133 [‡]	
13.	Madhya Pradesh*	192	—	1	—	65	—	—	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	20 ¹³	2	297	
14.	Maharashtra* { Assembly Council	191 46	13 —	— —	— —	6 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 2	— —	— —	3 (2)	1 3	55 ¹⁴ 27 ¹⁵	— (1)	271 78	
15.	Manipur† (As on 14.10.69, before dissolution)	11	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4 ¹⁶	—	32	
16.	Meghalaya*	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	—	3 ¹⁷	—	—	41	
17.	Mysore* { Assembly Council	37 7	127 43	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	17 —	— —	34 ¹⁸ 11 ¹⁸	1 1	216 [‡] 62 [‡]	
18.	Nagaland*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	—	—	—	9 ¹⁹	—	52	

19. Orissa*	8	2 (3)	7	1	—	—	48	21	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	45 ²⁰ (44)	1	139†
20. Pondicherry*	7	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	30
21. Punjab*	28	—	4	2	7	—	—	1	2	—	56 ²¹	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	104
22. Rajasthan* (As on 15.10.70)	113	1	1	—	18	11	28	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	184
23. Tamil Nadu { Assembly* Council* (As on 24.11.70)	8	41	3	10	—	—	11	4	1	136 (137)	—	2	1	—	—	3	1 ²²	8 ²³	5	234†
	2	17	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	26 (25)	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	5 ²⁴	(4)	62†
																		(1)		
24. Tripura*	27 ²⁵ (19)	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	33
25. Uttar Pradesh { Assembly* Council*	150 (149)	84 (86)	4	1	43	84 (85)	4	3	28	—	—	—	1	—	—	18 (16)	—	4 ²⁶	1	425†
	34	30	—	—	6	8	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	12 ²⁷	4	108
26. West Bengal* (as on 30.7.70 on the eve of dissolution)	37	13	30	80	—	—	—	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	2	95 ²⁸	—	282
Total	1900	679	154	166	290	126	192	89	157	208	59	18	12	43	34	202	22	578	48	4977

@ The party is known as the Congress in the Parliament. * Information supplied by the Secretariat of the House concerned. † Information compiled from newspaper reports. ‡ Excluding the Presiding Officer.

NOTE: Figures in brackets show the position as reported in the October 1970 issue.

1 Refers to United Independent Parliamentary Group—25 and Unattached—24 (30).

2 Refers to Jana Congress—2; Forward Bloc, Forward Bloc (M), Sampoorana Maharashtra Samiti, Telengana United Front, Indian Socialist Party, Revolutionary Socialist Party and Bangla Congress—1 each; and Independents and Others—24 (25).

3 Refers to Telengana United Front—29, People's Democratic Group—4 and Jana Congress—7.

4 Refers to Telengana United Front—8, National Democratic Front—6 and National Democrats—2.

5 Refers to the Revolutionary Communist Party.

6 Refers to Soshit Dal—6, Hul Jharkhand—7, Janta Party—11 and Lok Tantrik Congress—4.

7 Refers to United Bloc—6 (7), Lok Tantrik Congress and Hul Jharkhand—1 each and Teachers Party—4.

8 Refers to Maharashtra Gomantak (Bandodkar Group—9 and Naik Group—6)—15 and United Goans (Sequiera Group—7 and Lobo Group—5)—12.

9 Refers to Vishal Haryana Party—11 and Opposition Independent—1.

10 Refers to National Conference—3 and National Congress—1 who is not eligible to vote and does not draw salary also.

11 All the 8 nominated members are affiliated to the Congress (R).

12 Refers to Revolutionary Socialist Party—6, Indian Socialist Party—3, Kerala Congress—14 (12), Karshaka Tozhilali Party—2 and Kerala Socialist Party—2.

13 Refers to Lok Sevak Dal—16 and Pragatisheel Vidhayak Dal—4.

14 Refers to Lok Shahi Aghadi [PSP—7, Forward Bloc—1 and Independents—5 (6)]—13 and Sampoorana Maharashtra Samiti (Peasants and Workers Party—21, CPI—8, CPM—2, SSP—6, Independents—2 and Muslim League and Hindu Sabha—1 each)—41 and Shiv Sena—1.

15 Refers to Rashtriya Lok Shahi Aghadi Party [Jana Sangh—6 Congress (O)—3 and Independents—4]—13 and Samajwadi Aghadi Legislature Party (Peasants and Workers and PSP—3 each; and CPI, BKD. and Republican—1 each, and Independents—5)—14

16 Refers to Peoples Party. President's Rule proclaimed and Assembly dissolved on 16.10.69.

17 All the three nominated members are affiliated to the A.P.H.L. Conference.

18 Refers to the Samyukta Vidhayak Dals in the two Houses.

19 Refers to United Front of Nagaland.

20 Refers to Jana Congress—22 and Utakal Congress—23 (22).

21 Refers to 48(49) members belonging to the Sant Group, 7 to the Gurnam Singh Group and 1 to the Shiromani Akali Dal (Panj Kaunli).

22 The nominated member is affiliated to the DMK.

23 Refers to Forward Bloc—7 and Tamil Arasu Kazhagam—1.

24 Refers to United Party—3, Toilers Commonweal Party—1 and Tamil Arasu Kazhagam—1.

25 Includes 8 members of the Congress Legislative Party (Socialist) formation of which has not been confirmed by the Assembly Secretariat.

26 Refers to Muslim Majlis—2, KMP—1 and Unattached—1 (Deputy Speaker).

27 Refers to the Nationalist Party members.

28 Refers to Bangla Congress—33, Forward Bloc—21, Independent Congressmen—5, Socialist Unity Centre—7, Gorkha League and Lok Sewak Sangh—4 each, Progressive Muslim League—3, Revolutionary CPI (Rebels) and Workers' Party—2 each, Revolutionary Socialist Party—12, Forward Bloc (M) and Indian National Democratic Front—1 each.

(FLQ). The extremist Quebec Liberation Front has been outlawed. The police have been authorised to search, seize and make arrests without warrants.

CEYLON

Abolition of Senate

The Ceylonese House of Representatives after a two-day debate on October 27, passed the Government Bill seeking to abolish the Senate. The Bill was passed by 117 votes to 16. The Ceylonese House of representatives thus becomes the first legislature anywhere to try to abolish the Upper House created under the same Constitution. Earlier, the Government withdrew the provision in the Bill seeking to increase the number of appointed members in the Lower House from 6 to 8. The Bill would now go to the Senate wherein the opposition United National Party has a majority of votes.

The Finance Minister, Dr. N.M. Perera, presented the first budget of the United Front Government on October 25. The Budget was adopted by the House of Representatives on November 11 by 116 votes to 8 with 7 abstentions. The budget for 1970-71 provides for a total expenditure of Rs. 420.2 crores, made up of Rs. 282.3 crores on recurrent votes and Rs. 137.9 crores on capital votes. There is an overall deficit of Rs. 144.2 crores in the budget. The deficit during the year 1969-70 according to the revised estimates was Rs. 114.4 crores, with total revenue standing at Rs. 273.3 crores and the expenditure at Rs. 387.7 crores.

CHILE

Election of President

The National Congress on October 24 elected Dr. Salvador Allende, a Marxist member of the Senate as the country's President. Dr. Allende polled 153 votes at the plenary session of the Congress while the Nationalist Party candidate, Mr. Jorge Alessandri got only 25 votes. Of the 200-member Chilean Assembly, 5 members did not take part in voting and 7 ballots were found to be blank. Dr. Allende was formally sworn in as head of the State on November 3.

CONGO

Election of President

In the first direct Presidential Election in the Congo Kinshasa held on November 2, Mr. Josep Mobutu was elected President of the country. Being the only candidate in the election, Mr. Mobutu is understood to have been confirmed President by almost a cent per cent vote in his favour.

JORDAN

Formation of New Cabinet

The Jordanian Government headed by Mr. Ahmed Toukan resigned on October 28. Premier Wasfi Tell

formed a new Cabinet, the third during the past six weeks, on October 30.

PAKISTAN

Elections to National Assembly

Mr. Malik Haji Numatullah Khan Shinwari was declared elected unopposed on November 4 to Pakistan's new National Assembly from the Khyber Agency constituency. The other 9 candidates were reported to have withdrawn their nomination papers in favour of Mr. Shinwari. General elections to the Assembly are scheduled to be held in early December 1970.

SYRIA

Coup d'etat

The Syrian Defence Minister, Mr. Hafez Assad in an apparently bloodless revolution on November 14 seized power and took control of the Arab Marxist State. The leaders of the Syria's extreme leftist regime including President, Nureddin Atassi and former Prime Minister, Youssef Zayyen were reported to have been put under arrest.

TANZANIA

Parliamentary Elections

In the Tanzanian parliamentary elections held on November 2, seven Cabinet Ministers were returned with a substantial majority while 2 of them were defeated at the polls. Of the 7 Ministers, 4 were returned unopposed. The two Ministers, who lost the elections, are Mr. Johnson Wallace Kihampa, Minister for Land, Housing and Urban Development and Mr. Bhoke Munanka, Minister of State in the Second President's office. Mr. Francis Mbonai, another Junior Minister in the Second President's office also lost in the election.

TUNISIA

New Prime Minister

In a message to the nation on November 2, the President of Tunisia was reported to have designated Mr. Hedi Nour as the country's new Prime Minister in place of Mr. Bahi Ladgham. It was, however, not immediately known as to when Mr. Nour would be taking over from Mr. Ladgham.

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Election of New President

Following the demise of President Nasser, Mr. Anwar Sadat was on October 17 formally proclaimed President of the U.A.R. for a period of six years. Mr. Sadat, who had been acting as President since Mr. Nasser's death on September 29, secured 90.4