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How to Start a Party Unit

Only the Swatantra Party stands between Democracy and Dictatorship. To fulfil our destiny we must organise, inspired and provide leadership—in the village and mohalla, in the tehsil and taluk, in the ward, in the district and constituency, in the state and region, and finally in the entire country.

You have a Cause

You are a Crusader

Appointment of a Convenor

The President or General Secretary, or someone authorised on their behalf, such as an Organising Joint Secretary of the Party, a Zonal Organiser, or an office bearer of the State Unit of the Party, will appoint a Convenor for a district. The area allotted to the Convenor may consist of the entire district, or may even be a whole Parliamentary Constituency.

Duties of a Convenor

The Convenor will immediately contact some important and influential people in the district and persuade them to help him and serve on an ad hoc committee. The criteria for choosing these people should be belief in the Party's principles and policies, honesty, a reputation for integrity, and influence within the community or within a profession or trade. But most important of all, the persons chosen must have the time and desire to work for the Cause, even at some sacrifice of time and money to themselves.

Formation of Ad Hoc Committee

It is most desirable, though not absolutely essential, that the membership of the ad hoc committee should be broad-based, area wise, community wise and profession and strata wise.

For example, a good ad hoc committee in a district area might consist of: farmers both big and small, landless labourers, labour leaders,

members of the Panchayat, school teachers, Harijan, Adivasi and minority leaders, doctors, lawyers, shopkeepers, truck drivers, social workers, women and young men who are reasonably well educated. Size of the committee is unimportant, but quality is essential and broad-based representation imperative.

Duties of the Committee

All the members of the Committee shall influence, persuade and enrol workers and members for the Party. The membership drive must be a continuous process and each meeting of the Committee should take stock of matters of current interest and register all new entrants, and evaluate the performance of each member.

Even the members enrolled should be drawn from the largest possible area, covering at least half the district or constituency.

How to form Primary Units

As and when the membership has increased to over a hundred in a particular thesil or Assembly Constituency, the Convenor of the district can form a Primary Unit, with its own Convenor and Primary Unit Committee.

Primary Unit Organization

The same organisational structure will apply to a Primary Unit as applies to a District Unit, except that the Primary Unit will be responsible entirely to the District Unit.

Offices

Wherever possible, all units of the Party—State, District, Primary—will endeavour to open offices and sub-offices at convenient locations. Offices should be functional and not merely ornamental—at these offices, records must be kept, literature stored, meetings held and activities planned. All offices should be arranged for by the members themselves, and should be manned by volunteers, with the help of a peon at most. Members should as far as possible assemble daily at the party office, ensuring that the office remains open for long hours of the day. Offices must be run out of local collections.

Duration of Ad Hoc Committees

The ad hoc committees will give way to duly constituted committees as and when the Party organises elections, at which time all members on the official register with their membership dues fully paid up will be entitled to vote and will elect: a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries, a Treasurer and a Joint Treasurer, plus eleven members. 25 per cent of the membership of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. Any

meeting called by proper notice of time and place and with an agenda issued in time which if it has to be adjourned for lack of quorum, can be called to order half an hour after its adjournment, when no quorum will be necessary, to transact any routine business, but it may not discuss any matters of a substantive nature.

Assigning Duties

At the very first meeting of the Committee specific and general duties must be assigned to all members. A review of the performance of each member in the discharge of his duties should be periodically made at subsequent meetings.

Activities

The activities organised by the Committees will be as under:

(i) Continuous year-round membership drive. Each Primary Unit must enrol a 100 members and each District Unit a 1000 members.

(ii) Constant printing and/or distribution of literature. And flying a party flag from every hut, house or building that is willing to fly our flag.

(iii) Constant year-round collection of funds to finance offices, transport and other activities planned.

(iv) Organising study circles to spread the principles and policies of the Swatantra Party, to equip our workers to persuade others and meet the arguments of our opponents and critics. The Swatantra Party's policies and programmes flow from a superior ideology and can without any difficulty counter all arguments advanced by reactionaries, socialists, Communists or Naxalites, provided of course that our workers are fully conversant with our thoughts and motives. It is this confidence in our ideas which must be inculcated in our workers through study circles.

(v) Creating other fronts for the Party, such as a Farmers' Forum, a student wing, liberal clubs, a women's wing, a labour front, consumer societies, cultural or educational societies and activities, etc.

(vi) In addition to the above, all our members must be instructed to join and take active part in all existing societies and organisations, labour unions, service societies, professional bodies, teachers associations, co-operatives, mandals, mandhs, sanghs and so forth in their areas.

(vii) It is imperative that all members of our Party genuinely believe that our Party stands for helping all just causes and people so that they can improve their lot and ultimately lead a fuller life. Therefore we must associate ourselves and identify ourselves with the problems of the people. If their demands are just, you are bound to find a solution to their problem within the framework of our beliefs, policies and programmes. We must

create this identity of interests with the people. The broad objective is to fight injustice—wherever we see it—economic, political, administrative.

(viii) In furthering the demands and aspirations of the people, we must take the lead in representing their cause, arranging for its publicity and planning their programme or campaign. If it is necessary to organise agitations, we must not shirk our responsibility. It is their cause and not our comfort which we must keep in mind.

(ix) Each Committee must, in addition to the above activities, plan to expand its sphere of influence. If there is no unit in any area, efforts should be made to start one and put it on its feet.

(x) Each Committee must write a monthly report and maintain a comprehensive file on its activities. A copy of the monthly report must be posted to the State Headquarters as well as to the National Headquarters. It is by others' experience that we learn. Information about your activities will also be sent to other units so that they may improve their performance and compete with each other. This will also bridge the communications gap that exists at the moment and give heart to those who are working with you in the same cause by informing them that so many others share their concerns.

Code of Conduct

It is most essential that members of the party practice a code of personal behaviour which will build camaraderie and avoid petty jealousies and groupism. For this reason it is suggested that:

(i) Party members never talk about other members behind their backs. All criticisms, objections and complaints must be openly aired and freely discussed. *Our cause is the same.*

(ii) Each member must consciously try to boost the morale and ego of other members, encouraging them in their work and patting them on the back at every opportunity, offering to help and always accepting the major share of work.

(iii) Every effort should be made to make fast friends within the party, treating the others' family members as one's own and giving the utmost respect to other members and colleagues.

(iv) Every member must maintain a very high standard of integrity and honesty, and should at all times speak the truth. Truth has its own strength, greater than all other weapons.

Conclusion

Finally, let the people say, if they see a good man walking down the street, that he must be a Swatantra Party man. Or alternately, let the people say, if they see a Swatantra Party member walking down the street, that he must be a good man.