



Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan,
Chaupatty Road,
Bombay 7.

October 20, 1959.

1679
My dear Rajaji,

I apologise for not being able to write to you earlier, but for a whole month I was busy with a couple of very heavy cases in the Supreme Court, and whatever little time I had, had to be spared for contacting people in Punjab, U.P., Delhi and Rajasthan. I am sure Sardar Lal Singh must have kept you informed about it.

So far as Delhi is concerned, I think we were able to bring together quite a strong team. It was with some difficulty that I could induce Smt. Sahgal, a relative of Jawaharlal's and a leading Congress worker in the city, and Shri Vasantrao Oke, who had left Jan Sangh some years ago, to take up the general secretaryship between them. Both of them are doing very well and have considerable influence. The three Muslim gentlemen, who joined us at Bombay, are also very active. I have been negotiating with certain members of the Delhi Corporation and they have promised to give me their reply on 26th when I go there.

As I am going often to Delhi, I am keeping in constant touch with it and by the end of November we hope to have membership of about 25 or 30,000. Perhaps in December, if everything goes as expected, we might have a Delhi convention.

Something has happened in Rajasthan, I do not know what, and I have not been keeping in touch with latest developments. I hope to go there on November 14 and 15.

We had contacts with Punjab leaders, some of them very influential. The Patiala Convention, which is opening on October 25 and which I am attending to inaugurate, is likely to be a success. In Punjab, the Congress has been defeated in many cities by independents in the municipal elections.

In U.P. the work is going on very well. Paliwal has set up about 30 candidates in the municipal elections, of course as independents at present. Three or four districts, particularly

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Gonda, have largely gone 'Swatantra'. There is a District convention at Aligarh where I could not go, but Paliwal and Shukla are both going. They are staging it on a very big scale.

Finances will have to be found for U.P., for there is great deal of enthusiasm, but the organisational expenses are not forthcoming locally as they should be. I am meeting Sir Homi Mody today.

Shri Sarangapani met me at Bombay. I have impressed upon him the necessity of having a regular central office at Bangalore with one or two competent paid men who will keep in constant touch with people all over the country. Something requires to be done about the central office as early as possible.

The general impression is very promising. Panditji's and Indira's repeated references to Swatantra Party indicate their fear of the Party, and they indirectly do propaganda work for us by creating an impression that the Party is going strong. May I suggest that in Madras or at the central office the reports of all parts of the country should be regularly collected every week or fortnight and a little summary be issued through the Swarajya and the press.

I am going to Ahmedabad on October 23 and look forward to meeting Bhailalbai. Partly on account of the floods and partly on account of the decision to divide bilingual State, the progress of Gujerat is not as good as was anticipated. I will know more about it on 23rd.

With affectionate regards,

Yours very sincerely,

(K.M. Munshi)

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