

SWATANTRA PARTY

S.Y. Krishnaswamy

106 Armenian St.,
Madras 1,
October 3, 1959.

Dear Sir Homi Modi,

This is in reply to your letter to me dated 23.9.1959 and your letter to Rajaji dated 29.9.1959.

The financial position is as follows:-

We decided that the annual budget for the whole of India will be Rs.1,80,000/- and that out of this Bombay will help to collect Rs.1,00,000/-. This amount is for the first year of working which the Centre will have to give to the Provincial organisations in order to enable them to commence work and organise the party. This cannot be made the basis of an annual recurring budget. From next year onwards we shall have to make it clear to the Provincial organisations that not only should they stand on their own legs but that they should give some contribution to the Centre. They have also said that if we help them now, then, later on, they will be able to look after themselves. But from next year onwards the Centre will have to organise itself very much more strongly than at present and this will entail new expenditure. I am more than ever convinced that the success of the party will depend on the strength and efficiency of the Central Secretariat which will have to concern itself with various matters - i.e. arranging provincial conventions, pamphlets etc.; and by the time we finish this work the elections will be near at hand and then the work will soon become more strenuous. I cannot say at this stage how much we will require next year. We shall have to wait and see.

Out of the budget of Rs.1,80,000/- I have since arranged that Madras and Mysore will be self-sufficient. This will be in reduction of the original budget. Then, both Bombay and West Bengal are expected to be self-sufficient. I expect that Delhi will also look after itself besides giving us some money. I shall know the exact position by the end of this month. So the answer to your question as to how much has been done in other provinces is that so far Madras and Mysore have collected enough money to look after themselves. We have not yet started collecting donations but Rajaji says that he will be starting this work during this month. I shall give you a more detailed and more satisfactory reply to your question by the end of this month.

I fully agree with you about the need for a strong Central Office. As you know, Rajaji has requested Masani to take up the General Secretaryship. I had a discussion with Rajaji yesterday and suggested to him that there must be another secretary more fully representing rural interests. He thought that the Raja of Ramgarh will be a good choice for Joint Secretary. I have been thinking of Basant Singh from the Punjab.

As regards the location of the Central Office, there is no doubt that Bangalore should not continue to be the All India Head Quarters. It was never thought of that way. We suggested Bangalore only as an expedient for the time being. If Masani is the General Secretary and we have another Joint Secretary from Upper India we

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representing rural areas, then it will be better to establish the Head Quarters at Madras. Masani will be constantly on tour. He will have to spend a great deal of his time in Delhi, Bihar and Calcutta. Most of the important decisions have to be taken in consultation with Rajaji. There are many advantages in locating the Head Quarters where he stays and where someone will always be available to help with the work. So Rajaji is of the view that after the office bearers have been appointed, and after Masani returns to India, the Head Quarters may be established at Madras. From my point of view also Madras is convenient as I shall be staying on in Madras permanently. Even now most of the Secretariat work is being done from Madras and so the change will not mean any defacto alteration in the existing arrangements.

You have referred in your letter to the Central Organising Committee and the All India Council ~~and that~~ you would like to know whether this is in accord with what was decided in the meeting at Bombay. Originally it was decided to constitute two committees, one a working body called the Council, and the other a bigger body called the All India Committee. Meanwhile a small committee was constituted for the purpose of forming the various State organisations and of investing them with authority to collect membership subscriptions and of organising district branches. I was made the Convenor of this committee. It is this committee that is doing all the work now and issuing authorisations to the various provincial branches. The first two bodies referred to above have not yet met. Nor is there any object in their meeting just now. It will be sufficient if they meet prior to the All India Convention. As soon as Masani returns to India we shall have to convene a meeting of these three Committees in Bombay - i.e. the Forms and Authorities Committee which I have referred to just above, the Manifesto committee and the Constitution Committee. I hope I have explained the position.

Rajaji was very happy to read the last paragraph of your letter. He was feeling a bit worried about the non-cooperation of certain interests and he has specially told me to write to you to say how happy he was to receive your assurances.

I am very busy in Trivandrum writing a report on Agriculture in Kerala. I expect to finish the report by the end of the month. I am afraid I ~~will~~ ^{shall} be mostly useless for other work till then.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Homi P. Modi,
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Bombay 1.

S. J. Mehta