

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

(LOK SABHA)



Parliament House,

New Delhi

Dated 15th Nov 1965.

To
The Members of the Central Committee
Swatantra Party.

Dear Sirs,

The recent decision of our elders not to accept any invitation from the Govt to join any delegation of the M.P's sponsored to visit foreign Countries came as a great surprise to us. The two reasons given are: 1. That it is an inroad into the domain of our diplomatic personnel, and 2. That it is a waste of foreign Exchange.

It is well-known that our diplomatic Personnel are anything but efficient and have been prone more often to luxury and ease than worried about the efficient discharge of their duties. This has been the standing charge against them on the floor of the Parliament in both the Houses for the last over a dozen years. We are reliably informed that when a Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker visited Manila, our Ambassador met the Speaker in a drunken state.

Every Member of Parliament is a representative of nearly eleven lakhs of people and when abroad is invested with by far greater prestige, dignity and honour than a paid diplomatic personnel could ever dream of in a whole life time. Consequently a visit of the M.P's to other countries in order to project their Nation's view-point and culture, can under no circumstances be deemed by a subordinate Staff which a diplomatic personnel undoubtedly is, or by anybody else, as an unwarranted arrogation of functions.

As for the waste of foreign exchange, we are afraid it should mainly be the headache of the Govt which is acting on its own responsibility. Crores of Rupees worth of foreign exchange are going down the drain in incessant circumambulations of the world by not only the Ministers but also by a whole retinue of subordinate Officials. If by our refusal to form part of the Delegations, this waste of foreign exchange could be averted, there would be some justification for our posture.

There are senior members of our Party who have gone out into the wide world any number of times. There are also members who are endowed with sufficient riches to undertake journeys to foreign lands at any time they choose. To such of them this decision of our Elders does not cause any pinch. But on others not mentioned above, it has a galling effect.

We can assure you that none of our Party has received any invitation to join the delegation except Mr. M. R. Masani. To presume that the Ruling Party is trying to pervert the loyalty of our members behind the back of the Leader or leaders by dangling before them this kind of temptation, is poor understanding of the members who are as strong as granite in their attachment to the Party.

