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February 21, 1964

My dear Deoji,

Thank you very much for your letter. I am obliged to say that the question of the Party's attitude in regard to the pattern of planning adopted by the Government, especially in regard to the Committees that were being formed here at the Centre and also at State level, was discussed in our Parliamentary Board a long time ago and it was decided that we should not cooperate with these Committees because we would not like to commit ourselves either directly or indirectly to the pattern of planning followed by the Government and all that follows from it by way of policy. It was in pursuance of this decision that Mr. Masani at the Centre and some of our friends at the State level were advised, when they were asked to join these committees, not to accept the proffered membership of these committees.

When Mr. Bhagat invited me to take part in informal discussions with him and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and its other members, I thought I would be doing the right thing by declining that invitation in pursuance of the earlier decision, but I find now that I could have done better if I had taken our Executive Committee also into consultation before I decided in that way so that I could have felt further strengthened by the advice of the Executive Committee. I would certainly bear your observations in mind for my guidance in future in regard to such matters.

Regarding your question whether we should adopt the same attitude regarding other Committees and bodies such as Block Committees, Jilla Parishads, etc., I do not think the analogy holds since these are administrative bodies and not expected to take decisions on policy matters which may commit us to positions incompatible with our Party's position regarding Planning.

Yours sincerely,

Shri P.K.Deo, M.P.,
New Delhi.

(M. G. RANGA)