

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra, held on Saturday, the 16th March 1974 at Bombay.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra was held at the Party Office, 143 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay 1 on Saturday, the 16th March 1974 at 4.00 p.m. when the following were present:

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| 1. Mr. Madhu Mehta | - Chairman |
| 2. Mr. Girish Munshi | |
| 3. Mr. F.C. Cama | |
| 4. Mrs. Manorama Dandekar | |
| 5. Mr. M.S. Pirzada | |
| 6. Mr. A. Pimenta | |
| 7. Mr. Dhiraj Shah | |
| 8. Mr. K.B. Pandey | |
| 9. Mr. A.R. Deshpande | |
| 10. Mr. G. S. Dhende | |
| 11. Mr. M.S. Thakkar | |
| 12. Mr. Abdulla Sheriff | |
| 13. Mr. Sadhu Singh | |
| 14. Miss Ishrat Jahan Mussafir | |
| 15. Mr. Indukumar Thakkar | (|
| 16. Mr. K.H. Subramaniam | (invitees. |
| 17. Mr. S. Ramachandran. | (|

Leave of absence to Mr. Babubhai Ginwala and Mr. Pramod Tejookaya was granted.

- At the outset, the members passed the following Resolution on the sad demise of Mrs. Kamal Jagtap, wife of Mr. N.K. Jagtap on 26th February 1974 and observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

" This meeting of the Executive Committee of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra, expresses deep sense of sorrow on the sad demise of Mrs. Kamal Jagtap wife of Mr. N.K. Jagtap on 26th February 1974 at the K.E.M. Hospital after prolonged illness. The members extend full sympathies and convey their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family "

The General Secretary was authorised to send a copy of the Resolution to Mr. Jagtap.

- Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th January 1974 and also those of the special meetings held on 29th January and 9th February were read and confirmed.

Arising out of the minutes, the General Secretary informed the members that he visited Mazagon, Matunga, Andheri Vile Parle and Santa Cruz units during the month of March and that he would shortly be visiting Bandra, Thana, Bhandup, Mahim and Kurla units.

The General Secretary made reference to the steps taken

for collecting signatures on the petition to the Union Finance Minister on slashing of indirect taxes and raising tax exemption limit on personal income. About 14,000 signatures were collected and they were already presented to the Parliament by Mr. Piloo Mody.

With regard to Zilla Parishad elections held in January in Osmanabad, in which two of our Party members contested and lost. The Committee was of the view that no Party workers should be allowed to contest elections as independents.

Mr. Pandey reported that two bags of 'barbada' were brought to Bombay from Osmanabad and samples were shown to the public at Flora Fountain and Churchgate areas. Subsequently, the issue was also raised in the Assembly by the Opposition Parties.

Mr. Indukumar Thakkar enquired of the action taken on the draft Resolution proposed by him at the last meeting about the successful agitation of the farmers against the monopoly procurement of cotton at lower prices by the Government. Office Secretary was asked to check up the matter and take action in consultation with the General Secretary.

2. Establishing contacts with Zopadpatties in various areas came up for discussion at the meeting. Mr. Thakkar said that zopadpatti in Kurla known as Thakkar Bapa colony was an ideal area where we can do some service to the people and bring them in our fold. Mr. Pirzada said that Mahim has probably the largest zopadpatti and he was already doing some useful service to the people there and is trying to organise the people in zopadpatties.

3. Mr. Girish Munshi explained to the members the necessity of our Party's organising a morcha on some of the burning issues and called for the views of the members. The meeting unanimously decided that a morcha should be arranged as early as possible. Mr. Pandey's suggestion that we should launch a campaign that food grains should be made available in the open market, besides at the existing ration shop and other connected issues was accepted. Mr. Pirzada, Mr. Pandey and Mr. Sadhu Singh were requested to work out plans and fix up some date for the morcha immediately.

4. In the absence of the Treasurer, financial position as raised by the General Secretary was discussed. Collection of funds by some cultural functions was considered. Mr. F.C. Cama, Mr. Dhiraj Shah and Mr. K.H. Subramaniam were advised to work out a scheme.

5. The meeting authorised General Secretary to issue a Press release congratulating the people of Gujarat, particularly the youths on having succeeded in obtaining the dissolution of Gujarat Assembly after a heroic and determined struggle. (The statement was later on issued after the meeting but the newspapers did not publish it).

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair at 6.00 p.m.

Chairman

Rachin Mulla