

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the Swatantra Party
Maharashtra held at Bombay on 12th December
1973 at the Party Office.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra, was held at the Party Office, Sassoon Building, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay 1 on Wednesday, the 12th December 1973 at 6.00 p.m. The following members were present:

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| 1. Mr. Girish Munshi | (Chairman) | 1/1 |
| 2. Mr. F. C. Cama | | 1/1 |
| 3. Mr. L.G.Pansare | | " |
| 4. Mr. H.G. Vaishnav | | " |
| 5. Mr. M.S.Pirzada | | " |
| 6. Mr. A. J.Pimenta | | " |
| 7. Mr. K.B.Pandey | | " |
| 8. Mr. Abdulla Sheriff | | " |
| 9. Mr. n. J. Barot | | " |
| 10. Mr. Girish Pathak | | " |
| 11. Miss Isharat Jahan Musafir | | " |
| 12. Mr. Pramod Tejookaya | | " |
| 13. Mr. Shantilal Popat | | |
| 14. Mr. N.K. Jagtap | | |
| 15. Mr. Zahuruddin Shaikh | | |
| 16. Mr. M.S. Thakkar | | |

Mr. Girish Munshi was ~~was~~ proposed to the Chair.

Leave of absence to Mrs. Dandekar, Mrs. Sarla Datar, Mr. Madhu Mehta, Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal and Mr. Dhiraj Shah who had earlier intimated the office of their inability to attend the meeting since they would be and/or out of Bombay on the day of the meeting.

1. Review of Party membership (2) Activising District and Primary Units.

At the outset, the Office Secretary distributed to the members lists of Office Bearers and Committee members of the State Executive, State Council, District Committee, Presidents and Secretaries of Primary units in Maharashtra where elections were recently held.

The Chairman gave figures of the present membership position unitwise.. Total membership in the State was found to be only 2000 which did not speak well. Attention of the members ~~was~~ was drawn to the fact that during the last Party elections, there were 29 units in Bombay area and nine units outside Bombay. However, he said that there was required number of members only in ten units in Bombay where elections were held. Members from other units were requested to enrol members and see that adhoc committees are formed immediately. Members were advised to help increase the membership.

The Chairman added that he was arranging to convene a meeting of the Presidents and Secretaries of all districts and primary units in Bombay area in the next few days. Apart from membership, the Chairman said that members of the Party should be from all parts of the area and not concentrated in a few pockets. He stated that detailed plan of strengthening the Party image will be worked out and presented to the members at the meeting convened shortly. Meanwhile, enrolment of new members should be started in right earnest.

3. Consideration of letters from Mr. S.B.Punjabi and Mr.S.B. Walvekar of Poona.

The Chairman informed the meeting that two members Mr.S.B.Punjabi and Mr.S.B.Walvekar from Poona had lodged complaints with regard to elections in Poona District and Poona City Primary Unit. According to the rules, an Election Tribunal had been appointed by the National Headquarters to enquire into the matter, which the Tribunal would do in the next fortnight or so.

4. Rajaji Fortnight Programme.

The Chairman drew the attention of the members that Rajaji's first death anniversary falls on 25th December and that all State units had been advised by the National Headquarters that the period from 8th to 25th December should be observed as Rajaji Fortnight. Suitable meetings should be arranged at unit and State level. While the units should do so in their respective units, it was decided that there would be a workers' meeting at the State headquarters at Bombay on 22nd December 1973 (Saturday) at 4.00 p.m.

Separate intimation would be sent to all District and Unit Presidents who, in turn, should inform as many members as possible to attend this meeting with a view to pay our homage to our departed Leader.

5. Press Liason

The Chairman felt the need of our having a close and friendly relation with the Press. He said he would work out a suitable scheme by which we would have maximum cooperation and service from the Press.

6 & 7. Students & Labour.

The Chairman briefed the members that he had discussions

with active members who could help us organising students and labour unions. He was of the firm opinion that members like Mr. Pirzada, Abdulla Sheriff, Mr. Jagtap, Mr. Sitaramsingh, and Mr. Gavaskar should take active interest in this respect. For students liason, he said, he had already contacted Shri. T. R. Ramakrishnan of Matunga and report would be made later.

8. Membership screening Committee.

Mr. Cama explained that it has been hitherto the practice to screen each application for membership by a sub-committee appointed for the purpose. In the present arrangement, however, units and districts would enroll members and the State Unit should, for the time being, leave the matter to the units and districts who would screen the enrolment forms.

9. Forthcoming Bombay Central Parliamentary election.

The Chairman informed the members that in the existing circumstances, our Party would not be interested to contest the forthcoming By-election in the Bombay Central District but it would be in the fitness of things to support a suitable candidate, bearing in mind our principles. He said he had been approached on behalf of Mr. Bhole who would contest as an Independent with the support of other democratic parties like RPI and SSP etc. After lengthy discussion, the members authorised the Chairman to arrive at an arrangement to support Mr. Bhole, or otherwise.

10. Any other matters.

a) Since the Treasurer was not present at the meeting, financial matters could not be discussed. The members authorised the Chairman to discuss with the Treasurer, Presidents & Vice-Presidents matters regarding finance separately.

b) A letter received from the Rural Development Department, pertaining to the Zilla Parishad elections at Osmanabad and Parbhani Districts was discussed. The election was fixed towards the end of January 1974. Dr. Y.B. Bhosle from Osmanabad (one of our Joint Secretaries) had also written to us requesting authority to use the symbol "STAR" to contest elections, if some of our members wanted to contest. The meeting authorised the Chairman to consider all aspects of the issue and take suitable action.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the meeting terminated at 7.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

Madhu Nishan
19/1/74.