

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of Swatantra Party, Bombay Region held on Wednesday the 25th November 1970.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of Swatantra Party, Bombay Region, was held at the Party office on Wednesday the 25th November 1970, when the following members were present :

1. Shri Lalchand Hirachand (Chairman)
2. Shri Parmanand Kejriwal
3. Shri R. V. Murthy
4. Shri P. S. Koppiker
5. S. Sarla Dater
6. Shri S. Ramachandran
7. Shri Shashikant Gavaskar
8. Shri Mahmood Omer
9. Shri Hiren Shah
10. Shri J. Venkiteswaran
11. Smt. Sharayu Daftary (by invitation)
12. Shri Nana Chudasama
13. Shri Adi Narain
14. Dr. R. C. Cooper
15. Shri Pramod Tejokaya
16. Shri P. M. Shah (by invitation)
17. Shri Indukumar Thakkar.

Leave of absence was granted to Shri Shantilal Thar and Shri Shafi Thanawala.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th November, which was already circulated were confirmed.

2. Arising out of the minutes, the General Secretary reported :

a) Regarding the National Convention of the Party, in order to review the work of various sub-committees appointed for the purpose, a meeting of the Convention Organising Committee and the Finance Sub-Committee has been called on Saturday the 28th November, 1970, when the progress made by the various sub-committees would be reviewed. He also said that steps would be taken to give full publicity to the Convention programme after the above two meetings. A meeting of the Workers also would be called for distribution of work regarding the National Convention. He also reported that meetings of Bombay South and Bombay Central South Districts were called to discuss ways and means to activate the defunct Units and also to mobilise their support for the National Convention, but for want of quorum they had to be postponed.

Regarding the booking of the halls for the accommodation of delegates and for the convention, the General Secretary reported that the Shanmukhanand Hall and one Ahobila Mut hall have been booked and advances of Rs.3,250/- and Rs.750/- respectively have been paid to the above halls and efforts are being made to book some other halls to accommodate about 500 more delegates. He also reported that a letter has been written to the Under Secretary, Government of Maharashtra for the block booking of MLA's hostel for our MLAs and MPs and the reply from him was awaited. Regarding Dharmashalas, he reported that they could not be had due to the marriage season during that period.

b) Regarding suggestions for the consideration of the National Convention, a circular was being sent to the Units and that they would be forwarded to the Central office. But suggestions for the amendment of the Party's constitutions would be discussed at a special meeting of the Executive and then would be forwarded to the National Headquarters.

c) Regarding the General Secretary's note on Party Organisation, the General Secretary informed that he would discuss with the Vice-President Shri Parmanand Kejriwal and report at the next meeting of the Executive. He also said that he would also discuss with him steps to be taken in regard to the defunct and/or dormant units and report the same at the next meeting. In this connection, the Chairman reported that the Shibir at Mahim was a good shibir but we could not get All India leaders to participate, who on one

excuse or the other could not attend the shibir even though about six week notice was given to them. In this connection the General Secretary reported that the units are prepared to organise meetings in their area provided a) we are able to get good all India leaders 2) that the expenses are borne by the Regional office. Even the subvention receiving units were not prepared to arrange meetings without the Regional office support. This was not appreciated by the members of the Executive and it was felt that the Units should be made to collect funds for organising their programmes. Smt. Daftary wanted that the Regional Executive should give some programmes for the units to work. In this connection, she also said that she attended a meeting of the Bombay North East District Workers held at Brahmansabha Hall, Kurla, which was well attended by 93 workers and good and intelligent questions were put to her and Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal. She suggested that the other units would do likewise to activate the Party. She also said that the Ladies Committee had become active now and at every meeting of the Ladies Wing, over and above the social work, efforts were being made to propagate the principles and policies of the Party as also the work the Party was doing for the public.

Mr. P.M. Shah reported that almost all the units in the District were active and no units except Kurla receiving subvention from the Regional office. So far they have been able to enrol more than 250 workers and periodic meetings of the Committee and workers were being held every fortnight. The General Secretary said that these things are mentioned in the report submitted to the members of the Regional Council at its meetings and also it is being sent to the National Headquarters for reporting in the newsletter. In this connection Mr. Nana Chudasama suggested that all publicity things should be processed through one centre so that all aspects could get good publicity. This discussion passed on to the subject of Government employees strike and the Party's view point as appeared in the newspapers. The General Secretary reported about the contents of his statement and how it was not fully reported in the press.

Shri Pramod Tejookaya said that from the statement appearing in the press one could not know the correct stand of the Party. This was due to incomplete reporting in the Press. However, it was decided that in matters of policies as soon as a statement is issued to the press, copies of such statements should be sent to the President and Secretaries of Primary and District Units with a view to acquaint them with Party's stand. It was also agreed that on controversial issues, an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee or of Office bearers would be called to take a decision. In this connection Mr. R.V. Murthy desired that the Party should educate the public about our Party's stand on strikes on the lines of the Japanese Trade unions where the labour does not demand rise in salary just because the prices have increased.

Regarding the Renovation of the Party office, the Chairman reported that the General Secretary approached him for a sanction of Rs. 3650/- for the renovation of the Office, painting and change of furniture and change of the linolium etc. and it seen that after consideration it has been decided to spend only Rs. 1000/- for a Cabin for Public Assistance Bureau and to paint the office. In this connection, he suggested that in order to see that all amounts utilised on various things were properly spent and also to scrutinise the expenditures, a Sub-Committee be formed. His suggestion was agreed and in this connection, it was decided to appoint the following persons on that sub-Committee:

Shri Parmanand Kejriwal	- Vice-President
Shri P.S. Koppiker	- General Secretary
Smt. Sarla Datar	- Hon. Treasurer

It was also decided that before ordering anything as far as possible quotations must be obtained and order should be made only on the basis of the quotations. However, regarding normal expenditures of the Party, the budget for which has already been passed by the Executive Committee, the General Secretary and the Treasurer would look into the same. Every bill before passing would be vetted by the Treasurer and the General Secretary.

Regarding Item No.9 of the previous minutes, opening an Bank account for Public Assistance Bureau, the General Secretary reported that the same would be opened as soon as some amounts were collected. In this connection, the Chairman placed before the meeting, the letter of Mr. Shantilal Thar wherein he wanted that since the amounts would be collected in the name of the Party, one of the Treasurers should be a signatory for the issue of cheques and the Treasurer should be overall responsible for the accounts. Shri Adi Narain said that he has already discussed this matter with the Chairman of the Public Assistance Bureau, Dr. R.C.Cooper and with his consent only this resolution was passed. But Dr.R.C.Cooper said that at the time of discussing this matter with him, the clear understanding was that the Public Assistance Bureau would collect amounts for its activities and it will not be a burden on the Party. Since many of the expenditures have already been incurred for which sanctions are being sought for payment, it is but natural that the expenses would be paid but the amounts had to be reimbursed as soon as some collections are made. Mr. Adi Narain said that at the present it will not be possible for him to collect anything as he has to collect funds for the Party also at the time of the Convention and till such time, the expenses should be borne by the Party. In this connection, he was asked to prepare a budget of his bureau which would be considered by the sub-committee. It was also felt by most of the members that a separate bank account will create complications and it was agreed that a separate ledger account be maintained by the office and receipts collected by the Bureau shown as receipts of income of the bureau and all expenses would be shown as expenses and the excess in expenditure should be reimbursed by the bureau. This was agreed to.

The amount of expenditure of Rs.1,143/36 scrutinised and submitted by Smt. Sarla Datar, Treasurer, Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal and the General Secretary was ratified and approved. The sub-committee appointed for this purpose was asked to go through the pending bills of Public Assistance Bureau and sanction for payment.

The request of Mr. S.Ramachandran to sanction a sum of Rs.30/- being the monthly rental of his telephone was taken up for discussion. Mr. Ramachandran placed before the meeting the data of the calls that he was making everyday on his telephone for Party work and he wanted that these expenses should be borne by the Party. Some members felt that this was not a good precedent. The Chairman felt that since he was incurring expenses on behalf of the Party and since he cannot afford to spend from his own money, the Party should bear such expenses. Dr. R.C.Cooper wanted that the Party may sanction a sum of Rs.30/- per month for an initial period of six months and during this period, Mr. Ramachandran must give a report of his work which he was doing on the telephone and this would be reviewed after six months and if satisfied the same would be continued. In this connection, Mr. J.Venkiteswaran wanted that the same should be minuted that Mr. Ramachandran would be given a subvention of Rs.30/- per month, being the reimbursement of actual out of pocket expenses incurred by Shri S.Ramachandran. This was agreed.

Regarding item No.4 of the Agenda of General Secretary's Letter No.247 dated 16th November 1970, a note of the General Secretary suggesting that units can be given representation on the basis of membership enrolled was placed before the meeting and the

following quota was allotted to units as mentioned below :

	Worker/ Life Worker/ Life Member	Delegates representation on the basis for every 10 worker/Life member/ Life member.
<u>BOMBAY SOUTH</u>		
Colaba	116	11
Dhobitalao	35	3
Kumbharwada	10	1
Umarkhadi	5	-
Girgaum	29	3
Khetwadi	32	3
	227	20
<u>BOMBAY CENTRAL SOUTH</u>		
Walkeshwar	171	17
Nagpada	17	2
Byculla	35	3
Mazagaon	34	3
Sewree	-	-
Parel	10	1
	267	26
<u>BOMBAY CENTRAL</u>		
Matunga	102	10
Naigaum	22	2
Mahim	30	3
Dadar	15	1
Worli	24	2
Lovegrove	7	-
	200	18
<u>BOMBAY NORTH WEST</u>		
Bandra	113	12
Santacruz	110	11
Vile Parle	26	2
Andheri	35	3
Malad	34	3
Sorivli	36	3
	409	38
<u>Bombay North East</u>		
Kurla	73	7
Ghatkopar	62	6
Chembur	31	3
Mulund	112	11
Thana	36	3
Kalyan	13	1
	327	31

It was further decided that a circular should be sent to the units intimating about the allotment of delegates on the basis of membership with an intimation that if the unit fail to send the list of names by a specific date, the balance in the allotment of delegates would be given to other active units. The General Secretary was asked to issue the circular accordingly. He was also requested to mention that while sending the list adequate representation should be given to youth.

Regarding General Secretary letter No.243, which as already circulated about the decision of the Central Parliamentary Board on grand alliance, Dr. Cooper, General Secretary of National Headquarters who was also present explained the implications of the decision and he requested the Chairman to send a list of names of persons who would be recommended from Bombay for contesting the Lok Sabha seat. The Chairman said that he would shortly nominate the persons on the Parliamentary board and would send the list soon.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

CHAIRMAN.