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Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Swatantra Party, Bombay Region, on Monday, the 13th November 1972 at 6.30 P.m.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Swatantra Party, Bombay Region, was held on Monday, the 13th November 1972 at 6.30 p.m. at the Party Office when the following members were present:

1. Mr. Shantilal L. Thar (Chairman)
2. Mr. J. Venkiteswaran
3. Mr. Dhiraj Shah
4. Mr. N. K. Jagtap
5. Mr. Pramod Tejokaya
6. Mr. D. R. Nagda (By invitation)

In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, Shri Venkiteswaran proposed Mr. Shantilal Thar to the Chair which was seconded by Shri Dhiraj Shah.

The Office secretary stated that the meeting convened on 16th August 1972 was postponed for want of quorum and that no meeting was convened in September, since two Regional Council meetings were held in that month.

The Committee expressed disappointment at the meagre attendance at the meeting. It was pointed out that there are some members who have not attended any meeting so far. The Chairman suggested that on return of the President, Shri Madhu Mehta, he should address personal letters to such members to take matters seriously and attend meetings of the Party regularly.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 1972 were read and confirmed.

FINANCE.

Arising out of the minutes, the Chairman said that it had been decided in the past that the President, Vice-President (Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal) and himself should contact some individuals and concerns but they could not jointly meet and hence no progress was made in that direction. The Chairman observed that financial position of the Party is in a precarious state.

MEMBERSHIP :

On a reference to the previous minutes, when it was decided that membership drive should be strengthened, the Committee after discussion, came to the conclusion that it was difficult to enlist new members for the reason that

the Party has not been able to project its image in the eyes of the people. The Party has also been unable to focus the attention of the people to resist the Government policy in not arresting the rise in prices, which is mounting up without any prospects of its being halted. The Committee was, therefore, of the firm opinion that some sort of movement and/or agitation should be launched in this direction.

ORGANISING TAXIMEN.

The matter of organising taximen was discussed at length. The Chairman mentioned that the taximen have a genuine grievance, as a result of the high cost of maintenance, spare parts, fuel etc. In this connection, Shri.Jagtap felt that it was necessary to think of larger number of people rather than a section, of them. He mentioned that importance was not been given by the Party to trade union movement. The Chairman suggested that this issue should be considered jointly by Shri.Madhu Mehta, Shri.Jagtap and Shri.M.H.Musafir.

INCREASE IN ST FARES.

Referring to the recent increase in fares introduced by the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation, it was suggested that we should contact Mr.M.R.Pai who has studied this problem and worked out certain details by which rise in the ST fares was found unjustifiable. Having done this, the Party should chalk out a programme to oppose the rise in fares including legal action, if possible.

The Office Secretary informed the members that at district levels, some agitation was already going on by different political parties and even our Party was doing its bit. The Bombay Region did not do anything so far, as the ST fare did not directly affect the people in the City as such.

INCREASE IN WATER TAX.

Shri.Dhiraj Shah drew the attention of the members to the proposed recent increase in water tax by the Municipal Corporation to the extent of 40%. During the early part of this year, an increase of about 33% was effected by the Municipality. Apart from the fact that there is already acute shortage of water, such a fantastic rise of 73% in the water tax in almost one year's time is unjustifiable. The Committee was of the opinion that the Corporation should be prevailed upon to float loan rather than burden the public.

PASSENGER TAX OF B.E.S.T.

A reference was made to Passenger Tax proposed by the Government on B.E.S.T. which eventually would be passed on to the commuters. It was decided that a clarification be sought from the General Manager of the BEST Undertaking in respect of the Passenger Tax.

RAJAJI'S BIRTHDAY.

The Committee discussed various proposals relating to suitably celebrating Rajaji's 94th Birthday which falls on 8th December. It was decided that the ^{same} celebration should be celebrated in a manner to remind the workers of the Party to follow the principles laid down by Rajaji. In the absence of Shri. Madhu Mehta, President and since the Chairman himself may be away from India, the matter should be decided in consultation with the Vice-President, Shri. Parmanand Kejriwal.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Since various issues relating to the forthcoming Municipal Elections were to be considered, the Chairman suggested that a special meeting for this purpose should be convened without delay.

STAFF ADVANCE.

The Office Secretary referred to an advance of Rs. 200/- given to office boy, Vijay towards his educational expenses. This amount was to be recovered from him after he gets it from Adult Education Institute for which Shri. Madhu Mehta was making efforts. The Chairman directed the Office Secretary to draw the attention of Shri. Madhu Mehta on his return from abroad and get the amount reimbursed.

RESIGNATIONS.

The resignation letters from (1) Smt. Sarla Datar, Jt. Treasurer; (2) Shri. K. H. Subramaniam, Jt. Secretary and (3) Shri. R. V. Murthy, member of the Executive Committee were considered. The Committee decided to accept all these three resignations with regret. The following three Resolutions were then passed unanimously:

1. "The Executive Committee of the Bombay Region of the Swatantra Party, accepts with regret the resignation of Smt. Sarla Datar as Jt. Treasurer of the Region due to her inability to spare time to do justice to her assignment. The Committee places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by her during the tenure of her office and hopes that she will continue to take interest in the Party as hitherto".
2. "The Executive Committee of the Bombay Region of the Swatantra Party accepts with regret the resignation of Shri. K. H. Subramaniam, as Jt. Secretary of the Region and places on record its appreciation of the valuable work done by him during the period he was the Jt. Secretary. The Committee hopes he will continue to take interest in the Party as hitherto".

3. "The Executive Committee of the Bombay Region of the Swatantra Party accepts with regret the resignation of Shri.R.V.Murthy, as a member of the Executive Committee of the Region for want of time due to preoccupation. The Committee places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him as an office bearer of the Party in the past, as well as a member of the Executive Committee. Shri.Murthy has done useful work for the Party for many years. The Committee hopes that he will continue to take the same interest in the Party as hitherto".

The General Secretary was authorised to forward the respective resolutions passed to each of these three members.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN.

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