

2608

7th June 1975

My dear Srikumarji:

I have received your letter of 26th April only on my return from Matheran on 3rd June.

I had informed you earlier that I would be out of Bombay from 11th May for about a month. During the first few days of my departure for Matheran, Mr. Narayan used to collect the mail from my residence until he requested you not to send letters to my residence till about the 10th of this month and hence during the last ten days or so, he did not call at my residence. It is unfortunate that this important letter was not received here in time.

So far as the affidavit of Mr. Ganesan of the Election Commission is concerned, you are in full possession of the facts relating to our Party and its affairs and I am quite sure that our Advocate, Shri. Raghavachariar must have already dealt with the allegations in the affidavit. To me it appears that the points stressed by Shri. Raghavachariar viz: my letter as the General Secretary of the All-India Swatantra Party having been received by the Election Commission before it passed the order on 3rd January 1975, should have been sufficient to put the Election Commission on notice that we were the people who challenge the dissolution of the Party and consequently the notice was necessary to be posted to us. Save and except the above point, it is difficult to suggest now a detailed paragraphwise reply not only because a lot of time has elapsed since your letter of 26th April was posted to me but you must have already prepared a suitable reply before this. I am sorry that your letter, under reference, remained unreplyed for reasons stated above. Kindly let me know the position.

I have received the copies of the General Secretary's circular of May 1, 1975 and the minutes of the last Executive Meeting held on 9th April at Madras which I am keeping on record. I believe you must have sent sent copies of the General Secretary's Circular to all our sympathisers, besides Mr. Bhargava, Miss Kusumbai Joshi etc. It is surprising that Mr. M. R. Arva has joined the BLD. I hope you have received the copy of Mr. Raju's letter to him.

I have also seen the copy of your letter to Shri. H. N. Bahuguna and copies of letters you have sent to Shri. Pathak of Moradabad.

I hope you must have got the copy of letter Mr. Narayan has sent to Mr. Vijaypal Singh which he had done in consultation with Parmanandji Kejriwal. My feeling is that UP unit is likely to ask for a lot of funds from time to time which we are not in a position to provide. They should be discouraged.

Meantime, I earnestly feel that we should start negotiations with the parties for eventually coming together as outlined in the

G.S.Circular letter.

We should enter into dialogue with Shri.Kamraj of Cong(O) and Shri.Vajpayee and other friends in the Jana Sangh, as also with the other groups. The sooner we do this, the better for all of us. Mr.Kejriwal has a lot of friends both the Cong(O) and the Jana Sangh. I shall talk to him. I shall also urge upon Shri.Masani to take a lead in the matter, after Mr.Raju's return from Mahableshwar by about 10th of this month. I am afraid we cannot afford to move in the matter at snail's pace as we have been doing hitherto.

I am worried that we have not yet given serious thought to the forthcoming general elections for which quite a lot of funds would be necessary. I would urge upon you to get in touch with Shri.Sundaram because without him and Shri. Parmanand Kejriwal, collection may well-nigh be impossible by other members of the Party.

I understand from some of my intimate friends who get news from Gujarat that Cong(O) along with the Janata Front are likely to get about 60 seats while KMLP might get 40/45 seats. Obviously Shri.Chimanbhai Patel will insist on some position and he will be the balancing factor. I will not be surprised if he demands he should be made the Chief Minister. I am told that he commands good support from Patidars and farmers notwithstanding his ouster from the previous ministry. It will be ironical if the Janata Front seeks his support to form the ministry against the ruling congress.

Please let me know if you have any news from Orissa, Rajasthan and UP.

Do you think we can make our own minimum programme to be placed before the people before the next elections I have started collecting various programmes of other parties and shall look into them as soon as possible. After this is done, we will have to meet together with other office-bearers before we enter into a meaningful dialogue with the other parties.

Kindly let me have your reactions at your earliest.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Girish Munshi.

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