

26 K

20th May 1975.

L/9/72 Tilak Nagar
Chembur, Bombay 89

My dear Srikumar,

This has reference to your letter of 10th May to Mr. Girish Munshi.

We can take no exception to the resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Swatantra Party which met at Tirunelveli on May 1, 1975 as it is an indication of our earlier stand. It is also not surprising that Piloo Mody whose opportunism knows no bounds should now plead for Federal Party and clash with Charan Singh and his group. Actually the clash is not merely on this issue but I understand that steady *ignoring* of those from our Party who foolishly joined the BLD is among the major causes. As for the antics of Santosham and clowning of Rajagopal, what else can anyone expect?

The plaint which we would like to file in Delhi is urgent and I would appreciate your expediting the matter.

Last week, two gentlemen from UP met me. One is Mr. Navin Kumar Wal from Lucknow whom I always consider to be a sidekick of HK Srivastava and the other is Mr. Prem Narayan Saxena of Shahjahanpur. Both claim to have come to Bombay all the way from UP to meet us with twin objectives. Mr. Prem Narayan was angry with the assumption of office by Mr. Bharati as the General Secretary of the UP State Unit in view of his past record which includes, according to him, police strictures and dishonesty with money transactions. Mr. Wal wanted to revive the party in UP and said that it would not be possible for them to do so, if we are to carry on with the recent set up. He tried to dangle before me a lollipop - his possession of several lists of our members and 500 flags. As far as Mr. Wal was concerned, I wanted a guarantee that he had not been put up by Mr. Piloo Mody and disturb whatever little was going on in UP. According to him, (he voted for the dissolution of the party in Delhi), he was unhappy that the BLD is taking a socialist turn. I asked both these gentlemen to send us whatever lists of members they have so that we could get in touch with those members directly and ascertain the degree to which our rank and file is still interested in our Party and that on the basis of their replies, we would take appropriate steps. I declined to authorise Mr. Wal either to enrol members or give him some kind of position on the ground that I wanted proof about his bonafide.

I enclose a copy of letter dated 6th May which I received from Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao of Guntur which speaks for itself.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Mr. V. S. Srikumar
Jt. Secretary, Swatantra Party, National Headquarters
Madras 84

S. V. Raju

cc. Mr. Sundaram, President



SWATANTRA PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

~~26, HALLS ROAD, EGMORE, MADRAS-600 008~~

10-A, Flowers Road,
Madras.84,
10th May 1975.

Dear Sri Munshiji,

Kindly refer your letter dated 29th April and the short reply thereto dated 3-5-75.

It is really shocking to learn that a phonogram given here on on the 19th was conveyed to you only on the 25th. Similarly letters written here on the 19th were delivered at Bombay only on the 25th. I do not know what to do with the postal and telegraphic ~~depart~~ department for behaving in such irresponsible and lazy manner.

I am happy to learn that all of you approve of federal structure and we should do what we can to convey our considered opinion to the parties like Congress(0), Jan Sangh and the Socialists. I am happy to inform you that the Executive committee of the Tamilnad Swatantra party which met at Tirunelveli on the 1st May 1975 adopted the following resolution unanimously approving of the idea of our party joining a federal type of organisation of democratic opposition parties opposed to the Congress and the Communists:

"The meeting notes with great satisfaction that some of the political parties like Congress(0), Jan Sangh and the Socialists have now come ~~firmly~~ round to the view advocated by the Swatantra party as early as 1974 that under the existing circumstances the only pragmatic approach to provide an alternative to the Ruling parties will be the formation of a federal organisation of democratic opposition parties opposed to the communists and the Ruling parties and their functioning as a single party inside the legislatures and contesting the elections with a common minimum programme.

The meeting strongly recommends to the National General Council to welcome the acceptance of the suggestion by the Congress(0), Jan Sangh and other parties and take immediate steps to contact them and arrive at a mutually acceptable common minimum programme."

p.t.o.

I am also happy that our Vice President, Sri Paramanand Kejriwal has already taken up the matter with Sri Madhu Limaye, Convenor of the Committee charged with the task of framing the minimum programme and that he is in contact with Sri S.N. Misra of the Congress(0).

Regarding BLD there is in-fighting not only in Delhi unit but according to newspapers the National Executive of the BLD is also divided. According to information available Mr. Piloo Mody now stands for federal structure and Sri Charan Singh and his group stand for total merger, Sri Raj Narain and his group are reported to be working against Mr. Piloo Mody and that Sri Charan Singh himself is not showing due consideration to Sri Mody for the last few months. Tamilnad unit is almost split and its treasurer, Sri C.T. Rajagopal, has issued statements to the Press denouncing the local leadership and threatening to start a new party. I understand that he is making the necessary preparations to announce the formation of a new party in the near future.

You might have seen an interesting news in some of the newspapers that Dr. Santosham met Sri J.P. Narayan and requested him to use his good offices to make the Swatantra party of Tamilnad unite with BLD. This will clearly show the weakness of the BLD and also that they will not hesitate to do anything to weaken the Swatantra party also if they can.

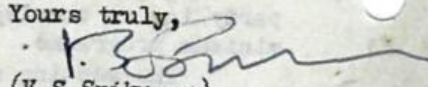
I have arranged to take copies of your General Secretary's Circular letter and some copies will be sent to you for circulation as well as for file. The plaint prepared by you is now with Sri Raghava Chariar, who has promised to go through the same and give his considered opinion.

Incidentally I also want to report that I tried to hold a meeting of the legislators belonging to the Swatantra party to get their approval for a federal set up. I also tried to take their individual reactions privately. I have received replies only from three enthusiastically approving the federal idea. I am sending reminders to the remaining 4 and hope to obtain their replies early.

Kindly show this letter to our Vice-President, Sri Paramanand Kejriwal and Sri S.V. Raju and oblige.

Thanking you and with my kind regards,

Yours truly,


(V.S. Srikumar)
Jt. Secretary.

c.c: Mr. G.K. Sundaram, President, All India Swatantra Party.

Guntur
6. 5. 75

My Dear Raja,

Excuse me I could not write you early. Your letter was received when I was not at home. My daughter showed me the letter when I was going out on some urgent work. I asked her to keep the letter, after reading it. She has placed it some where and could not trace it. Though I knew the contents your home address is there in the letter which even now we could not trace. The second reason is I had to work seriously along with some friends here to collect donations for the visit of Sri Jayaprakash on the 4th to Vijayawada and collect a few thousands in and around Guntur.

Sri J.P.'s visit to Vijayawada is a good success. The public meeting attended by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of people was disturbed by rain and gale but people stood under rain and heard him. He was in good spirits.

As regards reviving Swatantra
in these districts it is not only an uphill
task for anybody but people will not receive
the idea and respond to it since all those
in the Swatantra other than the followers
(a few individuals left over) of Prof Ranga
joined the B.L.D. Mr. Sivaiah & Sri Kri-
shnamma Chowdary joined Congress.

I did not join any party and am now
working for developing the Training
Centre at Percheela with a local
Committee which was formed here about
two months back. I want to see that an
institution is built up for this Training Centre.

Since I don't have your clear address I
am sending this letter mentioning Tilaknagar
& Chenchu as the address. Hope this will reach
you. Hope you Mrs and Sons are doing well.
Kindly convey my blessings & good wishes
to them. With hearty regards to Shri Hasani
and your good-Self

Yours Sincerely
S. Harasani

Guntur
6.5.75

My dear Raju

Excuse me I could not write you early. Your letter was received when I was not at home. My daughter showed me the letter when I was going out on some urgent work. I asked her to keep the letter after reading it. She has placed it somewhere and could not trace it. Though I knew the contents you have, address is there in the letter which even now we could not trace. The second reason is I had to work seriously along with some friends here to collect donations for the visit of Shri. Jayaprakash Narayan on the 4th to Vijayawada and collect a few thousands in an around Guntur. Shri. JP's visit to Vijayawada is a good success. The public meeting attended by 1-1/2 lakhs of people was disturbed by rain and gale but people stood under rain and heard him. He was in good spirits.

As regards reviving Swatantra in these districts , it is not only an uphill task for anybody but people will not receive the idea and respond to it since all those in the Swatantra other than the followers (a few individuals left over) of P rof. Ranga joined the BLD. Mr. Sivaiah and Sri. Krishnarama Chowdhary joined congress. I did not join any party and am now working for developing the Training centre of Panchsheela with a local committee which was formed here about two months back. I want to see that an institution is built up for this training centre.

Since I dont have your clear address I am sending this letter mentioning Tilaknagar Chembur as the address. Hope this will reach you. Hope you and Mrs. and sons are doing well. Kindly convey my blessings and goodwishes to them.

With hearty regards to Shri. Masani and to your goodself.

Yours sincerely,
sd. G. Hanumantha Rao.