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L/9/72 Tilak Nagar
Chembur, Bombay 89

May 20, 1975.

My dear Srikumar,

Please refer to your letter of May 12, 1975 to Mr. Girish Munshi regarding Gujarat.

I was in Ahmedabad with Mr. Masani earlier this month. We met Prof. K.D. Desai who had been advising Morarji Desai and others with regard to various aspects of the forthcoming elections. His own view is that neither the Janata group nor the Ruling Congress will get an overwhelming majority and it is Chimanlal Patel's Party that will hold the balance. In any event, he feels that the Assembly will not last beyond six months.

The manifesto and the policies of Chimanlal Patel's party (KMLP) come nearest to our policies. It is not surprising, therefore, that more Swatantra members have joined that Party. The BLD has a few pockets but as in Maharashtra, so in Gujarat, nobody takes it seriously except Piloo Mody.

There are no very familiar Swatantra names in the 11 BLD candidates, as much there are in Cong(0) and KMLP lists.

I personally feel that it is going to be extremely difficult to revive the party in Gujarat, unless we are able to influence some of our members who are now in KMLP and Cong(0) to come back to us.

In any event, we shall have to wait till the elections after which we get an idea of the shape of the Assembly.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

S. V. Raju

Shri. V. S. Srikumar
Swatantra Party, National Headquarters
Madras 84.

cc: Mr. Sundaram, President.

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