

M.R.MASANI,

2, Tughlak Road,
New Delhi,
19th November, 1968.

2634

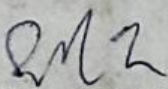
My dear Maharaja Sahib,

I had mentioned to you in Bombay the feeling in the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association that very little progress was being made with the implementation of the Orissa Government's proposed policies and decisions.

In that connection I forward herewith a letter I have received from Mr. S.K. Ganguli, Honorary Secretary of the Calcutta Branch of the I.R.T.D.A., and also some points prepared by them for your consideration.

I shall be glad if you find it possible to see that action is expedited by the local officials who do not seem to be responding to Governmental directive with the enthusiasm that should be expected of them.

Yours sincerely,


(M.R.MASANI)

H.H. Maharaja Shri R.N. Singh Deo,
Chief Minister, Orissa,
Chief Minister's House,
Bhubneshwar.
(Orissa)

Enc: As above.

S. K. Ganguli. M.A

Tel. 57-3249

C/74, Bangur Avenue
Calcutta-55

Dated 18-10-1968.

Respected Shri Masani,

Since I had the opportunity of meeting you at Bhubaneswar in April last, we have been able to strengthen I.R.T.D.A. set up at **Cuttack**, so that follow up action could be more effectively undertaken on spot.

Despite my preoccupation I have been to Cuttack/ Bhubaneswar thrice over - the last visit being on 15/16th inst. I must confess, that in spite of my best efforts, I have not been able to see the Maharaja Bahadur during any of the visits, though the Transport Minister, Mr.D.Naik was contacted once. In one of the visits, even after ascertaining from the Private Secretary, Mr.Ramachandran over Trunk Call from Calcutta, I had to miss the Maharajah as he had to move out on urgent work outside the State.

On the 16th inst. I spent four hours at Bhubaneswar Secretariat and Chief Ministers residence contacting Mr.Ramachandran and Mr.Jugal Misra (Chief Minister's Private Secretaries) to obtain an interview with Maharaja Bahadur to apprise him first hand, about the developments on the Transport Front, but had to return to Calcutta disappointed, as the meeting could not be arranged by the Private Secretaries.

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S. K. Ganguli, M.A

Tel. 57-8249

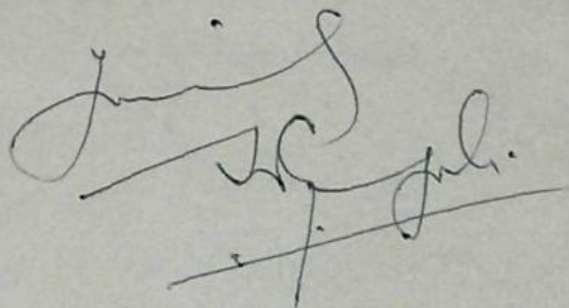
C/74, Bangur Avenue
Calcutta-55

In the above context you will appreciate, it has become impossible for us to achieve anything on the transport issues, though we feel that conditions otherwise are congenial.

I wonder if you could guide us, how best to organise interviews with the Chief Minister when everybody feels that effective action is possible only at Maharaja Bahadur's level.

Looking forward to meeting you at Bombay early in November, when I expect to be there, in connection with the Indian Roads Congress Session.

Thanking you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. K. Ganguli', with a horizontal line drawn across the bottom of the signature.

Points for kind consideration of the Chief Minister
regarding overall development of Transport in Orissa.

While the memorandum from I.R.T.D.A. regarding denationalisation (rather ~~nationalisation~~) of the Passenger Transport Service in Orissa, was considered sympathetically by the Chief Minister earlier, the practical steps for implementation of the feasible steps still remain long way off.

The present Director of State Transport Services happens to be an Officer of the Police Cadre, who had no background of Transport as such. In view of the original declaration by the Government about "exclusively nationalised" routes, the "partial exclusion" of the routes is essential legally, before Private operators can be allowed to ply. Unfortunately, the State Transport - particularly when its Director - the Head of the Department has little or no background of transport - is proving to be a "Frankenstein", and so long as "Partial Exclusion" is not voluntarily agreed and declared by the State Transport, it will be an uphill task, even for the Government to implement "Denationalisation".

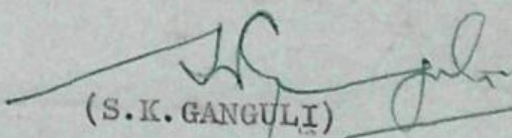
While on this, I.R.T.D.A. is keen that after partial denationalisation, the State Transport should be able to operate economically, the routes they choose to be left with. It is our apprehension that with the existing set of personnel, this is unlikely. Public naturally wonder why (if a Police Officer has to be used for this purpose) a Senior Police Officer of Cuttack - who had wide experiences in handling Police Transport all over the State earlier - is not being utilised for the general improvement of the State Transport Services. Likewise it would be necessary, when the policy of denationalisation is to be implemented, that the present set of personnel in the hierarchy of S.T.A., is replaced by people with drive and vigour, unless the

present rut is to continue. It is an admitted fact that the opposition in the Legislature, knowing fully well, the capabilities of the existing transport personnel of the Nationalised Sector, have started their subtle tactics of demanding continuance of Nationalised Routes, so that their political objectives of maligning and belittling the present the Ministry, in the estimation of the public is achieved.

However, it may be pertinent to point out that in view of the lethargic policy of the Government, there is a general feeling that Swatantra Party can only soft-pedal basic needs and implementation of any of their declared intentions, are unlikely. Comments in the local and Calcutta newspapers, generally outline the frustration of the public and their periodic outburst.

It is gathered that on the Transport Front, recommendations of the Department, regarding implementation of the avowed State Policy, is pending before the Cabinet for quite sometime. Could the cabinet decision regarding denationalisation be expedited, so that apart from Local intra-State services, the development of long distance Inter-State Passenger Routes, are put on the proper track, in the ultimate interest of the travelling public - particularly against a background when both West Bengal and Bihar are keen to co-operate?

Should not the Cabinet take courage to implement, at least on one front, a decision they are committed to, to encourage free private enterprise?


(S.K. GANGULI)
Honorary Secretary,
I.R.T.D.A.
Calcutta Branch.