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7th May, 1962.

My Dear Ranga:

I have just come back to Bombay after spending some days in Delhi.

While I was there, I spent a considerable amount of time in helping certain members of our Party in the Lok Sabha to prepare their speeches on the occasion of the budget debates and the non-official resolution. As a result Mr. P.K. Ghosh made quite a nice speech last Friday. Unfortunately, he read out parts of his speech and was pulled up by the Chairman. However, Mr. Reddy came to his rescue. On the budget, we have three speakers, Maharani Gayatri Devi, Sardar Buta Singh and Mr. N. Mahida, who have divided the subject among themselves.

While I was there, I also had a meeting with the office bearers and members in both Houses. No progress has been made yet with the functioning of the office. They are in a happy position in regard to premises since free-furnished quarters with a telephone have been made available to them at 40, Canning Lane. A messenger has already been employed, but no general assistant or stenographer has been appointed yet. A budget for the office was approved amounting to Rs.1,000/- a month. The general assistant's salary was fixed between Rs.400/- and Rs.500/- and that of a stenographer between Rs.250/- and Rs.300/-. They have also promised to get a stenographer immediately. Meanwhile, I have left Wahab Azad of the Central Office for another week to assist them in getting the office going.

I have warned the members that both Sir Homi Modi and Mr. K.M. Munshi, with whom I discussed the matter a few days earlier, felt that until the Parliamentary group gets its office going there was no point in setting up a Research Bureau in Delhi in the near future. It was therefore necessary that they should contribute Rs.40/- per month and get their own office going first. As soon as the Parliament office gets going, we shall commence recruitment of staff for the Research Bureau.

At one point, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, Mr. Mahida and Mr. Reddy felt that the Office should be in their respective quarters but others like Maharani Gayatri Devi did not approve of this idea since it would not be possible for them to visit the office and preferred 40, Canning Lane, since nobody stays on the premises.

I hope you will ask for the minutes of the meeting when I was present and persuade them to push forward with the recruitment of a stenographer without whom nothing can happen. Unfortunately, the man you had sent from Andhra was found not to be a shorthand man at all.

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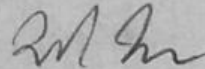
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I have informed Seth Govind Das that you would represent all of us at the farewell to the President and I have already sent my personal contribution of Rs.101/-.

I shall be in Delhi from the 14th to the 17th. Thereafter, I will not be able to visit Delhi for the rest of this Session of Parliament.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(M. R. Masani)

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