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19th April, 1962

Dear Mr. Mahida,

* I have this morning sent you an express telegram, copy attached, which speaks for itself.

I shall be glad to know from you what you decide in regard to the Deputy Speaker's election. I thought I would make it clear to you that the Parliamentary Board, while it did commit the Party to making the election of the President, Vice-President and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha unanimous, took no decision whatsoever regarding the election of the Deputy Leaders of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, thus leaving it free for the Swatantra Party group in each House to take a decision in the matter. While all the other Opposition Parties decide to support a senior member like Mr. Jaipal Singh for election as the Deputy Leader of the Lok Sabha, it will be most imprudent for us to get out of step for no reason whatsoever. I hope that members of our Party in the Lok Sabha will join the Opposition in voting for Mr. Jaipal Singh.

While I am quite clear in my own mind that this would be the right thing for us to do, I must however confess that this is only my personal reaction and the final decision must be taken by you and your colleagues in the House.

I shall be grateful if you will kindly show my letter and telegram to Mr. Dahyabhai Patel also in case a similar misunderstanding should arise in the Upper House.

I await your telegram in regard to the time of the meeting you may fix for discussion of the Budget on 2nd May on the eve of the General Budget that discussion starts on 3rd May. I shall determine my flight on receipt of your telegram so as to be in time for the meeting that you fix. I regret it is not possible for me to come earlier than the 2nd. I may however drop you a line to give you my tentative ideas earlier if I should have developed any by then.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Narendra Singh Mahida, M.P.,
129 Constitution House,
Curzon Road,
New Delhi 1.

(M. R. MASANI)

c.c. Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, M.P.,
Western Court,
New Delhi.