

Dr. M.S. Aney,
M. P.

2820

P. No. 3323.
Bobade's Banglow
Civil Line,
NAGPUR.

Date 17.3.62

Dear Revered Rajaji,

I read the letter brought to me by Mr. S.V. Raju the Executive Secretary in the Bombay Central office this morning. I regret that it is not possible for me to arrange the convention of the successful and unsuccessful candidates of the Swantra party at Nagpur which you propose to hold on April 7 and 8. The people here are not generally enthusiastic about the Swantra party though many of them have undoubtedly very great respect for you personally. I have told the friend who came from Bombay to convey to you my reply immediately as it is necessary for you to fix some other venue for the convention and entrust your friends there with the responsibility for making necessary arrangements for the members who will be coming from different parts of the country to attend it for their lodging, boarding and collective deliberations also.

In your reply to my last letter you have asked me to inform the Speaker of the Lok Sabha that I have to join the Swantra Party in the new Parliament which is to begin on the 17th of Feb. 1962. Kindly excuse me for not giving effect to that suggestion yet. My reasons are that I want to have clarification from you as the founder and leader of the Swantra Party on the following points, before sending any intimation to the Speaker regarding my joining that party in the New Parliament.

You are aware that I have stood this time as a candidate on the ticket of Nagvidarbha Andolan Samiti. Every candidate of that group is pledged to his utmost for the provisions of the aims and objects of that body. The first and foremost object of that body is to demand the formation of the Vidarbha state as an autonomous unit of the Indian Federation and to persist in carrying on an agitation till that object is achieved. Raja Lal Shamshah and myself are the two members returned to the Lok Sabha on that ticket by the voters. Similarly about 7 members

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are returned to the Vidhan Sabha of Bombay also. I am anxious to ascertain from you whether the Swantra Party will give its support to the demand for the formation of Vidarbha state and include it in the party programme of the party to be carried out in the legislature by the party. I remember to have read in the papers that you have given your support to the demand of the Akalis for the formation of Punjabi Subha. I am not sure about my information. But I will be failing in my duty if I don't give you a very clear idea of what is in my mind and that of many friends and coworkers in Vidarbha in thinking of joining the Swantra Party. Nag Vidarbha Andolan expects that my joining the Swantra party in Lok Sabha will mean getting the support of one of the important All India Political party. *to their objection*

The Nagvidarbha Andolan will not be satisfied by an assurance that the party will permit individual members to not only to hold that opinion but to take all legitimate steps for its promotion. I shall feel gratified if you as the leader of the party give a categorical assurance that the Swantra Party regards the claim of the Nagvidarbha Andolan Samiti not only as legitimate and proper but that it is prepared to support the efforts that may be made by the NVA Samiti in this behalf for achieving its goal.

The second point is one which relates to the attitude of the Swantra party towards Dravid Munnetra Mazagam. The demand of the formation of a sovereign state of Dravidistan is a very dangerous development and any party or individual that aims at the breaking of the present Indian Union into several sovereign nations such as Dravidistan etc. must be vehemently opposed by all Nationalist parties in India. Any attempt to tamper with national unity must be dealt with as treason and disloyalty. Any adjustment with a party of this nature even for a temporary advantage is calculated to do great

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mischievous. As I do not know the precise nature of the arrangements or adjustments of that the Swantra Party has made in the last election campaign with this party, I thought it necessary to specifically ascertain this point to be better and more authoritatively enlightened. I am for unity of India as it is and to keep it unimpaired is the sacred duty of every loyal citizen of the Indian nation.

As regards recognition of Hindi as the national language of India, I am prepared to concede that the non-Hindi population of India are entitled to claim that the fulfilment of that objective should be postponed till the Hindi language is sufficiently developed to be a smooth medium of expression in matters of inter provincial and international importance. The ideal should be there. Its fulfilment may come in course of time.

I will be awaiting your reply at New Delhi. I intend to leave Nagpur tomorrow and reach New Delhi on the 19th inst.

I earnestly hope that I will get replies from you at an early date. And that I will be in a position to convince my colleagues in the Nag Vidarbha Samiti that my going over to the party led by you will be of greater advantage to the cause for which the Nagvidarbha Andolan Samiti stands.

With my best regards, I am,

yours truly,

M. S. Aney