

C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

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MADRAS - 17

2846
2nd April 1965

My dear Masani,

Dr. Ach

I got the impression that you felt like agreeing with the Election Commissioner Sundaram who argued in favour of fixed booths and polling stations in greater number - one in every village - rather than changing over to a system of mobile polling stations which means getting at the voters instead of asking voters to get to the booths.

The alternative would amount at least to trebling, if not quadrupling, the number of polling stations and, apart from the number of additional officials this would involve, what we are particularly interested in, viz., the increase in the candidates' expenditure involved in manning adequately the increased number of polling stations, would be tremendous. Unless the Party's agents are -- at the rate of three for each polling station -- present to watch and work at the station and outside, the village polling station would only increase the facilities for the ruling party to do what it wants legally or wrongly. I am still unable to give up my conception of mobile booths getting at the voters as in the collection of Census information. Multiplying the number of fixed polling stations would make matters worse.

Yours sincerely,

C. Rajagopalachari

Sri M.R. Masani
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