

DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL
68 MARINE DRIVE
BOMBAY 1

18 Dr.R.Prasad Road
New Delhi 1

March 12, 1963

My dear Masani:

We have a new member in our House whose petition was upheld and he unseated the Punjab Congressman. He says that he will join our Party in the Rajya Sabha as soon as the decision on the appeal filed against this decision is announced. The appeal has been heard and the judgement is reserved.

He tells me that the Punjab opposition party is led by Shri Devilal Sharma and that group has so far been supported by Sant Basant Singh and a few sikh members of our Party. But it appears of late that there is a talk of this group merging with the Akali party. This will neither help the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly nor our Party. In fact it will confirm the belief that our Party in Punjab relies only on the demand for a Punjabi Suba.

Could you write to these friends and do something to advise them to desist from such a course?

You know there is very probability of two members from Bihar coming into our Party. So if we get these three, we level up or perhaps are better by one than the Communists in the Rajya Sabha.

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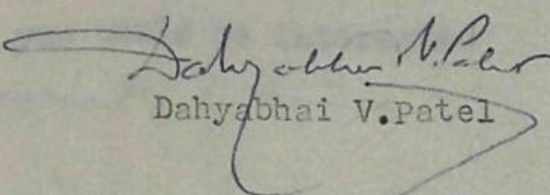
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Then it is the question of getting one more which may be possible before the next session of the Rajya Sabha begins.

Did you see the report of the speech of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. It was more of a Swatantra Party's speech and the Finance Minister lost his temper and compared her to Catherine Mayo. I think the Bombay press should comment strongly on this. It is against Parliamentary practice for a member of the Government to admonish any member of his own party because he is a member of the Party. In Parliament we are all equals and members have their own rights. I have mentioned this the next day, but these things are rarely reported.

I will send you a copy in a day or two

Yours sincerely,


Dahyabhai V. Patel

Shri M.R. Masani