

Swatantra Party

CENTRAL OFFICE

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GRAMS: SURAJYAM



SASSOON BUILDING,
143, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,
BOMBAY 1.

September 13, 1969

When replying, please quote our Reference No.

3025

Dear Prof. Ranga,

As you will recall, the National Executive at its meeting in New Delhi on August 30, considered the attitude to be taken by the Party's Group in Parliament in regard to the continuation of the Clause in the Constitution relating to the reservation of seats in Parliament and State Assemblies.

The National Executive decided that we should support or initiate the proposal that there should be a gradual elimination of reservation of seats by reducing the number of such seats by one-third at the end of every five years, so that at the end of 15 years, the reservation of seats would disappear altogether.

* In this connection, I enclose herewith the relevant extract from the Minutes dealing with the subject.

Yours sincerely,

(R. C. Cooper)
Acting General Secretary

Prof. N.G. Ranga, MP,
4 Sunheri Bagh Road,
New Delhi.

Encl : *

CC : Mr. M. R. Masani, MP,
148 Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay 1.

Extract From the Minutes of the National Executive Meeting
Held In New Delhi on August 30, 1969

"Reservation of Seats in Parliament and State Assemblies."

The Acting General Secretary, Dr. R. C. Cooper, informed the Executive that the Central Parliamentary Board had referred the issue relating to the Reservation of Seats in Parliament and the State Assemblies to the National Executive. The facts of the case were --

A proposal that there should be a gradual elimination of reservation of seats by reducing the number of such seats by one-third at the end of every five years so that at the end of fifteen years, the reservation of seats would disappear altogether, was circulated to members of the Parliamentary Board. 12 out of 14 members of the Board had approved this proposal. Two members, Smt. Gayatri Devi of Jaipur and Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel did not reply. In this connection, the following advice from Rajaji had been received :

'I approve of the compromise line taken by the BKD. But I wish the Swatantra Party may convince the BKD members to accepting reductions by half the members once every five years so that the reservation may disappear in ten years instead of 15 as now proposed. Ten years is long enough in all conscience for this objectionable extension.'

The President Prof Ranga, however felt that this matter needed further discussion at the National Executive.

The Executive discussed this matter in considerable detail and decided to confirm the decision arrived by Circular proposing a gradual elimination of reservation of seats over a period of 15 years by reducing one-third of the seats every five years."