

Swatantra Party

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

PHONE: 251424

GRAMS: SURAJYAM



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

When replying, please quote our Reference No. _____

August 20, 1969

Dear Prof. Ranga,

Sub: Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Tribes - Extension of Constitutional provision for a further period of ten years.

With reference to the above subject I issued a circular (copy attached) to members of the Central Parliamentary Board seeking their views on a proposal made by the BKD (and conveyed to us by Mr. Prakash Vir Shastri) 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.

Of the 14 members of the Board, 12 have replied and all of them have conveyed their approval to the above proposal.

At the same time, Rajaji who is among these 12 members has offered the following advice for consideration by the B.K.D.

"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 10 years instead of 15 as now proposed. Ten years is long enough in all conscience for this objectionable extension."

I shall therefore be grateful if you will kindly communicate the following guidance from the CPB to the Party's Parliamentary Group viz.,

That in the event of Government introducing a proposal to extend the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Tribes for another ten years, the Swatantra Party in Parliament should support the BKD proposal (if moved) or take the initiative itself in recommending 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.

At the same time Rajaji's comments should also be brought to the attention of the BKD and our Members of Parliament.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

R. C. Cooper

(R.C. Cooper)
Hon. Treasurer
Acting for General Secretary

Prof. N.G. Ranga, M.P.,
4, Sunehri Bagh Road,
New Delhi.

Encl: *

CC: Mr. Mr R. Masani, M.P.,
2, Tughlak Road,
New Delhi-11.

Mr. N. Dandekar, M.P.,
18, Ferozshah Road,
New Delhi.

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143, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,
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When replying, please quote our Ref. No.

July 10, 1969

Central Parliamentary Board Circular No. 46

Dear Friend,

Sub: Reservation of Seats for Scheduled Castes & Tribes

A question that should have been discussed at the recent meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board on June 22, in Madras but could not be reached for want of time, was the guidance to be given to the Party's Parliamentary Group in regard to a proposal which the Government might introduce (in some form) during the ensuing Session of Parliament (commencing July 21) to extend the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Tribes for another ten years.

2. Rajaji, who was requested for guidance when this question came for discussion at a meeting of the Party's Parliamentary Group during the last Session, had expressed the view that the Group should not support continuation of such reservations.

3. Subsequently, however, Mr. Prakash Vir Shastri the General Secretary of the B.K.D., who was present at the National Executive meeting in Madras during the discussions on the merger proposals, conveyed an eminently reasonable formula which the BKD had worked out in this regard, namely, 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.

4. In view of the simplicity and reasonableness of this proposal, and having regard also to the desirability of working together in Parliament while the merger talks are now going on, it would be helpful if the CPB were to advise the Parliamentary Group to adopt the same stand as the BKD, if and when the matter comes up in Parliament.

5. Could you kindly let us know whether you approve of the BKD's formula viz., that reservation of seats should be done away with gradually by reducing the number of reservations by one-third at the end of every five years so that at the end of fifteen years, the reservation of seats would automatically disappear altogether?

6. Attached is a reply paid Card. I shall be grateful if you could kindly communicate your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

R. C. Cooper
(R.C. Cooper)

Acting for General Secretary

Encl: 2