

3036

4th July, 1969

My dear Cooper,

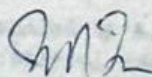
It is likely that, in the coming Session of Parliament, the Congress Government might bring in a resolution or an amendment to the Constitution for extending the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Tribes for another ten years.

As you are aware, this matter was inconclusively discussed in the Parliamentary Group. Rajaji gave the advice that the Party should not support the continuation of such reservations. That is where the matter stands.

Recently, when Mr. Prakash Vir Shastri, General Secretary of the HKD met us in Madras, he told us of the eminently reasonable compromise formula the HKD has worked out, namely, that there should be a gradual elimination of reservation of seats by reducing the number of reserved seats by one-third at the end of every five years so that at the end of 15 years the reservation of seats will automatically disappear altogether.

In view of the proposed merger of our two parties, the desirability of working together in Parliament, and the reasonableness of this proposal, I think it will be helpful if the Central Parliamentary Board were to guide the Parliamentary Group by asking them to adopt the same stand as and when the matter comes up in Parliament. I wonder if you would consider obtaining the approval of the Central Parliamentary Board by circular of this proposal so that we might have it by the end of July when Parliament is again in Session.

Yours sincerely,


(M. R. MASANI)

Dr. R. C. Cooper,
Officiating General Secretary,
Swatantra Party,
Bombay 1.

arm;rka