

# Swatantra Newsletter

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## RAJAJI'S NORTH INDIA TOUR.

Rajaji's North Indian Odessey had several implications. To sceptics it demonstrated that though the Party may be only around eight months old, it had developed an appeal capable of challenging the ruling party. To the ordinary folk, in Rajaji's speeches, interspersed with his inimitable parables, the policies of the Party were brought home in a manner which evoked response from even the most illiterate. To the ruling party and the government, the success of his tour provided confirmation, if any were needed, that our Party has all the qualities necessary to replace the ruling party in the seats of authority. And to our own Party it was a barometer of the potentialities inherent in the political situation obtaining in the States Rajaji visited. Rajaji himself, summing up his impressions of the tour, stated in Madras soon after his return: "My tour of Bihar was excellent in every way. The Punjab tour made it clear to me that for some reason or the other the Punjab government is more unpopular than even that of Bihar. I found almost uncontrollable enthusiasm in all the places I visited. The reception in Delhi was the most heartening. I was prepared for a cold reception. But I was most pleasantly disappointed."

Between March 14 and April 10, Rajaji at the age of 82, toured the States of Punjab, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh ending with a visit to Delhi. Wherever he went, he received a tumultuous welcome. Organisations ranging from Press Clubs to Bar Associations vied with one another to honour him with receptions, dinners and other engagements. The public meetings he addressed averaged an attendance of 50,000 and often reached a lakh of people. Repeatedly, Rajaji put across the message of Swatantra. He explained to the people the reasons that led to the formation of the Swatantra Party. He elaborated on the Statement of Policy adopted at the National Convention in Patna.

At several public meetings, especially in U.P., Rajaji was presented with purses. For instance Kanpur presented him with a purse of a lakh and five thousand rupees. Lucknow gave him 15,000 while Agra contributed Rs.27,000.

Commenting on his tour of the Punjab, Rajaji wrote in Swarajya of April 9 :

"I addressed more than five mass meetings in Punjab. The crowds that gathered were largely rural although the meetings were held in the big towns. Punjab's response, judging from the reaction of the more than four lakhs of people whom I had the privilege of addressing, was most satisfactory. It seems as if the corruptions of the Congress

displayed aggression. We are therefore compelled to drop the non-alignment policy as one side has made it impossible." (Calcutta - March 15)

On the Judiciary: "The culture of the legal profession is the only guarantee for the independence of the judiciary."

"The honesty of the brahmin cannot be protected by law. It can only be protected by the culture of the brahmin." (New Delhi - April 10)

On South Africa: "The whole civilized world feels that the South African whites are acting in a brutal manner towards Africans. There is no doubt that the Africans will ultimately emerge strong and unbeaten. The whole world is with them." (Agra - April 8)

Labour: "We believe that collective bargaining is the best way. We do not think labour will be better off when industries are nationalised." (Agra-April 8)

Businessman and the Congress: "Businessmen are being netted to-day like fish by the Congress fishermen. I ask the business community not to be afraid of the Congress. Congressmen allege that the Swatantra Party is a Party of vested interests. But they (the Congress) themselves go to the rich for financial aid. The heart of the rich is with us but their money is with the Congress because of Compulsion." (Chapra - April 1)

On Hindi: "All the languages are daughters of Saraswati and compulsion should be away from them as the North Pole was away from the South Pole. It is only love that can make progress for Hindi and not compulsion by anybody."

In this connection it may be recalled that during his tour of U.P. and Bihar, a few pro-Hindi demonstrators made several attempts to create disturbance at a few meetings. These attempts were denounced by several leaders of the Congress and the Jan Sangh. While Pandit Pant, Home Minister, deplored the incident and felt that the cause of Hindi had suffered "on account of this intolerance" Dr. Sampurnand, Chief Minister of U.P. apologised to Rajaji and the organisers for the incidents. The Jan Sangh leader in the Lok Sabha, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, deprecated the incidents and denied that his Party had anything to do with the incidents.

### Rajaji and Jayaprakash Narayan for Indo-Pakistan Defence Pact.

As reported earlier, Rajaji spoke in support of the suspension of the policy of non-alignment and for a defence pact with Pakistan. Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, presiding over the first Bihar State Shanti Sena Conference, reiterated his plea for joint Indo-Pakistan defence agreement to resist Chinese aggression and called upon the people of the country to raise the slogan of Hindi-Pakistani bhai bhai instead of Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai.

(Hindustan Times, May 2)

The Madras Mail in the course of an editorial supported our Party's and Rajaji's stand on this issue. It said that "joint defence is to the benefit of both the countries, threatened as they are by the two most powerful communist countries."

(Mail, April 12, 1960)



## State Trading in Food-grains - Rajaji and Jayaprakash Narayan

Our Statement of Policy dealing with State trading asserts: "The Party is opposed to the State entering the field of trade and disturbing free distribution and introducing controls and official management and monopoly which lead to the inefficiency, waste and corruption of an ever-expanding army." Inaugurating the Convention of the All India Foodgrain dealers Association, Rajaji emphasised this aspect of our policy. At the same Convention, Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan expressed similar sentiments. He warned the people against a "most dangerous trend", namely, the Government's tendency to control, and interfere with, everything. He added: "On principle, I admit that in trade nobody should have a monopoly, whether it be the Government or any other body. Trade meant that there should be competition."

### NEWS FROM STATE PARTIES :

#### Andhra:

In the Andhra Legislature, the Swatantra Party has now formed a legislature group. Mr. G. Latchanna, M.L.A., was unanimously elected as the Leader of the Party in the Assembly.

At a meeting of State Executive Committee it was resolved that every Swatantra Legislator and member of the State Executive would enrol at least 500 members by the end of April 30.

Another decision taken by this body was the appointment of a Sub-Committee to organize the Party in Telengana, covering nine districts. The Committee has already started its work.

A further decision was to authorise all Town and District Committees to form Study Groups to explain the Party's principles and policies. A Socio-economic group has similarly been formed by the State Unit to survey local problems regularly and help in their solution.

#### Bihar:

Mr. K. M. Munshi, Vice-President of the Swatantra Party, extensively toured North Bihar and a few places in South Bihar from 5th to 11th. March. During his tour he visited Patna, Muzaffarpur, Dighwara, Malkhachak, Hajipur, Behtah, Motihari, Sitawarhi, Arrah, Biharsharif and Ranchi. He addressed workers' rallies, public meetings and press conferences, explaining the aims, objects and policies of the Party.

Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh, Vice-President of the Swatantra Party and President of the Bihar Party undertook a hurricane tour of Bihar from 1st to 8th March, visiting Hajipur, Mahvar, Dalsing-sarai, Dighwara, Hilsa and Barh. The tour was intended to arouse the interest of the people in the Party's National Convention. The success of the Convention is an indication of how well Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh succeeded in his purpose.

Mr. K. M. Munshi and Mr. M. R. Masani were present at the formation of the Ranchi District Committee on March 11. With the formation

of this unit the Bihar Party has achieved the distinction of having units in every district of the State. The organisational framework of the Party in the State is thus being rapidly built on strong foundations.

Bihar reports that its membership has now reached 75,000.

### Bombay:

The Bombay City unit of the Party is continuing to give attention to the building up of Ward organisation. Concentrating on the labour and slum areas, the Party has, during the last month, set up Ward Groups in Parel, Sewri and Dadar. A similar unit set up in Bhandup is doing useful work. The "D" Ward of the City Party is among the most active. One Party member residing in this area has offered his premises as a Ward Office.

A public meeting was held in the predominantly Maharashtrian area of Girgaum. This meeting was addressed by Prof. Shambavnekar, a well-known Marathi scholar.

The Swatantra Service Centre of the Party continues to render useful service.

Progress is also reported in the enrolling of members from the film industry. Mr. Premnath, the noted film actor and an active member of our Party, is in the forefront of a drive to get the support of the film industry. Recently our Party took a firm stand, opposing the proposed Excise levy on the film industry, which was widely appreciated by those in the industry.

A Study group of active Party members has been functioning well. Meeting every Saturday, the Study group debates controversial questions and problems of Party development.

Another instance in which the Party came out in open support of the underdog was its championing of the cause of Primary teachers in Municipal schools. 2000 teachers had been served with retrenchment notices by the Corporation authorities in order that the ruling group in the Corporation could "balance the budget". A Statement was issued by our Party demanding the withdrawal of these retrenchment notices. The notices have since been withdrawn and we can legitimately feel that we played a part in going to the rescue of the teachers.

### Gujarat:

Party workers in Gujarat have been touring the countryside, organising units at various levels. Shri Bhailalbhair Patel, President of the Gujarat Party and Shri Dadubhai Amin, Vice-president, accompanied by Shri Navin Patel, Secretary, toured the Panchmahal district, Lunkheda and Dahod. Public meetings were held at these places.

Shri Bhailalbhair extensively toured Broach district holding as many as 3 to 4 meetings a day at different villages. Taluka Samities were formed and over 2000 members were enrolled in Broach district as a result of his visit.

Of the 17 districts in Gujarat, 11 have already been organised.



The Party has started a weekly news edition by engaging three pages in the daily "Gujarat Kesari", published from Baroda. This is edited by Shri Navin Patel.

### Himachal Pradesh:

The Himachal Pradesh Samyukta Morcha has now merged with the Swatantra Party. Shri Anandchand, M.P., Raja of Bilaspur, has been appointed Convenor of the Himachal Pradesh Swatantra Party. Two Organising Committee meetings have already been held. In these meetings, various decisions were taken in regard to the organisational setup of the Party in the region. A decision to have separate district units in the area was also taken and it was decided to form district Ad hoc Committees. The Party now has District units in Chamba, Mandi, Bilaspur, Mahasur and Sirmur. It was also decided that Ad hoc Committees at the level of primary units may be formed by the district committees. In all there will be 29 primary units at the constituency level and 7 units in towns. Membership targets were decided upon.

In a resolution that was unanimously passed at a meeting held on April 2, 1960, the Regional unit expressed its dismay at the proposal of the Punjab Government to construct a dam in the Suketi Khad of the Mandi district which would result in the submergence of the fertile Balh Valley described as the granary of Himachal Pradesh. 24,000 acres of land would be submerged and 40,000 people would be rendered homeless if the dam is constructed. The Party therefore strongly opposed the scheme and urged upon the Government of India not to allow the Punjab Government to proceed with the scheme.

Another resolution viewed with great concern the increasing bus accidents in Chamba, Bilaspur and Sirmur districts which had already resulted in considerable loss of life. It is reported that in 1956-57 over 30 people were killed and another 100 seriously injured. The Party was of the opinion that these accidents were the result of negligence on the part of the Himachal Transport Department and the abominable conditions of the roads over which the transport buses plied.

### Madras:

7,500 delegates and nearly 11,000 observers participated in the deliberations of the Madurai District Convention held in Melur, under the Presidentship of State President K. S. VenkataKrishna Reddiar. Rajaji and Prof. Rutnaswamy were among those who participated in the deliberations. At this Convention, it was announced that Sri S. Ramaswamy Padayachi with a 1000 others had joined the Swatantra Party after resigning from the Congress.

The cause of the Hut-dwellers of Madras has been championed by our Madras City Unit. They actively helped in the holding of a Hut-dwellers Convention where a 100 delegates and over 5,000 visitors participated.

Tanjore district held its first Convention under the presidentship of Shri S. S. Ramaswamy Padayachi. On this occasion a purse of Rs.5,500 was presented to Rajaji.

The Madras City District Committee celebrated National Week throughout the City from the 6th to 12th April by hoisting the Party-flag and arranging meetings of workers in various parts of the city. It is reported that this celebration has created a sensation in the City spurring the membership enrolment campaign.

Rajaji was given a grand reception at the Airport on April 11 on his return from his tour of North India.

A public meeting addressed by Rajaji held on the 17th April was attended by over 2 lacs of people. Prof. Rutnaswamy presided over this meeting. Rajaji spoke at length on the need to fight the proposed land legislation which he called "confiscatory, unfair and unjust". It was at this meeting that an unsuccessful attempt was made on his life. But thanks to Providence and the timely intervention of the police and our volunteers, Rajaji was safe.

### Madhya Pradesh:

Prof. N. G. Ranga, President, Swatantra Party, accompanied by State Convenor R. Agnibhoj toured a few areas of Madhya Pradesh.

At a meeting in Indore, where Prof. Ranga and Mr. R. Agnibhoj were present, Shri Udaisinh of Kaluhera joined the Party and was appointed as Joint Organiser for Indore division along with Thakur Nahar Singh.

A meeting of Divisional and District Organisers in the State was held in Bhopal in the Party office. Mr. M. R. Masani was present at this meeting. Decisions regarding Party organisation in the State were taken.

Mr. Brij Bilas Shukla has been appointed Divisional Organiser of Jabalpur. A membership drive has been launched in this area.

In Drug district, Shri Bahadur Singh Gupta has been appointed district organiser.

Shri Satynarayan Kemriwal, formerly of the Jan Sangh, has now joined the Party and has been appointed Raipur Division Organiser.

Similarly Shri Satynarayan Khandelwal has been appointed as the Bilaspur Divisional Organiser.

A Vidisha district unit has been set up.

In the Shivpuri district Public Meetings were held in several villages by Shri R. Gupta. It is reported that there has been a good response from the Kisans in this area.

Rajkumar Udaisingh of Kaluhera has been touring Indore division and organising the party at various levels.

More and more active workers are coming forward in the Hoshangabad and Drug districts of Madhya Pradesh to take up the work of party organisation.

Mr. R. Agnibhoj, Convenor of the Party, has toured eight districts last month.



Maharashtra:

Convenor Shri K. R. Koshti and Treasurer Mr. B. B. Walwekar are frequently undertaking tours of Maharashtra districts. As a result of their efforts Ad hoc Committees were formed for Poona City, Poona District, North Satara District, South Satara District, Kolhapur District and East Khandesh District.

Steady increase in membership is reported from Nasik, Wardha and Amraoti Districts.

On their way back from Patna, Shri Koshti and Shri Walwekar visited Nagpur.

On March 10 a meeting of office bearers and workers of the Poona district unit was held in the city. This meeting was specially convened to give a report on the Patna Convention.

This meeting also decided to start a social service unit, a Legal-aid Committee and a Study Group.

Mysore:

Following the C.O.C. Meeting held in Bangalore, a public meeting was held where Rajaji, Shri J. Mohammed Imam and many other leaders of the Party addressed a gathering of over 30,000.

A Raichur district unit was formed at a meeting in Raichur on March 20, 1960, under the presidentship of Shri Hanmanthappa.

Orissa:

Ganjam district held its Convention at Barhanpur on March 2, 1960. Inaugurated by State President H. Kanoongo and presided by Shri Hari Hara Das M.L.A., this Convention was attended by Prof. N. G. Ranga. Prof. Ranga was taken in a procession to the Town Hall, the venue of the meeting. Later Prof. Ranga addressed a public meeting where he explained the policies of the Swatantra Party.

In Cuttack the District Committee has formed Constituency Committees in the Cuttack Sadar Constituency, Jagatsingpur, Balikuda, Tritol and Salepur. Similarly the Phulbani District Committee has extended its organisational work in the Panchayat areas of Kalinga, Raikiria, Chatungia, TingaGarh, Ratingia etc.

The Balasore District Committee has opened an office at Soro. There was a flag hoisting ceremony by the Party General Secretary Mr. G. Jena. Soro incidentally is the constituency of Dr. H. K. Mahtab, Chief Minister of Orissa. An Ad hoc Committee has been formed in this district at a meeting which was well attended.

The Party is paying attention to the publication of literature in Oriya. A pamphlet 'Swatantra Kahe' (Swatantra says) gives in brief the principles of the Party. Another booklet 'Swatantra Party Rupa Rekha' has been written and published by our Balasore District Committee. This book propagates the principles of the Party.

The Party's "Swatantra Samachar" is now being published regularly. Through the medium of this paper, our Party is able to carry the message of Swatantra to the mofussil areas.



Punjab:

The big event for the Punjab Party in April was Rajaji's tour of their State. Details of Rajaji's tour have already been reported elsewhere. Suffice it to say that his tour has given a filip to the organisational efforts of the Party. The membership drive has gained considerable momentum and reports coming into the State headquarters at Patiala indicate increasing membership.

A meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of the State Swatantra Party was held at Rohtak on April 24. Mr. M. R. Masani, General Secretary of the Party, was present at this meeting as an observer.

Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke, Raja Bhalindra Singh, M.L.A., Sardar Darshan Pheruman, M.P., Pandit Shree Ram Sharma, M.L.A., Chaudhry Dharam Singh Rathee, M.L.A., and Sardar Basant Singh were present.

At this meeting the following office bearers were elected unanimously:

Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke : President  
Chaudhri Dharam Singh Rathee : Gen. Secretary  
Sardar Basant Singh : Joint Secretary

It was decided that the State Party Office would continue to be at Patiala with Sardar Basant Singh in charge.

The Ad hoc Committee was expanded to include a representative from each District Committee.

On Baisakhi day April 13 at Damdamma Sahib in Bhatinda district a huge public meeting was addressed by Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke, Sardar Chet Singh, Pandit Bansilal. Another meeting was held in Gurdaspur district on the same day which was attended by about 5,000 people mostly from the rural areas. Another conference held at Talibpur Pandori on the 14th April was also well attended. A conference held at Pathankot on 16th was a great success.

Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke undertook an extensive tour of 4 or 5 districts during the month under report viz. Amritsar Gurdaspur, Ludhiana and Jullundur for carrying out Party propaganda.

Sardar Gurnam Singh, ex-Judge of the Punjab High Court who is an Associate Member of the Public Aid Committee, has formed a State Associate Committee of four members to entertain public grievances about "conscious or unconscious encroachment on civil liberties, honest and fearless administration. The Committee which consists of Mr. Fiquir Chand Mittal, President High Court Bar Association, Mr. Dara Singh, Advocate, Mr. S. N. Bali and Mr. Narotam Singh, Advocate will coopt more members as and when necessary.

Many questions had been earlier raised by the Press and the public on the stand taken by the Party on the issues of Punjabi Suba and Vishal Haryana.

Mr. M. R. Masani, General Secretary of the Party, in a press interview clarifying the Party's position on these issues, said:

"The Swatantra Party has, from its very inception, taken the line that on any matter outside its 21 principles adopted at the Bombay Convention, the Party as a whole takes no stand but that individual members of the Party are free to give expression