

C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

NAOROJI ROAD  
KILPAUK  
MADRAS 10 31

3055

5th March 69

Paul G. Desai

Dear Mr. Desai,

I have read your letter of 3rd March with the attention it deserves. I was the author of the special reservation that you seek to continue. Dr. Ambedkar accepted my proposal with some difficulty. You must therefore accept my plea for terminating this arrangement. If after three decades the arrangement has not helped to bring about what was expected, it is time to give up what has proved to be futile.

In any event I beg to differ from you in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Copy  
C. Rajagopalachari

Mr. C. C. Desai, M.P.,  
6, Akbar Road  
New Delhi - 11

March 5, 1969

My dear Rajaji,

Thank you for your prompt reply to my telegram about continued reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes. Your telegram was very useful as our President recommended that further consideration of the matter be suspended for the time being. My own suggestion was that it should be taken up with you when you are in Delhi on March 9th for the Conference on Prohibition. Meanwhile C.C.Desai said he would be writing to you to place their case before you.

pandekar and others including myself who argued against C.C.Desai urged the following considerations:

1. That these reservations had not done any good to the classes concerned while they had done great harm to the country by creating another focal point of corruption in our National life and retarded National integration;
2. That it would be unethical for the Party to rush in and try to do the wrong thing just because the Congress Party and others were likely to ultimately commit the same error;
3. That taking the initiative in the matter would damage the image of the Party;
4. That on grounds of expediency our initiative would not give us any Harijan or tribal votes four years later in 1972; and
5. That on balance it would be to the advantage of the Swatantra Party if reservations were not continued beyond 1970.

There was a majority of sorts for C.C.Desai's proposal when the matter was last discussed but there was no consensus on the subject.

I look forward to seeing you in Delhi during your forthcoming visit. I shall be there from tomorrow March 6th, when I will be speaking in Parliament on the budget, till the 14th morning when I return to Bombay.

Yours sincerely,

Mr.C.Rajagopalachari  
5 Maoreji Road  
Kilpauk  
Madras.

( N. R. NASANI )  
P.S. I enclose a copy of the brochure containing the text of the Rajaji Birthday lecture given by me. Another six copies are being sent to you by Registered Post.