

RANGA  
4 SONEHRIBAGH ROAD  
NEW DELHI-11.

I  
(I) MASANI  
2 TUGHLAK ROAD  
NEW DELHI-11.

*Paul  
Group  
File*

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|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| ADVISE    | POSTPONE | ACTION      | REGARDING |
| EXTENSION | HARIJAN  | RESERVATION |           |

3058

- RAJAJI -

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Not to be telegraphed: C. Rajagopalachari  
Naoroji Road  
Cheput - MADRAS-31.

(Post copy in confirmation)

*from ... to ...  
18267  
copy to Rajaji*

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TELEGRAM

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... ~~RAJAJI~~ ADVISE POSTPONED ACTION REGARDING EXTENSION HARIJAN RESERVATION ...

... RAJAJI ...

Date  
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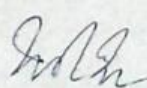
C. RAJAGOPALACHARI  
KALKI  
MADRAS

DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM DANDEKAR AND MYSELF C.C.DESAI  
WITH RANGA'S SUPPORT ATTEMPTING TO GET PARLIAMENTARY GROUP  
DECIDE BY MAJORITY ON FRIDAY TWENTYFIRST MORNING TO AUTHORISE  
INTRODUCTION BY DESAI PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL SEEKING EXTEND  
RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND TRIBES FOR  
ANOTHER FIFTEEN YEARS STOP IF YOU AGREE THAT THIS MOVE IS  
UNDESIRABLE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR TELEGRAPHING RANGA TO  
POSTPONE DECISION UNTIL FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AND  
EXAMINATION OF PROS AND CONS INCLUDING YOUR OWN DISCUSSION  
WITH PARLIAMENTARY GROUP DURING YOUR PROPOSED VISIT TO  
DELHI NEXT MONTH

-MASANI-

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Not to be telegraphed:-

  
(M. R. MASANI) M.P.  
51, Parliament House,  
New Delhi.

Copy by post in confirmation forwarded to Shri C.  
Rajagopalachari, Kalki, Madras.

(M. R. MASANI)

Swatantra Party Parliamentary Office

53 North Avenue,  
New Delhi.

February 17, 1969.

*Jh*

Minutes of the Meeting

A meeting of the General Body of the Party in Parliament was held at 9.45 A.M. in Room No.50, 1st floor, Parliament House, New Delhi. The following Members were present:

- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Prof. N.G. Ranga     | 19. Mr. P.N. Solanki            |
| 2. Mr. M.R. Masani      | 20. Mr. D.R. Parmar             |
| 3. Mr. C.C. Desai       | 21. Mr. Meethalal Meena         |
| 4. Mr. D.N. Patodia     | 22. Mr. D.N. Deb                |
| 5. Mr. R.J. Amin        | 23. Mr. K.P. Singh Deo          |
| 6. Mr. K.M. Koushik     | 24. Mr. Piloo Mody              |
| 7. Raja Venkatarao Naik | 25. Mr. N.K. Somani             |
| 8. Mr. J. Chandramouli  | 26. Mr. N. Dandekar             |
| 9. Mr. N. Shivappa      | 27. Maharaja Sriraj Dhrangadhra |
| 10. Mr. Devi Singh      | 28. Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel      |
| 11. Prof. A.K. Amin     | 29. Dr. B.N. Antani             |
| 12. Mr. Y.G. Gowd       | 30. Mr. J. M. Lobo Prabhu       |
| 13. Mr. J.M. Mmam       | 31. Mr. K.C. Panda              |
| 14. Mr. S.K. Tapuriah   | 32. Mr. A. Diba.                |
| 15. Mr. H. Ajmal Khan   | 33. Mr. M.K. Nanja Gowder       |
| 16. Mr. S.S. Mariswamy  | 34. Mr. G.C. Naik               |
| 17. Mr. Ram Singh       | 35. Mr. G.K. Sundaram           |
| 18. Mr. M. Majhi        |                                 |

The members observed two minutes silence to condole the sad demise of the former Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Shri Annadurai and Shri Ramaswamy Naidu, Vice President of our Tamilnadu Unit and a member of Tamilnadu Assembly.

The No Confidence Motion understood to have been tabled by the CPI, CPM and SSP was considered. It was decided that we should not rise in support of the admissibility of the Motion. If the Motion is admitted, we should participate in the discussion and criticise Government for all its failures in the light of our own policies and principles. Decision as to whether the motion should be supported or opposed at the conclusion of the discussion will be taken when the occasion arises.

The following adjournment motions earlier tabled by the Party were approved:

1. 10 per cent increase in railway freight without Parliament's permission.
2. Incidents of lawlessness in Bombay on the Mysore-Maharashtra boundary dispute.
3. Titoda satyagraha and railway train killing some satyagrahis
4. Death of over 30 people near Chidambaram when they were travelling on the roof of a train.

The above points alongwith the following should be made in the speeches on the President's Address:

1. Failure to take a decision on off-shore drilling in Cambay.
2. Implementation of Barhda River scheme.
3. Famine conditions in Rajasthan, Mysore, Gujarat etc.

The Leader apprised the members of the Prohibition Conference which was being called by Dr. Sushila Nayar. The Leader said

that in case Rajaji was to attend the Conference, he would have to accompany him. He would do so in his personal capacity and not as President of the Party. The decision was left to his judgment.

There was a brief discussion for Mr. C.C. Desai's proposed bill for extension of reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribe members for another 15 years. Some members were in favour of the introduction of this Bill; some were doubtful about the bill. The discussion could not be concluded but it was decided that a resume and list of points of discussion should be prepared and circulated to all our members in English and Hindi so as to enable them to understand the case in its proper perspective. The final decision should be taken at another meeting of the Party which might be called for ~~this~~ purpose at an early date.

sd. C.C. Desai  
Secretary

Note regarding the proposed Amendment of Article 334 of the Constitution regarding reservations of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha prepared by Mr. C.C. Desai, M.P.

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1. The Constitution came into force on the 26th January, 1950 and therefore the reservation will lapse on the 26th January, 1970. It will not affect the composition of the Present Parliament, but there would be no reservation of seats in any election to be held after 26th January, 1970. If this representation is not to be allowed to lapse, the Constitution would have to be amended and the process of amendment will have to be completed by the November-December session of Parliament. This is an amendment which will have to be passed by a majority of State Assemblies as well. There, is, therefore, not much time and the amendment, if approved, will have to be processed with particular urgency and despatch.

2. It was expected at the time of the framing of Constitution that we would have made sufficient advance in the integration of all communities so as to justify withdrawal of this particular privilege accorded to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Anglo-Indian community. Experience, however, indicates that this has not been brought about. We are still far away from the desired goal of complete and total integration of all the communities in the country. I have no doubt that if this reservation is not there, the elections after 1970 would witness a substantial fall in the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Even if a powerful party puts up a Scheduled Caste candidate but the opposition party puts up a Caste Hindu candidate, the balance would be very much in favour of the Caste Hindu candidate considering that the electorate has preponderance of Caste Hindus and further considering the fact that in this country we are still very much caste-bound and caste-ridden. I am also certain that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would not view with equanimity the withdrawal of this particular privilege given to them, under the Constitution. We have to carry them with us and it should be with their consent and concurrence that the privilege should be withdrawn when the time is ripe for it. If it is agreed that the time has not come for the withdrawal of the privilege, then the Constitution must be amended and the amendment must be incorporated into the Constitution well before the 26th January, 1970.

3. What the period of extension should be is a matter of detail. It should not be anything less than 10 years and it should also not exceed 20 years. The best compromise would be to fix it for 15 years so as to provide that the next three general elections i.e. 1972, 1977 and 1982 are held under the system of special representation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. If this is accepted, the amendment should be: "For the words 20 years in Article 334, read 35 years".

4. It would be noted that the extension of time will apply not only to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but also the Anglo-Indian Community. There should be no harm in this either.

Note on reservations of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes given by Mr. D. Amat, Mr. M. Majhi, Mr. A. Dipa, Mr. D.K. Parmar and Mr. Meetha Lal Meena

- . -

We, the Swatantra Party members representing Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constituencies in various parts of the country, followed with great interest the discussion which took place in the general body meeting of the Party on Monday, the 17th and we take this opportunity to reiterate our considered view that it is absolutely essential that the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be continued for another period of 20 years by having a suitable amendment to the Constitution. There is no doubt that but for this provision in our original Constitution, very few Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes representatives would have got elected and it is equally clear that if they are not elected and if they are not members of the Legislative Bodies, they will not be able to carry the same weight with the governments in various states and with the Government at the Centre. It cannot, therefore, be gainsaid that the reservation definitely operated to the benefit of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. If the reservation is continued for another period of 20 years, this process of integration and improvement should be completed and we should be much nearer the goal of total integration which is the desired objective not only of the Caste Hindus, but even more of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is also desirable that the amendment should be moved by our party rather than allowing the initiative to be taken by the Congress Party for the simple reason that if we move the amendment, we can always tell people that it was at our instance and because of our initiative that this extension was given. This must have some effect, to say the least, on the voting population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. If on the other hand, the reservation is withdrawn, the process of integration which has taken place during the last 20 years will receive a setback and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will revert to the original position which they occupied in 1950. It should be noted that the provision for reservation was made in the 1950 Constitution with the knowledge and consent not only of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but also of all the national leaders of various castes and communities and coming from the various parts of the country. It was a consensus and therefore it can be presumed that they had the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes very much at their heart when they made this provision for reservation which has certainly done considerable good to these communities and we can say from our own practical and personal experience. We hope, a green signal would be given to Mr. C.C. Desai to go ahead with the tabling of the amendment so as to continue the reservation for a further period of 20 years. We may be prepared for a compromise at 15 years, but nothing less than 15 years will satisfy us or be acceptable to us. We wish to submit this definite view of ours to the Leader for being read out at the next meeting of the General Body of the Party.

February 17, 1969.

Swatantra Party Parliamentary Office

53 North Avenue,  
New Delhi.

February 17, 1969.

The following points arose out of the discussion in the General Body meeting regarding amendment of Article 334 of the Constitution:

1. Whether reservations have really benefitted the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes or not.
2. Whether the cause of integration of the community as a whole will be assisted by continuance of reservations or by its discontinuance.
3. What is the trend of opinion amongst our scheduled castes and scheduled tribes members in regard to this provision.
4. Whether the image and the future of the Swatantra Party will be helped or damaged by our sponsoring this legislation.
5. If we should sponsor this Bill, what should be the period for the extension.
6. Why is it that the Republican Party led by some of the Harijan leaders is urging the discontinuance of such reservations.

sd. C.C. Desai  
Secretary

*Insert - General*

*Reserve -*

*Judges in own cause  
Proposed Judiciary - unless it is known  
Nothing called for*

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