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S.V. Raju
L/9/72 Tilak Nagar
Chenbur, Bombay 89

March 12, 1975.

My dear Bhargava:

Thank you for your letter of March 6th.

I did not receive your letter of 8th December 1974 and I am not surprised because all letters addressed to me whether official or personal are intercepted by the BLD fellows here who have swallowed the National Headquarters premises. I might warn you that Phatia has been playing a despicable role and I would like you to be beware of him in case he makes or has made approaches to you.

I was most encouraged to read about the municipal elections in Kotah and Jhalwad. This is an indication that all is not lost. You have referred to Jai Narain who has been elected Chairman of the Nowai Municipal Committee. Does this refer to Jai Narain Salodia? That the BLD has not been able to make headway in Rajasthan is not surprising. Rajasthan would have developed into a much stronger unit for the Party, had not the princes treated it as their private preserve. Now that they are no longer there, nothing stops us from putting the STAR back on the map of Rajasthan.

The position, so far as the Swatantra Party is concerned, is that we refuse to accept that the party has been dissolved as the National Convention held at Delhi violated our Constitution. The Madras City Civil Court has already held the dissolution void but the BLD chaps there have gone in appeal. The Election Commission's Order has been challenged in the Madras High Court through a Writ Petition and a Stay Order has been granted which entitles the Swatantra Party in Tamil Nadu to use the symbol and the name till such time as the matter is disposed of.

Meanwhile, the National Executive of the Party has been reconstituted. I enclose a copy of our General Secretary's circular dated December 27, 1974 for your information. It is going to be a slow process and even a heartbreaking one to revive the party organisation. By then the political configuration as a result of JP's movement would have become clear. Till then, however, it is necessary for us to keep our identity alive so that in any new grouping the Swatantra component is in a position to have its legitimate say.

Financially we are in a very bad way, particularly because Piloo Mody & Co. have been telling donors that we are no longer alive. The only way we can get them to help us again is by proving to them that we are back in business.

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Meanwhile, I have written to Mr. G.K.Sundaram, our President, to speak to some of his friends in Rajasthan who might be willing to help you. I would at the same time suggest that you write to Mr. Sundaram, "Rasakondalu", Circuit House Road, Coimbatore 18, directly and send him a list of people particularly in the textile industry and trade to whom he could write for assistance for your work in Rajasthan. I might mention that his mills are : THE LAKSHMI MILLS at Coimbatore.

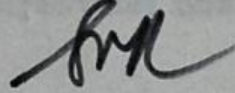
Please always address letters to me at my residential address for reasons stated above.

Mr. Masani continues to be in the Swatantra Party though not active. As a matter of fact, along with some of us he contributes a small amount every month for the up-keep of the Maharashtra State Unit office.

Please let us keep in touch as often as possible.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely



S. V. Raju

Mr. I.S. Bhargava
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Rajasthan.