

Harihar Patel, B.L.
ADVOCATE

312, KHARVEL NAGAR,
BHUBANESWAR-1.

Dated 12th June, 1973.

Dear Sri Raju,

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Hope, you have received my letter in the meantime. Sri Manubhai Amersey requested me to write to him about Pragati working committee meetings. So I have sent him a letter about the proceedings of the second working committee of the Pragati Party held on 11.6.73. Please find a copy of the letter enclosed for your information. Please go through the post script also.

I am looking forward to the date when we can meet at Bhubaneswar. Please let me know about your tour programme to Bhubaneswar as soon as it is fixed. We will talk about various matters personally.

With my good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Harihar Patel

(H. Patel)

Sri S. V. Raju,
143, Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay-1.

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312, KHARVEL NAGAR,
BHUBANESWAR-1.

Dated 11th June, 1973.

Dear Shri Manubhai Amersey,

The second meeting of the Working Committee of the Orissa Pragati Party was held to-day. Sri Biju Patnaik has gone out on a foreign tour and was absent. Sri R. N. Singh Deo presided over the meeting. Dr. Mahtab and 3 other members belonging to Utkal Congress and Sri A. N. Singh Deo and myself attended the meeting. Sri A. N. Singh Deo and Sri Kartik Rout were nominated by Sri R. N. Singh Deo to be included in the Executive Committee and their nomination was informed to our Executive Committee on the eve of the State Council meeting.

The Working Committee of the Orissa Pragati Party adopted two resolutions to-day. In one resolution the results of about 42 Municipalities and N.A.Cs. published so far were reviewed. Satisfaction was expressed that Congress/^{which} ~~was~~ was the only party which fought the elections on party basis has been significantly rejected in most of the places. The ^{mischief} ~~simultaneous~~ propaganda made by the Congress leaders to the effect that Congress had won in most of the elections ~~was~~ false and with the intention to influence

P.T.O.

the remaining about 40 elections to be held and also to manipulate election of Congress councillor as Chairman of the Municipalities by creating a false impression that the Congress has won widely. The second resolution was a comprehensive one covering the present economic and political situation in the State, indicating also the severe drought and scarcity condition. I will send you copies of the same when copies of the proceedings are received.

A Sub-Committee was formed consisting of Dr. Mahtab, Sri Pratap Ch. Mohanty, Sri Surendra Mohanty, M.P., Sri Rabi Ray of Socialist Party and myself to decide about time and nature of some demonstration to be staged condemning maladministration, rising price and scarcity condition, etc. A literature Sub-Committee has also been formed. Discussion regarding finance was postponed to some other day as Sri Biju Patnaik was absent.

Regarding the proceedings of the first Working Committee, I do not have a copy in the file, but I had told you verbally that practically no decision was taken except that Co-ordination Committee will be set up at district levels. In the meantime the Secretary of the

Pragati Party had announced formation of some of the District Co-ordination Committee which was severely criticised during our last Council meeting. Sri P.K. Deo said in the meeting, and I hope you remember that he was not consulted in the matter and the Coordination Committees can be safely ~~removed~~ *ignored*.

I informed about it in to-day's meeting and told the Secretary of the Pragati Party that he had adopted a wrong procedure. I told him that he should have written to our Party to suggest ^{names} ~~men~~. Sri Singh Deo said that if other names are suggested from the District level to be included in the Co-ordination Committee we may include those names. The meeting terminated after that.

There has been no improvement in our party activities except that Sri Singh Deo and Sri P.K. Deo have attended some public meetings organised by Swatantra Party. The Joint Secretary and the Secretary have also gone out to some areas. Things are not being done in systematic manner and the activities whatever there are, are mainly by some persons who are asked by the two Maharajas to undertake.

In the meantime, Sri Biju Patnaik has come out with a statement that the Swatantra Party, the associated party of the Pragati Party, will contest only 65 seats and the Utkal Congress will contest 75 seats in the ensuing election. This statement was made soon after our President made a statement to the Press that Swatantra Party will contest 90 seats in Orissa. Sri Patnaik's statement has been ⁱⁿ the nature of ^{an} affront to Sri Mody's statement and has ^{lowered} ~~made~~ our prestige in the estimation of the people.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(H. Patel)

Shri Manubhai Amersey,
Green fields,
Sixth Floor,
134, Churchgate Reclamation,
Bombay-1.

P.S:- Before closing this letter in the envelop I have just received a notice from one Sri Prem Chand Bhagat, who has been described as Convenor, Sundergarh District Swatantra Party to the effect that workers conferences will be held in the district of Sundergarh from 5th to 11th June '73, including one at Sundergarh. Sri Bhagat's signature is cyclostyled and dated 25.5.73 and the letter has reached Bhubaneswar bearing postal mark

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on 12.6.73, i.e. after all the conferences are over. The address ~~of~~ the envelop and some words in the notice scribed in hand are by Sri Sundermani Patel, whose handwriting I recognise. Sundergarh is my home district and I do not know what sort of District Committee has been formed there and when was Sri Bhagat appointed as Convenor. Of course I will now enquire about all these things from the Party office. This is only to let you know how ~~are~~ the Party machinations are against me.

(Harihar Patel)