

for diary

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MM

This is an extract from Imbikram's personal letter to me from 15/3

The general consensus of the rank and file of the Party in Orissa is to keep the image, identity, flag and symbol of Swatantra Party. Most of them feel that the National Party will never allow complete merger and they are prepared to accept a programme bound pre-electoral adjustment like Swatantra-Jana Congress Alliance only.

Though the minds of Mr. Singh Deo and P.K. Deo are not known still Hari Babu, Rajpallav, Murari Misra, ~~Gopinath~~ ^{Nandu}, Karmakar Das, Gurucharan Naik etc. are in favour of keeping the identity of the Party. They seem to be in need of a clean and clear electoral understanding in between the parties in a progressive or Pragati alliance at the best.

Yesterday night I had discussion with Sri. Murari Prasad Misra, a Vice-President of the State Unit and Member of the State Parliamentary Board. He took serious objection of forming an executive committee of Pragati Party in place of Pragati Legislative Party immediately after the dissolution of the Assembly, without consulting the State Executive or Parliamentary Board. Anyhow everybody was waiting for the reports of talk of Singh Deo & P.K. Deo with Pilo Mody at Delhi. Irrespective of the views of 'Kings' of the Party our workers feel that National leadership will never allow the Party to go under the clutches of Biju and Mahatab whose games are difficult to predict. Rather they feel if any such time comes when the Party's position will be shaky then Centre should immediately direct the State leaders to convene the meeting of State Executive and State Council to assess the opinion of the workers of the Party before taking any decisive decision against the State Unit like previous occasions when Mr. Masani & Dandekar attended such a closed meeting held in Kasturba Nuri Mahal Bhubaneswar during the mass resignation of some workers of Cuttack and Ganjam District some years ago under the leadership of Satyanarayan Misra.

I feel workers are determined not to let down the Party and hence leaders are afraid to disclose frankly anything to them, yet. Even close colleagues of the State leaders are unable to know their mind.

Just now I am relieved after looking a news item flashed in Daily Samaj reporting from Delhi which says that Pilo and Manu have made it very clear to Singh Deo and P.K. Deo about keeping the identity of the Party. Anyhow I will let you know further developments from time to time specially after Singh Deo visits my place on 14.3.73 with Mahatab and Biju to address a meeting called Pragati Party ?.