



Camp:

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan,
Mehta Sadan, Curzon Road,
New Delhi.

August 13, 1962.

S.P. Centre

16/8
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My dear Masani,

Herewith the minutes of the meeting between Shri
Jaleshwar Prasad and myself.

3272 With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

K.M. Munshi
(K.M. Munshi)

Shri M.R. Masani,
General Secretary,
Swatantra Party,
143 Mhatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay 4.

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Resume of the discussions between Shri Jaleshwar
Prasad and Shri K.M. Munshi.

Shri Munshi: It would be better if a composite committee is set up to replace the present body nominated by Ramgarh, with the Ramgarh group in the minority, but with Ramgarh as the chairman.

Shri J. Prasad: That would lead to some difficulty in the beginning. He may not call the meeting and he might even stage violence to prevent other members from coming in. If he is to be retained as the chairman, there should be a strong General Secretary who can deal with his techniques. Bakshi has shifted from Patna to Ranchi and will not be available as a General Secretary; of course, he should be on the Committee. The property in which Ramgarh has set up the office at present is being taken away under the orders of the Court. So we will have to put up a separate office, which will mean money.

Shri Munshi: The Centre cannot provide all the funds necessary. Funds must be raised locally also. I had expected to contact Darbhanga, but he is not in Delhi, and it will be better if you yourself contact him and discuss the matter with him. Anyway, I will send a letter to Darbhanga and you can go and meet him and discuss the matter, at the same time keeping Shri Ram Binod Singh in touch. You must decide who would be the best as the Vice-President and as General Secretary and let me know as early as possibly you can, if possible before August 25 at Bombay, and also the members of the committee that you would like to have. We should like Darbhanga to be represented by one able member in the committee. In its formation, it would be advisable to keep Janki Nandan Singh out for the moment. You might also contact Dumraon and Chhota Nagpur whether they would give some able representative.

Shri J. Prasad: If Ramgarh goes out with his group, as is likely from actions taken by him to supercede this committee, it might be better not to have a feudal chief as the chairman of the Party in Bihar. That prevents other people from coming in. Then we can make better headway among the people. In case Ramgarh goes out, initially we will require some funds to set up an office etc. and also some money should be given to us every month. After going to Patna, I will discuss with Shri Ram Binod Singh and let you know which of us should be on the Committee. But Shri Ram Binod, Justice Jugal Kishore, Bakshi, myself and one more should be on the Committee. I will also then let you know the name of the General Secretary in place of Bakshi, who will conduct the correspondence, keep the minutes etc. and who will be in charge of the funds.

Resume of the discussions between Shri Ram Binod
Singh and Shri Jaleshwar Prasad.

1. Members of the Party led by Shri Ram Binod Singh, Shri Janki Nandan Singh and Shri Jaleshwar Prasad are in the Party, and there is no idea to go out of it, but they have no place in the organization as it is at present.
 2. It is difficult to work with Ramgarh because, so far as he is concerned, there is no democratic background and he cannot work on democratic lines.
 3. About thirty M.L.A.s are thinking of going out of the Party because of the dictatorial attitude of Ramgarh, if the present state of things continues.
 4. The position is that Ramgarh wants to maintain a Party of Members of Legislature under his own thumb, simply to protect his own financial interests in respect of his mines, lands, forests and zamindari compensation, and he tries to maintain the Party only to intimidate the Government for his own ends.
 5. At present the main opposition party in Bihar is the Swatantra Party with about 50 members in the Assembly, but they have by this time done no work and nobody has taken any interest in matters of public importance.
 6. The suggestion is that all-India leaders from the centre may go to Patna and address the workers in a conference and find out a solution.
 7. If Ramgarh goes out, Dumraon and Maharaja of Chhota Nagpur are likely to join the Party.
 8. It is better that from the very beginning, we should completely dissociate from Ramgarh and take full charge of the Party; otherwise it will create unnecessary difficulties and the presence of his group may also lead to violence.
 9. There is complete agreement over this question that Ramgarh should go out and we should be free from him if the Party is to do any constructive work and succeed in Bihar.
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