



Camp:

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan,
Curzon Road, New Delhi.

August 7, 1962.

My dear Masani,

Your letter of August 4, to hand, with the accompaniment.

I do not think that Article 60 of our Manifesto has anything to do with the banning of communal parties being discussed now by the Integration Sub-Committee. What Article 60 refers to is an association for the protection of the rights of any classes or communities. In revising the Manifesto, I had given special attention to this.

The communal parties, the banning of which has been canvassed, are parties which exploit communal feelings in order to secure political ends with a view to dominate the national life. They are not interested to protect the rights of any classes or communities. Therefore, the statement made by Maharaja P.K. Deo is not inconsistent with Article 60 of our Manifesto.

I had myself considered this question when I gave an interview at the start that communal parties should be banned. But on second thought, I came to the conclusion that if they are banned, they will go underground, and therefore to be safer, to let them function in the open. Before the Committee, I frankly gave this reason for my not supporting the ban on political parties.

I will discuss the matter with Maharaja P.K. Deo, but I would suggest that we should not treat Members of Parliament like erring children to be pulled up on the slightest occasion. The future of the Party will largely depend upon the self-confidence and the majority which the Parliamentary Party acquires in the coming future. That can only come if we let them attain maturity by trial and error.

As regards the Ramgarh decision, I have been feeling, since I returned from Madras, that we should not have taken the decision to publish our Resolution in the absence of Ramgarh. Courtesy towards a colleague demands that such a serious step should be discussed in his presence and after knowing his reactions. Further, if we publish it in his absence, we will lay ourselves open to the charge of taking such decisions without, in fairness, giving him an opportunity to meet the charge or adjust himself to our satisfaction. I have, therefore,

written to Rajaji, pressing him to issue instructions **65800** the Resolution may not be brought into operation or published till Ramgarh returns to India and we have an occasion of putting the matter in a straightforward manner before him. I am sure Rajaji will write to you about it.

Jaleshwar Babu could not meet me in Calcutta; he is coming to meet me on August 10, and I will let you know what transpires between us.

Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singh of Darbhanga is not in Delhi

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

K. M. Munshi

(K.M. Munshi)

Shri M.R. Masani,
General Secretary,
Swatantra Party,
Bombay.