

3295

Swatantra Party

CONSTITUTION

*As amended on December 12, 1966 by the
Fourth National Convention in New Delhi*

1. NAME

The name of the Party shall be the Swatantra Party.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Party shall be to further and endeavour to put into effect the principles adopted by the Convention in Bombay on August 1 and 2, 1959, and such policies and programmes as the Party may from time to time adopt in furtherance of those principles.

3. HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Party shall be located at such place as may from time to time be decided by the General Council.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Every person above the age of 18 who subscribes in writing to the principles of the Party, pays the prescribed fee and expresses his readiness to work for the Party will be eligible to be a Worker of the Party.
- (b) Work for the Party may be any of the following activities:
 - (i) Enrolling new members;
 - (ii) Introducing new Workers;
 - (iii) Campaigning for the Party;

- (iv) Attending to public grievances on behalf of the Party and securing their redress;
 - (v) Functioning, when called upon, as prospective candidate of the Party to an elective public body;
 - (vi) Collection of funds;
 - (vii) Acceptance of executive responsibilities in the Party;
 - (viii) Preparation of literature;
 - (ix) Distribution of literature;
 - (x) Organisation of study circles and meetings;
 - (xi) Helping to run Party offices;
 - (xii) Any other approved activity.
- (c) The State Executive Committee shall be competent to frame rules in this behalf.
- (d) Decisions in regard to enrolment of workers shall be taken by the State Executive Committee either on its own initiative or on the recommendation of Constituency and District Committees.
- (e) Whenever the State Executive has doubts as to the desirability of enrolling a Worker, it shall forward the application with its comments to the National Executive, which shall, after considering the application and the comments directly or through an appropriate body, decide whether or not the Worker should be enrolled, and such decision shall be final.
- (f) Only Workers shall have the right to vote in Party elections or to serve as office bearers or members of the elective committees.

5. SUBSCRIPTION

- (a) Each Worker of the Party will pay a subscription of Rs. 3.00 per year, or a Life Worker's fee of Rs. 100.00. Persons already enrolled as

permanent members of the Party by the end of 1963 will be entitled to claim exemption from paying any further fee as Life Members with the right to vote.

- (b) A Worker of the Party will continue as such as long as he pays his dues. Each Worker of the Party will be issued a Party Card.
- (c) The National Executive of the Party will have the authority to expel a Worker or a member if in its opinion, which shall be final, his continuance as a Worker or member of the party is undesirable.
- (d) The subscription for membership shall be divided between the various bodies of the Party in the following manner: Constituency 20 per cent, District 50 per cent, State or Region 25 per cent, Centre 5 per cent. Provided that the State or Regional Council may modify the proportion in which the membership subscription is to be distributed within the State or Region.
- (e) Every unit shall maintain appropriate accounts of the receipts and expenditure, which shall be annually audited.

5A. MEMBERS

Every person above the age of 18 who subscribes in writing to the principles of the Party will be eligible to be a member of the Party. No fee will be payable by a member. Meetings of such members may be convened from time to time by the State, District or Constituency Committees so that they may be given opportunities to be consulted and associated with the work of the Party.

6. PRIMARY UNITS

- (a) A primary unit of the Party shall be formed in

respect of every Legislative Assembly constituency in the State.

- (b) Every such primary unit shall elect a Constituency Committee provided there are not less than 20 Workers in that constituency.

Provided that the State or Regional authority may for more convenient discharge of the Party's work authorise the formation of a Committee for any area comprising more than one constituency or for any area smaller than one constituency.

7. DISTRICT COMMITTEE

- (a) For every revenue district of the State, there shall be a District Committee constituted of such number as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee of the State or Region.
- (b) Such a District Committee shall be elected by the elected members of the primary bodies of that district by proportional representation.
- (c) Each District Committee shall elect a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries and one or more Treasurers.

8. STATE OR REGIONAL COUNCILS

- (a) For every State or any part thereof, as may be recognised by the General Council for this purpose, there shall be a State or Regional Council.
- (b) Every such State or Regional Council shall be constituted of such number as may be prescribed from time to time by the National Executive. Such a State or Regional Council shall be elected by the elected members of all the District

Committees in the State or Region by the method of proportional representation.

- (c) Each State or Regional Council shall elect an Executive Committee consisting of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries, one or more Treasurers and not less than 10 and not more than 20 other members.

9. GENERAL COUNCIL

- (a) There shall be a General Council consisting of not more than 250 persons.
- (b) The General Council shall be constituted of not less than 3 and not more than 20 from each State or Region as the case may be.
- (c) The number allotted to each State or Regional Party between the minimum and the maximum mentioned in sub-clause (b) shall be determined in proportion to the number of Workers and Life Workers enrolled in the State or Region as the case may be.
- (d) The members of the General Council allotted to a State or Region shall be elected by the appropriate State or Regional Council by proportional representation.

10. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

- (a) The General Council shall elect the National Executive of the Party.
- (b) The National Executive shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries, one or more Treasurers and not less than 10 and not more than 20 members besides the co-opted or nominated members referred to in Clause 11.

- (c) The election of office-bearers and members of the National Executive shall take place at a meeting of the General Council and, if possible, such meeting may be held on the eve of the Annual Convention.
- (d) The National Executive shall be competent and shall have the power
 - (i) to take all such actions and decisions and to do all such things and acts as it may consider necessary or desirable in furtherance of the Party's objective; and
 - (ii) to raise funds, collect subscriptions and to borrow moneys for that purpose.

11. CO-OPTION

- (a) The General Council shall be entitled to co-opt members who shall not be more than one-tenth of the number of its elected members.
- (b) The President shall, for giving representation to unrepresented States or Regions or for other reasons, have the power to nominate not more than 7 members elected under Rule 10.
- (c) The State or Regional Councils shall be entitled to co-opt a number of members not more than one-tenth of the respective numbers of their elected members.
- (d) A State or Regional Council as the case may be shall have the power to authorise a District or Constituency Committee to co-opt members in number not more than one-tenth of the number of elected members of such bodies.

12. TERM OF OFFICE

- (a) The first elections to the primary bodies, District Committees, State or Regional Councils and General Council under the revised rules

shall be held before the end of 1964 and thereafter by the end of every alternate year.

- (b) Workers and Life Workers duly enrolled by July 31, 1964, and Life Members enrolled on or before December 31, 1963, will be entitled to vote in the first elections to the bodies referred to in sub-clause (a).
- (c) The elections to the State and Regional Executive Committees and the National Executive referred to in clauses 8 and 10 shall be held as soon as practicable after the elections to the Committees and Councils are held as provided in sub-clause (a).

13. NATIONAL CONVENTION

- (a) The National Convention of the Party shall be held at least once every year.
- (b) The Convention shall be constituted of delegates elected on the basis of direct election by Workers, Life Workers and Life Members of the Party in such manner as may be prescribed by the General Council.
- (c) The appropriate strength of delegates from each State shall be determined by the General Council.

14. STATE OR REGIONAL CONVENTION

- (a) Every State or Region as the case may be shall hold an Annual Convention of the Party for making recommendations in regard to the policy of the Party and for deciding policy in respect of matters relating to the State or the Region concerned.
- (b) Delegates to such Convention shall be elected on the basis of direct election by Workers, Life Workers and Life Members in the State or

Region in such manner as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee of the State or Region.

15. RULES

- (a) The General Council shall have the power to prescribe by rules such matters as are herein provided to be so prescribed and such other matters which may be necessary for or incidental to carrying out the objects of the Party.
- (b) Subject to the rule making powers of the General Council, the National Executive shall have the power to frame such rules as may be necessary for or incidental to carrying out the programme or activities of the Party.
- (c) Every State or Regional Council shall have the power to prescribe by rules such matters as are herein provided to be so prescribed and such other matters as may be found necessary to carry out its functions and duties in accordance with the Constitution.

16. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at the Annual Convention:

- (a) on the recommendation of the General Council by a majority of delegates present and voting at such Convention, or
- (b) on a proposal by 200 Workers, Life Workers or Life Members of the Party by a three-fourths majority of the delegates present and voting, provided 30 days clear notice thereof had been given to the National Executive.

17. TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Central Organising Committee shall have power to make transitional arrangements for purposes necessary for, or incidental to, the functioning of the Party.