

Confidential
Shown to Mr. Ramgarh in Delhi on 22/4/64 J.A. [unclear] 22/4/64
S.V. Raju

April 17, 1964

My dear Minoo:

Mr. Bhalla of the New India Assurance Co. called on me. What he had to say was interesting. I give below a gist of his talk with me.

The Bank has served notice of motion on the Raja at Calcutta a week or so back. The first time Mr. Bhalla met him in Calcutta he made a verbal statement that these jeeps were the ~~Party's~~ property of the Swatantra Party and hence he could not hand them over to the Bank or the Insurance Company. And he therefore refused to take the notice of motion. He however was compelled to take it but gave no receipt. The New India representative went again and this time he gave in writing that he did not ^{know} where the jeeps were. When the New India representative pointed out that two ^{at Patna} the jeeps were in the Party office, he agreed that Mr. Bhalla could take them away but pleaded that he did not have with ^{him} the keys and the registration book. The third time Mr. Bhalla met him at Patna along with the court receiver from Bombay. In front of the Court Receiver Ramgarh made a statement (which was recorded by the Court Receiver) stating that the Jeeps were the property of Bokaro Industries and as such they and not he should be the defendant. Anyway the notice has been served and legal action has begun.

^{asked} I have New India's representative for a copy of the Notice of Motion which he has promised to deliver tomorrow. If he does I shall enclose it with this letter.

^{how} Ramgarh gave a long cock and bull story about ^{Pandey} he was being victimised by the Swatantra and that he had merely lent his name to the transaction etc. He was by turns aggressive and accommodating. At one stage he told the New India man to convey to Sir Homi Mody and Mr. A.D. Shroff that they had 'misused' their position to secure the credit for him. At another stage he pleaded with Mr. Bhalla to request Sir Homi Mody to use his good offices. Ramgarh had also recently written to New India stating that as soon as Mr. Kejriwal was elected he would pay Rs. One Lakh to the Bank and that the rest may be collected from the Party. He said that all this was Mr. Masani's responsibility etc. The New India representative was frank with Ramgarh and pointed out that by selling some of the hypothecated jeeps Ramgarh had committed an offence for which he could be further prosecuted.

The two jeeps lying in the Party office have been taken possession of. The New India representative is again proceeding to Patna to try and locate the other jeeps. He came to see me to ask if we knew anything about their location. I regretted my inability but did tell him as to where the jeeps were located during election time according to a statement on this subject which we ^{had} extracted from Ramgarh ^{at that time}.

Mr. V.C. Vaidya also called me up and asked for assistance in locating the jeeps. I had to plead our helplessness. Mr. Bhalla mentioned that someone had told him in Patna that Mr. Janki Nandan Singh would be in a position to help them. I told Mr. Bhalla that he was welcome to approach Janki Babu and gave him both the Patna and Darbhanga addresses. ^{none into the picture} But not to bring the Party's. Another thing Ramgarh is reported to have told Mr. Bhalla was that he did not know where the jeeps were because Mr. Masani had written to him to send the jeeps to particular areas and as such he (Bhalla) should ask Masani. Mr. Bhalla replied that he was not concerned with any third party and that his task was

to secure possession of the jeeps in lieu of repayment from Ramgarh.

Mr. Bhalla expressed his view that the Raja of Ramgarh was almost certain to involve the Party in the litigation that will now follow. In fact he is reported to have boasted to the Court Receiver that not only was he an expert at litigation but that he was a powerful personality in Bihar exemplified by the fact that he had got all his family members and even his manager elected to the Lok Sabha. The Court Receiver retorted 'Then when will you be coming to power' !

Mr. Bhalla reported a talk he had with a fair young man of about my height and size who said he was a punjabi from Ferozepore. This young man who was in the Bokaro and Ramgur office in Calcutta mentioned that the Raja of Ramgarh had been in close touch with Satyanarayan Sinha and that he was planning to rejoin the Congress Party. He also mentioned that Ramgarh had helped Satyanarayan Sinha in the elections and that in return Satyanarayan Babu would try and get Ramgarh back into the Congress. One cannot know how true such a story can be. We must remember Ramgarh has the habit of planting such stories to suit his own needs.

Now that the notice of Motion has been served, I think we should now engage officially the services of Little & Co. after consulting Mr. K.M. Munshi. Along with with Dara Mehta and Mr. K.M. Munshi you should have a conference and be prepared for any eventualities. The case will be fought out in the Bombay High Court.

Yours sincerely,

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION.
SUIT NO. 71 OF 1964.

The Central Bank of India Limited, a Company
incorporated under the Indian Companies Act VI of
1882 and having its registered office at Central
Bank Building, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay 1.

Plaintiffs.

Versus.

Kanakshya Narainsing Raja Bahadur of Rangarh of
Patna Indian Inhabitant residing at Rangarh House
Near Dinspore, Patna.....

Defendant.

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY that by an order made by the Honourable Mr. Justice N.A. Mody on 30th day of March, 1964 in the above suit, the plaintiffs abovesaid have been granted leave to serve the Notice of Motion herein dated the 18th May of February 1964 returnable on the 10th day of April 1964 upon the Defendant through the Plaintiff's own agency by personal service AND I DO HEREBY FURTHER CERTIFY that pending the hearing and final disposal of the said Notice of ~~the~~ Motion and upon the plaintiffs giving the usual undertaking referred to in Rule 367 of the Rules of this Hon'ble Court, the Court Receiver has been appointed Receiver of the Vehicles which are subject matter of the suit and which are mentioned in Exhibit 'B' to the Plaint with all necessary power under order 40 rule 1 of the Code of Civil procedure and I DO HEREBY FURTHER CERTIFY that the Court Receiver, Highcourt Bombay, has been directed not to take possession of the said Vehicles till the evening of 6th April 1964 AND I DO LASTLY CERTIFY THAT upon the plaintiff's aforesaid undertaking the Defendant, his Agents and servants have been restrained from dealing with or disposing of the said Vehicle in any manner whatsoever.

Dated this 1st day of April 1964.

Court Seal.

Sd/ Illegible

For Prothonotary and Senior Master.

Sd/- Illegible

Sealer. this 1st April 1964.

Messrs. Mulla & Mulla and Craigie
Blunt and Caroe.,
Plaintiffs Attorneys,
51, Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay 1.