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E. L. Kulkarni

8th January, 1962

My dear Rajaji,

I forward herewith extracts from the draft minutes of the Parliamentary Sub-committee meeting on the 4th and 5th January in so far as they relate to the Bihar jeep credit issue. I would like to have your approval of the minutes before issue just in case of later controversy and their possible use in the litigation that you foresee.

2. I may mention that I consider the recording of my report and Ramgarh's assurances contained in para 5 of the first day's proceedings to be essential for the future protection of the Party's interests in case there should be further trouble.

3. If you do not wish to have any changes made, kindly send me a telegram approving of the minutes. If you wish any changes made, may I kindly have your suggested alterations.

4. I enclose herewith two clippings in regard to company donations. The Indian Express report may be worth reproducing in Swarajya since it bears out your earlier statement and contradicts the Prime Minister's later one.

5. I wonder if you would be so good as to indicate to me the likely dates of your visit to Bombay in response to your commitment to Kripalaniji and to Orissa? So long as I know these dates, I shall try and plan my movements accordingly. I should also like the Orissa people to know that you are going there since Ranga is the only person who has made such a commitment on our side.

With kind regards,
encls: **

Yours sincerely,

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
60 Basulullah Road
Thyagarayanagar
Madras 17.

(M. R. MASANI)

Extract from Draft Minutes *of 6/1/62*

5 The General Secretary's letter to the Bihar State President dated 21st December 61 and the Bihar State President's telegram in reply of 24th December in regard to the Bank credit for jeeps were then taken up for consideration. The Bihar State President appealed to the Sub-committee not to burden him with as much as Rs.2.80 lakhs out of the credit of Rs.4 lakhs, as suggested in the General Secretary's letter. The General Secretary pointed out that the proposal made by him in his letter gave priority to the needs of the Party's endorsed candidates in Bihar. He presented the Ways and Means position which showed that, if any amount beyond Rs.3.75 lakhs was made available to Bihar for repaying the credit or otherwise, it would be unjust to the candidates of the Party in other States who, as at present, were not likely to receive more than Rs.25,000 per endorsed constituency which was low enough. The General Secretary repeated on the failure of the State President, despite repeated requests dating from September, to allot jeeps made available as a result of the Credit, to the endorsed candidates of the Party, as also other defaults in implementing the Baroda Award. The Raja of Ramgarh gave an assurance that if whatever money was available for Bihar was earmarked towards repayment of the Credit, he would endeavour to meet the financial needs of the Party's endorsed candidates. It was ascertained that out of the fifteen endorsed constituencies, Rs.50,000 had been paid in cash and Rs.80,000 paid to the Bank on Raja of Ramgarh's behalf and at his request. For Tirhut division, Rs.75,000 were needed for Darbhanga district and, assuming a new jeep was made available to Purnea and Saharsa, Rs.20,000 would be needed for these districts. These payments and

Sum of Rs.375 lakhs payable to Raja of Ramgarh in respect of

which the Raja of Ramgarh promises to supply

commitments totalled Rs.2.25 lakhs leaving a balance available of Rs.1.50 lakhs. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that Mr. K.M.Munshi, after further discussion with the President of the Bihar State unit, should draft a resolution and a draft agreement to be entered into between the Treasurer of the Party and Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh of Ramgarh setting out the basis on which this matter would be resolved and that these drafts should be presented to the Sub-committee the following morning.

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Extract from draft Minutes of 5/1/62

8. Mr. Munshi presented a draft resolution and a draft agreement and, after further discussion, the following resolution was adopted by the Sub-committee:

(Quote resolution)

9. As the reduction of the amount which the Swatantra Party would pay to the Central Bank ^{might} affect the interests of the Pledger who has pledged the jeeps to the Central Bank and as the Raja of Ramgarh was associated with the Pledger, he ^{thought it would be equally correct for him} did not ^{to abstain from voting} vote in so far as the aforesaid part of the Resolution is concerned.

10. It was arranged that Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh of Ramgarh would, on his return to Patna, send a telegram to the General Secretary within the next two or three days indicating the date on which the General Secretary should send his representative to Patna to take charge by January 18 of the 15 jeeps referred to in the Resolution and to ensure that they were placed in the possession of the Party's endorsed candidates in Bihar, whether in the Tirhoot division or elsewhere. The allocation of these fifteen jeeps would be according to the discretion of the General Secretary. Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh, on his part, promised to designate a responsible person who would meet the General Secretary's representative in Patna on his arrival and facilitate the execution of the necessary documents from the endorsed candidates who would hold the jeeps from the Central office of the Party and who would promise to return them immediately after polling concluded to the General Secretary of the Party through the President of the Bihar State Party. The following form to be signed by the candidates concerned was drafted:

"Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh of Ramgarh has delivered Jeep No. _____ to me
on _____ . I will keep it in good working order and promise to
return it at the end of the campaign to the President of the State Party for
handing over to the General Secretary of the Party."

...

RAJA OF RAMGARH
CARE 'JANSEVAK'
PATNA

FOLLOWING IS THE FORM OF AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED
BY ENDORSED CANDIDATES IN POSSESSION OF THE CENTRAL
PARTY'S FIFTEEN JEEPS DICTATED BY RAJAJI AND FORMING
PART OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES STOP
AM WIRING IT TO YOU SO YOU MAY USE IT IN ADVANCE OF
MY REPRESENTATIVE'S ARRIVAL STOP AM AWAITING YOUR
TELEGRAM FIXING DATE FOR MY REPRESENTATIVE'S VISIT
STOP FORM OF AGREEMENT QUOTE RAJA OF RAMGARH HAS
DELIVERED JEEP NUMBER BLANK TO ME
ON BLANK DATE STOP I WILL KEEP IT IN GOOD WORKING
ORDER AND PROMISE TO RETURN IT AT THE END OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE PARTY FOR
HANDING OVER TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PARTY
UNQUOTE

=MASANI=

Not to be
telegraphed

143 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay 1

6.1.62

Confirmatory copy by Ordinary post

MRM:KRM

the
Swatania As a reduction of the amount which
the Party will pay to the Central Bank will affect
the interests of the Pledgor ^{who has pledged} of the jeeps
to the Central Bank and as the Raja of Ramgarh
is associated with the Pledgor, he does not
vote on the resolution insofar as the
aforesaid part of the resolution is concerned.

NOV 1961

The Parliamentary Sub-Committee considered the correspondence between the Rajah Saheb of Ramgarh and the General Secretary in regard to delivery of Jeeps to candidates and the question of payment to the Central Bank of India Limited on behalf of the Rajah Saheb.

The Parliamentary Sub-Committee took into consideration the fact that the expectations in regard to funds to be raised for the elections have not been fully realised and that the number of endorsed constituencies in Bihar has been reduced from 25 to 15. The payment, therefore, to be made to Bihar would be Rs.3,75,000/- in all. Allowing for various payments and commitments made, a sum of Rs.1,50,000/- remains available for payment towards the loan raised from the Central Bank of India Limited for the purchase of Jeeps.

(1) The Parliamentary Sub-Committee, therefore, resolves that a sum of Rs.1,50,000/- should be paid to the Central Bank of India in monthly instalments of Rs.20,000/- each, on behalf of the Rajah Saheb, provided that ¹⁵ Jeeps are delivered for use by the endorsed candidates in Bihar, by the ¹⁸ 15th of January 1962, to the satisfaction of the General Secretary or his nominees.

(2) The Rajah Saheb guarantees that on the Bank being paid off, the said 15 Jeeps shall be the property of the party.

(3) The Parliamentary Sub-Committee further is of the view that an arrangement should be made with the Rajah Saheb substantially in terms mentioned in the draft Agreement and that as soon as possible the parties should pay off the Bank in terms of Clause 7 of the draft Agreement.

1. That share of the amount due