

JEEP CREDIT TO RAMGARH

Parliamentary Sub-committee decisions -
Default in delivery of jeeps to endorsed
candidatures

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I. Parliamentary Sub-committee decisions :

1. The Parliamentary Sub-committee meeting in Bangalore on October 30 and 31, 1961, recorded the following in its minutes of proceedings :

"The Sub-committee decided that the President of the Bihar State unit should be requested to arrange for the delivery forthwith of one new jeep to each endorsed parliamentary candidate through the District President from the vehicle made available by reason of the credit arranged by the Centre."

2. At its meeting in Agra on November 23, 1961, the Parliamentary Sub-committee once again recorded the following assurance from Raja Saheb of Ramgarh in respect of delivery of jeeps to endorsed candidatures as follows :

"Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh agreed to give prompt effect to the decision of the Parliamentary Sub-committee at its Bangalore meeting that one new jeep out of the allotment made as a result of the credit arranged by the Centre should be made available to each of the 15 candidates endorsed & or to be endorsed by the Parliamentary Sub-committee and to intimate confirmation of this action in detail to the Central Office, and those who have got other jeeps from the President should release them at once to avoid all delay."

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3. At its meeting in Agra on 27th November, 1961, the Parliamentary Sub-committee once again recorded the following report of discussions held between Mr. Munshi, the Raja of Ramgarh and the General Secretary :

"Mr. K.M. Munshi and the General Secretary reported on the discussion they had with the State President in regard to further endorsement of Parliamentary constituencies and approval of Assembly candidates. They mentioned that the State President had given an assurance that he would, without further delay, arrange to deliver one jeep from the allotment made possible by the credit arranged by the Centre to each candidate endorsed or to be endorsed by the Parliamentary Sub-committee. The State President had explained that this delay was due to his desire to secure possession of other jeeps which had been given to certain candidates."

II. Letters from the Centre calling upon the Raja Sahab to give effect to the various decisions mentioned above :

1. As early as 5th September, 1961, the General Secretary in the course of a letter to the Raja of Ramgarh referred to the new jeeps that he had secured with Central assistance and stated :

"Your Election Sub-committee agreed to arrange for the allocation of the new and used jeeps made available by the Centre in the light of their being earmarked for use only in endorsed parliamentary constituencies. Subject to final endorsement by the Parliamentary Sub-committee of the Party, these jeeps may for the present be used in those constituencies which have been recommended for endorsement by your Election Sub-committee according to the enclosed list. I shall be glad to hear from you as to how this allocation has been made. We trust an arrangement will be worked out by which each endorsed parliamentary constituency will have a new jeep contributed by the Centre out of the 26 or 27 new jeeps that have been made available by the Centre." NO. REPLY

2. On 2nd November 1961, conveying the decision of the Parliamentary Sub-committee which met in Bangalore on

On October 30 and 31, Mr. M.R. Masani, the General Secretary wrote to the Raja of Ramgarh, :

"In the meantime, the Parliamentary Sub-committee has asked me to convey to you its request that one new jeep from among those with you as a result of the Credit, may please be delivered to the candidates endorsed by the Parliamentary Sub-committee in para 7. It is requested that these may please be done immediately through the President of each district unit concerned and that the numbers of the vehicles and their safe delivery may please be confirmed to this office." NO REPLY

3. The notes of discussion between Mr. Munshi, the Raja of Ramgarh and the General Secretary on November 24, adverting to jeeps that were now with the Raja Sahab as a result of the Credit arranged for him by the Centre, mentioned :

"Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh agreed to give prompt effect to the decision of the Parliamentary Sub-committee at its Bangalore meeting that one new jeep out of the allotment made as a result of the credit arranged by the Centre should be made available to each of the 15 candidates endorsed or to be endorsed by the Parliamentary Sub-committee and to intimate confirmation of this action in detail to the Central Office."

This assurance given by the Raja Sahab as well as subsequent reminders by the General Secretary did not evoke any response nor was the assurance fulfilled.

4. Communicating the decision of the Agra meeting of the Parliamentary Sub-committee in regard to jeeps the General Secretary in the course of a letter dated 4th December, 1961, stated among other things :

"As you will see from the draft minutes of the Parliamentary Sub-committee forwarded to you with my letter of November 29, the Parliamentary Sub-committee was glad to have your assurance that jeeps provided from the credit arranged by the Centre would be made available - one to each candidate endorsed or to be endorsed by the Sub-committee. I shall be

obliged if you will kindly let me have confirmation of such delivery with the date of transfer and the number of the jeep in each case. Would you also please let us know whether you propose to give a jeep each to Parliamentary candidates who have been or may be only half-endorsed ?" NO REPLY

5. On 21st December, 1961, writing to the Raja of Ramgarh, Mr. ~~Munshi~~ once again referred to the jeeps and after the various letters sent to him in this connection stated :

"Another matter in regard to which information from you is not forthcoming is in regard to the delivery of the jeeps made available as a result of the credit arranged by the Centre. You will recall that, as far back as 5th September, a request was made in my letter of that date that one new jeep should be handed over to each endorsed candidate and that, pending such endorsement, those whose names appeared in the list attached to that letter might be given a jeep each.

"On 2nd November, I wrote to you conveying the decision of the Parliamentary Sub-committee at its Bangalore meeting requesting you to hand over one new jeep each to those Parliamentary candidates whose names had already been endorsed by the Parliamentary Sub-committee. At Agra, as you will remember, Mr. Munshi and I inquired about the reasons for the delay in complying with this request and you explained the difficulties but gave an assurance that this would now be done without further delay, which assurance was conveyed by us in our note to the Parliamentary Sub-committee of 27th November. On 4th December, I wrote to you again conveying the decision of the Parliamentary Sub-committee in Agra that its wishes in regard to the delivery of the jeeps should be carried out forthwith. It is regretted that there has been no confirmation from you of compliance with the Parliamentary Sub-committee's wishes and no information about the details requested. On the other hand, we keep getting communication from endorsed Parliamentary candidates complaining that no jeep has been made available to them." NO REPLY

III.

Complaints received from Bihar re: non delivery of jeeps

On 9th October, 1961 Mr. Punyananã Jha in the course of a communication to the General Secretary appealed to the Centre for assistance as he mentioned that :

- "(i) There are no funds; and
(ii) Jeeps given to Raja of Ramgarh are all in disorder and perhaps he may not allow them to be used."

2. On 22nd October Mr. Nandkishore Narain, an endorsed candidate from the Gopalganj constituency who ought to have received a jeep complained that he had so far not received a new jeep that ought to have been sent to him according to the decision of the Parliamentary Sub-committee.

3. Again on 11th November 1961, Mr. Narain in the course of a communication to the General Secretary stated,

"I am told by the office assistant incharge of transport that all the new jeeps have been allotted and sent to respective places and in absence of any information from the President, they showed their unhelplessness to do anything. I do not know when jeep and funds would be made available to us."

4. On 13th November, 1961, Mr. Janki Nandan Singh, President of the Darbhanga district unit of the Party, wired the General Secretary that jeeps had not been delivered and that as a consequence work was suffering.

5. On 11th December, Mr. Janki Nandan Singh in the course of a letter to Mr. Munshi complained :

"During my conversation with Raja Bahadur I persuaded and requested to him to give delivery of three new jeeps for the parliamentary endorsed seats for my districts. The candidates have sent him the authority slip to give delivery of jeeps to me but I am afraid that he is still persuading of his old policy. Though he has not refused to deliver the jeeps but he said that he would see that the delivery of jeep would be given to me in near future without mentioning any day."

6. With this letter he had also forwarded to the General Secretary a copy of his letter of the same date to the Raja of Ramgarh where he mentioned :

"I had a talk with you regarding the delivery of three new jeeps to the endorsed candidate of my District. I am herewith enclosing the authority slip of Sri Yogeswar Ghos, Sri Harishchandr Mishra Mithilandu and Sri Gaffoor Saheb have also wrote to you to give the delivery of jeeps to me. I made earnest appeal to you yesterday to give me delivery of jeeps as soon as possible but you simply tole me that you sould inform me in future. You did not mention any date and time. Now the State Convention is over. So many jeeps are available with you. Kindly allot three new jeeps to me for the endorsed candidate of my district and please inform me the date and time from where and when I will get at Patna."

7. On December 24, 1961, Justice Jugal Kishore Narain, a half endorsed candidate from the Siwan Parliamentary Constituency in the course of a letter complained that a jeep that had been meant for him had been given to somebody else. He mentioned, however, that the Raja of Ramgarh had assured him that he would instruct the gentleman to whom the jeep had been handed over to pass it on to Justice Narain.

Thus it will be seen from the above that the Raja of Ramgarh has not implemented the various decisions of the Parliamentary Sub-committee in regard to the delivery of jeeps and further did not bother to reply to the various communications from the Centre asking him to furnish the required information.

The credit of Rs.4 lakhs was arranged for him on the understanding that the jeeps that would be purchased from this credit would be used in such constituencies as would be endorsed by the Centre. His non-implementation of Parliamentary Sub-committee decisions, and the indifference to communications from the Centre indicate that the Centre has no longer any moral commitment to come to the assistance of the Raja of Ramgarh.