

3377

21st December 1961

My dear Raja Sahab,

I have had no acknowledgement from you of my letter of November 29 and no reply to the various points I had raised in my letter to you of December 4. There are many matters in the second letter in regard to which a reply from you is overdue if progress is to be made, such as your proposals regarding the remaining four constituencies for endorsement, agreements to be obtained from self-supporting candidates in the form forwarded to you along with the General Secretary's Letter No. 28 of 12th December, the query in regard to the remaining Assembly candidates whose names are not yet approved by the Parliamentary Sub-committee and the position in regard to the Patna Assembly constituencies including your own seat. It will be greatly appreciated if you will kindly expedite your reply in regard to these matters.

2. 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 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.

3. 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 communications from endorsed Parliamentary candidates complaining that no jeep has been made available to them.

4. As a result of discussions with the Treasurer and Mr. K.M. Munshi, it has also become necessary for me to raise with you the general issue of finance. You will recall that at a time when we had hoped to endorse 25 Parliamentary constituencies in Bihar and it was hoped to reach the target of Rs. 40,000 per constituency, we had, on the strength of this expectation, not only given you a cash advance of Rs. 50,000 some time in the middle of 1961 but also arranged for you a credit of Rs. 5 lakhs with the Central Bank, out of which you paid Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 4 lakh remained to be paid by you to the Bank. At your request and on your behalf, we have paid monthly instalments to the Bank of Rs. 20,000 up to date amounting to Rs. 80,000.

5. Since then two changes have taken place. One is that the number of seats to be endorsed in Bihar has been reduced by the Parliamentary Sub-committee from 25 to 15. The other is that, owing to the serious shortfall in our collections, it is not likely that the amount available for each endorsed Parliamentary constituency

will exceed Rs.25,000. On the basis of Rs.25,000 per constituency being available, the total amount to be paid to Bihar by the Centre is Rs.3,75,000 for 15 seats.

6. Out of this amount of Rs.3,75,000 due to Bihar, Rs.50,000 has already been paid by the Centre as a cash advance and Rs.80,000 by way of monthly instalments to the Central Bank. The monthly instalments for January and February 1962, if paid by us to the Central Bank will mean another Rs.40,000. In the changed situation, you will appreciate that it will not be possible for anything beyond this to be repaid on your behalf to the Central Bank as our obligations to our endorsed candidates must take priority. On this basis, the property in 8 jeeps will be that of the Centre and the balance of 25 jeeps yours.

7. The total of all these amounts met by the Centre will come to Rs.1,70,000, leaving a balance of Rs.2,05,000 payable in respect of Bihar.

8. In view of the Baroda Award and the subsequent decisions of the Parliamentary Sub-committee in Bangalore and Agra, the Centre will now have to finance directly three Parliamentary constituencies in Darbhanga, one in Saharsa and one in Purnea. The three Darbhanga seats have already been endorsed and the Presidents of Saharsa and Purnea Districts have sent to you copies of their letters to me of 7th December and 6th December respectively. Their first preference is Shri Ram Anugraha Jha in the case of Saharsa and Shri Baukai Mandal in the case of Kishanganj. I have sent you a telegram (copy attached) in this connection.

9. Arrangements are being made to provide up to Rs.25,000 for each of these five Parliamentary constituencies to be paid to the candidates through their respective District Presidents, since you have not found it possible to give a jeep to these endorsed candidates nor have you so far financed these candidates.

10. In so far as Muzaffarpur and Champaran districts are concerned, the District Presidents have made certain recommendations and have sent you copies of their letters to me of 8th December and 24th November respectively. We presume that you will take account of these recommendations when sending your final recommendations to me in regard to the four constituencies that still remain to be endorsed, as mentioned in my letter to you of 4th December. For the present, no amount is being put aside specifically for Muzaffarpur and Champaran districts in the belief that the District Presidents will be working in co-operation with you.

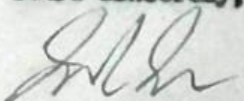
11. Allowing for this commitment of Rs.1,25,000 to Darbhanga, Saharsa and Purnea Districts, Rs.80,000 will remain unallocated and it is now for consideration how this amount should be disbursed through your Election Finance Sub-committee so that the endorsed Parliamentary candidates of the Party (outside the three districts mentioned above) may be most effectively helped to get elected.

12. We shall be glad to receive the early suggestions that you and your two colleagues in the Bihar Election Finance Sub-committee, namely, Mr. Ram Bined Singh and Mr. Jaleswar Prasad, have to make on this point.

encl : *

Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh of Ramgarh,
President, Bihar Swatantra Party,
Chhajju Bagh,
PATNA 1.

Yours sincerely,


(M. R. MASANI)

Copies to : 1. Mr. Ram Bined Singh
2. Mr. Jaleswar Prasad
3. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari .. for information
4. Professor N.G. Ranga ..