

Gram: "JANSEVAK"

Swatantra Party Bihar

Branch: JANATA PARTY BIHAR

CHHAJU BAGH, PATNA.

Date 23rd. July 1961.

No. *D22*

3399

Cc Sir of Rangaiah 9th
My dear Prof: Ranga,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I have received from Sir Homi Mody a few days back. It appears that Sir Homi is finding great difficulty in collecting funds for the Party from businessmen. Although he is still optimistic about collecting funds but I am of the opinion that if adequate funds are not placed at the disposal of the State Presidents (general elections being only six months ahead) the prospects of giving a tough fight to the Congress at the Polls would become very bleak indeed in 1962.

You are aware that the ruling party has made elections very expensive in this Country. The Congress has won the mid-term elections in Orissa on the strength of money. Although the Congress has become quite unpopular in this Country, still lot of money is needed to defeat them in the Elections.

Probably you agree with me that the Bihar unit stands a good chance of winning in the coming general elections. But I am writing to you with a very heavy heart that for want of funds the bright star of hope which had risen on the horizon of the Bihar State Swatantra Party is about to set.

Ever since 1947, I have been fighting the - Congress tyranny in Bihar with all my resources. Even after I joined the Swatantra Party, I have been spending my money to make the Party strong in Bihar. I had submitted a statement in April 1961 wherein I had shown that I had spent a sum of Rupees Seven Lacks for the cause of the Party. Since then I have further invested a sum of Rupees Three Lacs for the purchase of a Helicopter to enable the All India Leaders of the Party to address greater number of meetings in the remote corners of the State within the shortest possible time and thus increase the prospects of the prospective - Swatantra Party candidates. To operate, the Helicopter will

cost.....

cost me a further sum of Ninety Thousand Rupees @ Fifteen thousand Rupees per month from September to February. I would not have hesitated to spend more money had the Bihar Government left me in peace. I find that the Government is making serious and deliberate attempts to ruin me economically and with this end in view has instituted of late a number of cases to cut at the root of my sustenance. I am, therefore, not in a position to spend any more money for the cause of the Party.

The Swatantra Party of Bihar had appealed to the C.O.C. for a contribution of Rupees Twelve Lacs to successfully fight the General Elections. An assurance was given that Rupees Ten Lacs would be made available to us. This statement was also supported by Mr. Masani when he recently visited Patna.

On the 1st. of July I sent a proposal that out of this ten lacks of rupees a sum of Rupees Five Lacks may be advanced now for the immediate purchase of 40 Jeeps and the rest of the money be given in two or three months time. This request was made because without Jeeps it is impossible to make mass contacts with the people which is so very essential for winning the elections. Sir Homi Mody's letter in this connection has come to me as a great disappointment.

The people of Bihar are looking up to the Swatantra Party to release them from the Congress shackles. The frustration of the people will be very great when they come to know that we cannot even put up a stiff fight against the Congress. Once the people get disappointed it will be difficult to regain their confidence. All these issues are agitating my mind very much. And each valuable day that is passing without "means and money" is making me more and more pessimistic.

As the President of the Bihar State Swatantra Party there is a very heavy responsibility on my shoulders. I have given all my time, money and energy in building up the party in Bihar. Today without any fear of contradiction I can say that the Swatantra Party in Bihar has built up a political organisation which cannot be ignored. My hopes and aspirations are in the Party. All this unfortunately I see being shattered because funds cannot be made available to give the last push to the Congress.

I know.....

I know no one is to blame for this. It is unfortunate that the businessmen of this Country have not yet realised that their existence depends on the success of the Swatantra Party at the Polls. Whatever be the cause but the situation as it has emerged now is highly distressing.

I have spent many a sleepless night over this matter. In vain I have tried to argue with myself that a popular Party can win the elections without Jeep and Money. We have to face facts. Without the essential pre-requisites (Jeep and Money) no political Party can dream of successful contesting the Elections. We lack in both these essential pre-requisites so it will not be surprising if we have to face a debacle in 1962. I am not afraid of losing a battle after giving a stiff fight to our adversary but what I am really worried over is that we miserably lack in money and means without which it is impossible even to prepare to fight the mighty Congress Organisation in the Country. The people of Bihar will never excuse me if I were to lead them in an unprepared state to fight the Congress.

Under the circumstances, I request you to kindly relieve me from the responsibility of conducting the election campaign in the State of Bihar as the President of the Swatantra Party. Some one who has more confidence within himself may be selected to occupy this high office in the State. It is not out of cowardice that I am taking this step but just to save myself from public disgrace.

Before I end, I would like to offer my gratefulness to you and through you to my other Colleagues for the kind and brotherly treatment that I have received from all my friends.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Lamakhya Narain
23.7.61

Encl: As stated above.

Prof: N. G. Ranga, M.P.
President,
All India Swatantra Party,
Nidubrolu
Andhra State.

c.c. to: - (1) Mr. M. R. Masani
General Secretary
All India Swatantra Party,
Sassoon Building,
143, Mahatma Gandhi Road,
B O M B A Y - 1.

(2) Sir Homi Mody,
Treasurer
All India Swatantra Party,
Bombay House,
Bruce Street,
Fort, Bombay-1.

I have repeatedly mentioned the difficulty of collecting funds for the Party in the present political atmosphere, but we have to face up to the fact that business- men have a lot to expect of this free the ruling Party, and looking upon me as my task as a treasurer has proved so hard- going that I have often wished I had not been appointed into this job. It is certainly a great deal of worry, and I often feel older about the situation generally of the business community. But I am carrying on, and have not allowed even the recent death of my brother, which has affec- ted me deeply, to interfere with the responsibility I have undertaken.

Please do not think I am discouraged. My friends and I are constantly pouring all manner of people for contribu- tions to our cause, and I will have hopes that, within a matter of a couple of months or so, a different picture may emerge. We recognise that there has a special claim on us and we have the experience that we shall help you to the best of our ability.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. R. P. Mody.

The Mody House at Singapore.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

C O P Y

BOMBAY HOUSE
FORT, BOMBAY, 1.
13th. July, 1961.

My dear Raja Sahab,

I write to thank you for your letter of the 1st. July and the papers you sent along; also your cable regarding the credit arrangements discussed between us when you were last here.

I am very sorry to have to say that, in spite of the best efforts of our mutual friend, it has not been found possible to arrange the credit. Banks are not willing to entertain any such proposition. I realise what disappointment this must cause you, but we at this end just cannot help it.

I have repeatedly emphasised the difficulty of collecting funds for the Party in the present political atmosphere, but we have to face up to the fact that businessmen have a lot to expect or fear from the ruling Party, and nothing from us. My task as a Treasurer has proved so harassing that I have often wished I had not been persuaded into accepting it. It is causing me a great deal of worry, and I often feel bitter about the miserable attitude generally of the business community. But I am carrying on, and have not allowed even the recent death of my brother, which has affected me deeply, to interfere with the responsibility I have undertaken.

Please do not think I am downhearted. My friend and I are constantly pursuing all manner of people for contributions to our cause, and I still have hopes that, within a matter of a couple of months or so, a different picture may emerge. We recognize that Bihar has a special claim on us and you have the assurance that we shall help you to the best of our ability.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd. H.P. Mody.

The Raja Sahab of Ramgarh.