

20th June, 1961.

3401
My dear Raja Saheb,

Yesterday and today we have had long discussions about your three letters Nos. 2415, 2416 and 2418 of 10th June. You also had a discussion with Sir Homi Mody and Mr. A.D. Shroff about some of the issues raised in your letters. It is not necessary for me therefore to cover the ground that we have covered in discussions all over again. Let, me, however, record briefly the upshot of our discussions.

2. In so far as your letter no. 2418 is concerned, I had explained to you in considerable detail why I am unhappy to ~~un~~receive your request for a postponement of the date for submitting to the Central Office the recommendations of the Bihar Swatantra Party in regard to Parliament and Assembly candidatures. All the same, in view of the difficulties which you explained to me, you and I have agreed that the following time table should now be observed :

1. The Bihar Swatantra Party will complete receiving names from districts and constituencies by 30th June.
2. From 1st July, observers will visit the districts, survey and examine the local situation and return to Patna by 8th July.
3. The Election Sub-committee of the Party will meet in Patna from 10th July onwards to prepare the final list and conclude its deliberations by 15th July.
4. The list in the form that the Central Office has asked for will be despatched by personal messenger to me in Delhi reaching me there on Monday, 17th July.
5. The Central Office will thus have one week in which to scrutinize and digest the list and tabulate it alongside of other lists received from other States.
6. It will then be possible for the Parliamentary Sub-committee to consider the Bihar list along with others when it meets in Madras on July 22 and 23.

3. I shall be most grateful if you will kindly ensure that this timetable is scrupulously adhered to.

4. In so far as your letter No.2416 is concerned, I had explained to you that the sum of Rs.10 lacs mentioned during your last visit to Bombay and in Patna was subject to certain assumptions in regard to the quantum of the total funds collected and the financial endorsement granted by the Parliamentary Sub-committee. This amount was certainly not to be in addition to any monthly contributions of Rs.25,000 or any other amount but would include all payments whatsoever. As I had explained to you yesterday and today, no further payments out of this amount can be made until the Parliamentary Sub-committee has endorsed at least a few candidatures in your State. For the month of July, therefore, Bihar will only be receiving its normal contribution of Rs.2475. It is hoped, however, that once the Parliamentary Sub-committee considers your list on July 22 and 23, substantial payments on the lines discussed with Sir Homi Mody and Mr. A.D.Shroff yesterday can commence from 1st August. The figure of Rs.5 lakhs which was mentioned in my letter to you of 18th May is that part of the amount in regard to which it was agreed that you might raise loans to be repaid out of payments to be made by the Centre. When we met here, you were good enough to say that you appreciate this distinction.

5. In so far as the second paragraph of that letter is concerned, I explained to you what it is not possible for the State Presidents to be given discretionary powers in regard to the expending of the Centre's contributions which, in accordance with the Parliamentary Sub-committee's decision, will be earmarked for those Parliamentary constituencies in respect of which the candidatures are financially endorsed by the Parliamentary Sub-committee. We have discussed the limits within which it may be possible, with the permission of the Parliamentary Sub-committee, to divert such resources from one of the endorsed Parliamentary constituencies to another similarly endorsed Parliamentary constituency. You were happy to receive that clarification and agreed that, in the light of this clarification no discretion need be left to the State Presidents.

6. In so far as your third letter No.2415 is concerned, this matter was fully discussed with Sir Homi Mody and Mr. A.D.Shroff and, as you are aware, they are doing their best to arrange for a credit of the nature which you have requested, it being understood that you would pay the initial instalment of Rs.1 lakh in cash.

Yours sincerely,

(M. R. Masani)

Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh,
Patna.