

Swatantra ⁽³⁵²⁾ Newsletter

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Fundamental Rights Front

The Party's campaign to protect the Fundamental Rights of our people is now well under way since the General Secretary's letter to readers of the *Newsletter* in December last year (*Swatantra Newsletter* No. 70 Oct.-Dec., 1969).

A Fundamental Rights Front has been set with former Chief Justice of India K. Subba Rao as Chair-

man. The Front is strictly non-partisan and open to all those who subscribe to the sanctity of Fundamental Rights. But for administrative convenience, the entire activity will be coordinated through the National Headquarters of the Party in Bombay.

Annexure to this issue carries extracts from a circular issued to the Party's State/Regional Units.

Cambodia

The Party's Founder Rajaji and its President Mr. Masani have both welcomed U.S. action in Cambodia. Wrote Rajaji in his 'Dear Reader' Column of *Swarajya* (May 9):

"US *News and World Report* of May 4 has a report from its Staff correspondent in Cambodia that Cambodia is on the verge of collapse. Communist Vietcong and North Vietnamese forces are moving everywhere in that country "almost at will". America's isolationism is helping Mao's goal to be attained.

We are told by the same journal that Soviet officials are puzzled and ask: "Is the US abdicating all responsibility for the rest of the world?"

While fighting men are being withdrawn by the US everywhere, arms sales are brisk, 1.3 billions a year. "Sales help keep the dollar strong" observes *US News and World Report*. The dollar may remain strong, but it seems that the Communist world dream is getting nearer to fulfilment. The opposition between Moscow and Peking cannot be always taken for granted.

I am amazed at the caption and the contents of Mr. Reddy's message to the *Hindu* from Delhi about the latest phase of Cambodia affairs. We are told by Mr. Reddy, and he no doubt correctly conveys the ruling group's mind, that India is appalled at the US intervention in Cambodia as it is contrary to the previous declarations and indications of President Nixon. The message which Sri B. K. Tiwari has sent from Hong Kong to the *Indian Express* on 2nd May is more important. Mao Tse-tung appeared in public on May 1 along with Sihanouk of Cambodia and reiterated his slogan that Asia is Red. Mao is reported to have decided to take charge of the Cambodia war.

That the defence of non-communist Asia against Communist aggression should be the concern of those nations, and they must take steps to come together and be independent of American or other assistance, is a good long-term policy. But long-term wisdom is irrelevant in the present context of Hanoi and Vietcong forces threatening effective and immediate seizure of Cambodia over and above South Vietnam. It will take some time, to put it at the least, before the nations of non-communist Asia, Taiwan and Japan and Australia come together and organize a common defence programme against Communist ambitions. Immediate action is what the present Hanoi-Vietcong-Mao movement in Cambodia demands. What has forced President Nixon to intervene in Cambodia despite the misguided heavy pressure of "peace-lovers" in America to leave Asia to itself is the immediate emergency. Instead of India being appalled at Nixon's action, it should welcome it and support his prompt action.

My view of the danger to India is different from what New Delhi under the present guidance is taking. The present Government of India's views and policies will strengthen the Naxalites who are part of Mao's forces. The Communist dream of world domination is getting unintended support from India's misguided policies."

Addressing a Press Conference at Srinagar on May 11, Mr. Masani welcomed Rajaji's statements supporting President Nixon's action in Cambodia and said President Nixon had shown great courage in dealing with the Cambodian crisis.

Earlier on May 4, addressing a public meeting in Rourkela, the Swatantra President denounced the Union Government for following a policy of satellitism

to the Soviet Union which had culminated in its (Union Govt's) disgraceful refusal to join the conference called by Indonesia to consider measures for the defence of Cambodia against Chinese Communist and North Vietnamese aggression with the connivance of the quisling Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Mr. Masani went on to say that Mrs Gandhi and Mr. Dinesh Singh were obstructing every attempt being made to protect

that peaceful little country from being overrun by the Communists just as they had two years back tried to prevent the Indian Parliament from expressing its solidarity with little Czechoslovakia which was being overrun by the Soviets. He welcomed the entry of South Vietnamese and American forces into Cambodia to ward off the communist attack.

Rs 2 lakhs on Lenin Centenary

Several Swatantra M.P.s have in a joint letter to Education Minister V. K. R. V. Rao on 17th April protested against the move to celebrate Lenin's Centenary officially.

The M.P.s state that according to their information India was the only country outside Russia's satellites which was officially celebrating the Centenary.

There were several organisations which could do so. In the process Rs. 2 lakhs proposed to be spent by the Government on the centenary celebrations could be saved.

The M.P.s who include Messrs. Y. G. Gowd, K. M.

Koushik, R. R. Singh Deo, and Mr. D. N. Deb mentioned that a meeting specially organised for this purpose at Aligarh University under the Chairmanship of Dr. Alim, Vice-Chancellor was constantly disturbed by an overwhelming majority of students as they too resented the attempt at indoctrination. They raised anti-Lenin and anti-Communist slogans. The Vice Chancellor had to cut short his speech and leave the hall through the backdoor.

After this the students assembled in the hall and made speeches condemning the University authorities for celebrating Lenin's Centenary.

Anti-Naxalite Day

The Communist Party (M.L.) or the Naxalites as they are better known have, in recent months, resorted to violence with growing impunity. Not a day passes without reports of murders and other atrocities committed by the Naxalites. They openly proclaim Mao Tse-tung as their Leader and have been able to roam around at will certain parts of the countryside mostly in Bengal but also in certain districts of Bihar, Orissa and Andhra terrorising the villages, holding "people's courts" and "executing" village officials or those who resist Naxalite depredations — like the Vietcong in South Vietnam.

The Ruling Party, leaning on Communist support to retain power, has shown no determination to stamp out the Naxalites.

To focus public attention on the growing threat to the country's stability and freedom the National Headquarters called upon the Party's Units to observe May 24 as "Anti-Naxalite Activities Day".

The following are reports from the Party's Units in response to this call.

Punjab

Mr. N. S. Parwana, Joint Secretary of the Amritsar District Swatantra Party, reports that a general body meeting of the workers, sympathisers and well wishers of the Swatantra Party was held in Amritsar and presided over by Dr. Mehar Singh, President of the Amritsar District Unit and Vice-President of the Punjab Unit.

The meeting unanimously and strongly condemned the bomb explosion, presumably the handiwork of a Naxalite on the life of Prof. N. G. Ranga and those other people participating in the "Save Democracy Convention" at Patna on April 24, which reflects a calculated attempt to terrorise democratic forces.

"The Central Government have consistently failed to deal with this serious problem which now threatens to create a situation in which the Government may be compelled one day to quit the State of West Bengal and such other states, where Naxalite activities succeed."

"The Amritsar District Unit of the Swatantra Party joins the parent body in the countrywide agitation being started today to educate the masses and also to compel the Central Government to take appropriate action without any further delay." The meeting also decided to hold meetings henceforth in various constituency units, to propagate their cause and prepare the masses for the said purpose.

Public meetings and processions were also held at Gurudaspur, Patiala Nathana, Bhatinda and Rajpura.

Gujarat

Mr. Jayantbhai Bhatt, the Secretary of the Ahmedabad City Swatantra Party, reports that a meeting attended by the workers of the Ahmedabad City Swatantra Party and Ahmedabad District Swatantra Party was held in Ahmedabad. Mr. Suketu Shah presided and Mr. Navinbhai Patel, Mr. Devjibhai Parmar,

Mr. Narendrasinh Jhala and Mr. Vithalbhai Shah addressed the meeting which passed a resolution drawing attention to the fact that the Naxalites were using students for their violent activities and indulged in attacks on educational institutions, in burning libraries, burning photographs of our national leaders, etc. The meeting called upon the Central Government to nip the Naxalite activity in the bud. It also called upon the Central Government to pay adequate compensation to the victims where public property was destroyed by the Naxalites.

Anti-Naxalite Activities Day was observed by the Jamnagar City Unit with a public meeting addressed by Mr. Vinodbhai Seth, President of the City Unit.

The resolution adopted by the meeting condemned "the murder of innocent citizens of West Bengal by the Naxalites who were indulging in murder, loot, incendiarism and throwing bombs in other parts of the country." The meeting condemned the Central Home Ministry for its failure to stop these unlawful activities of the Naxalites and called upon the Central Government to take immediate steps to restore law and order.

Uttar Pradesh

Mr. D. S. Chaturvedi, Joint Secretary of the U.P. Swatantra Party and President of the Varanasi District Unit reports that party workers stood at the main road crossings with placards carrying Anti-Naxalite slogans. In the evening, a largely attended public meeting was organised.

Addressing the meeting Mr. Chaturvedi said that the Naxalites were traitors to the nation and were preparing the way for Chinese domination over India under the garb of agrarian revolution by creating anarchy through violence.

A meeting was organised by the District Unit in Kanpur in which doctors, advocates, businessmen, industrialists and intellectuals were present, and addressed among others by the President of the State Unit, Mr. Harbhajan Singh, the General Secretary, Mr. Mohd. Farooq Khan, District President, Mr. P. Srivastava and Secretary P. L. Pandey.

A procession of party workers was taken out in Lucknow which went around the main roads of the city, carrying banners and placards. Anti-Naxalite literature was also distributed to the public. The procession culminated in a public meeting where the formation of a People's anti-Naxalite Front under the Convenorship of Mr. Syed Sajid Ali was announced.

The Unnao District Unit observed the day by taking out a big procession led by Mr. Munshilal Chamar, MLA and Mr. Mutiur Rahman. The procession ended in a huge public meeting where the public was informed of the dangers posed by the Naxalites. The speakers exhorted the public to face the Naxalite menace boldly and annihilate them.

Mr. Hari Shankar Vimal, Joint Secretary, Agra District Unit, organised a public meeting at Agra. The meeting requested the authorities to curb the growing

unlawful, anti-national and criminal activities of the Naxalites.

Similarly public meetings were held at Hardoi, Gorakhpur, Moradabad, Meerut and Aligarh, where leaflets, highlighting the depredation by Naxalites, were distributed by our workers.

In Jaunpur the Day was observed by distributing anti-Naxalite leaflets in the city and adjoining villages. A deputation met the Jaunpur District Magistrate and requested him to take stern measures against the Naxalites.

Bihar

Mr. Ashok Kumar Trivedi reports that the Bihar Unit organised a public meeting in Patna. Mr. Kaushal Kishore Prasad Singh presided. A resolution adopted at the meeting said that the present political situation in Bihar was a matter of grave concern. The honour of any citizen was not safe. Their lives and property were insecure. It was an open secret that the Naxalites and Left Communists were making incursions into Bihar from West Bengal by joining hands with pro-Chinese elements to subvert our democracy. The meeting called party workers, kisans, teachers, traders etc., to be prepared to fight the Naxalite menace. The resolution also strongly criticised the Central Government for failing in its duty and responsibility to maintain law and order throughout the country. It also urged the Central Government to ban the Naxalites and their associates immediately, in the interest of our freedom and democracy.

Delhi Region

Mr. M. R. Arya, General Secretary of the Swatantra Party, Delhi Region, reports that three meetings were held in Delhi.

The first of which was at Basai-Darapur.

A meeting of workers of the Sunder Nagar Unit of the Party was addressed by Mr. Mittal, Mr. Jethanand Betab, Mr. M. R. Arya, Dr. Pasricha and Mrs. Kailesh Rekhi.

Another largely attended public meeting was held in Dev Nagar. It was addressed by Mr. A. C. Bisaria, Mr. Jethanand Betab, Mr. Mohan Lal Jatav, Mr. C. L. Sudhakar, Mr. Shiv Jee Mathur and Mr. M. R. Arya. All the speakers explained the dangers posed to freedom and democracy by Naxalite activity. A pamphlet detailing the origin and dangerous activities of Naxalites was distributed among the public.

Mysore

The Executive Committees of the Hassan District Unit and Saklaspur Unit adopted identical resolutions viewing with "great alarm the unabated violent activities of the Naxalites throughout the country with murders, loot, arson, and burning of Gandhiji's literature." The resolution called upon "the Central Government to take immediate steps to put down the violent

nefarious activities of the Naxalites and protect the law-abiding citizens."

The Mysore District Unit held a public meeting under the Chairmanship of Mr. S. N. Brahmadevaiah and passed a resolution condemning the violent activities of the Naxalites. Mr. S. D. Nagendran and Mr. T. Anantha Rao also addressed the gathering.

A meeting was held at Bannur, in Hubli in Mysore District under the chairmanship of Mr. S. N. Brahmadevaiah and was also addressed by Mr. S. D. Nagendran.

In Bangalore City two public meetings were held condemning the violent activities of the Naxalites. Both these meetings were addressed by State General Secretary Mr. V. T. Sreenivasan, Mr. P. S. Sridhara Moorthy and others.

The Day was observed at Alur in Saklasapur Taluk when a resolution was passed condemning the Naxalites and also demanding the removal of the West Bengal Governor.

Tamil Nadu

Mr. M. S. Hamza reports that the East Tanjore District Swatantra Party held a public meeting at Nagapatinam which was presided over by Mr. S. Murugaiyan. Among those who spoke were Mr. M. S. Hamza, Mr. D. Rajagopala Iyer and others who explained the atrocities committed by the Naxalites in various parts of the country.

The meeting passed a resolution requesting the Government of India to take stern measures to check Naxalite activities and ban Communist Parties of all varieties and shades as these parties posed a threat to our democracy and the Constitution. The resolution appealed to farmers in villages to form Associations to oppose the anti-national activities of the Naxalites.

The West Tanjore District Unit held a public meeting at Thanjavur. Among those who spoke were Dr. H. V. Hande, MLA, Mr. G. Swaminathan, MLC and Mr. G. Sunderam, President, West Tanjore District Swatantra Party.

Another public meeting was also held at Kumbakonam addressed by Dr. H. V. Hande, Mr. Ramadoss Bharathi and Mr. G. Sunderam.

The Madras District Swatantra Party held a public meeting in Triplicane. Mr. S. S. Mariswamy, MP, Dr. Santosham, MP, Mr. N. R. Virajinnu Chettiar, Mr. Ananthachari, Mr. K. S. Narasimharghavan, Mr. S. V. Chari, Mr. S. Vijayaraghavan were among those who addressed the gathering.

Andhra Pradesh

A very largely attended public meeting was held at Tenali under the auspices of the Tenali Constituency Unit. Mr. Madineni Venkateswarlu, President of Tenali Swatantra Party presided and Mr. C. Hanumantha Rao welcomed the gathering. Messrs. K. Rosaiah, MLC, Pasupuleti Koteswara Rao, and Mr. N. Veerachari, State Kisan Sammelan Secretary des-

cribed Naxalite atrocities in the State particularly in Srikakulam District.

Orissa

A public meeting was held at Bhubaneswar. It was addressed by Mr. Harihar Patel, Joint Secretary of the Party, Mr. Ghashiram Majhi, General Secretary, Orissa State Unit, Mr. G. C. Patnaik, Mr. Lingaraja Mishra, Mr. Karunakar Das and others. The resolution adopted at the meeting urged the people of the country to oppose the violent and mischievous activities of Naxalites and called upon the Central Government to take immediate steps to ban them.

In Cuttack City posters were fixed on walls and important places and pamphlets were distributed to the public.

In Badachana Primary area a procession went from village to village shouting Anti-Naxalite slogans and in the evening a meeting was held at Badachana in which different speakers spoke about the atrocities of the Naxalites. A resolution was adopted calling upon the Central Government to ban the Naxalites immediately.

In Bolangir District meetings were held in the following places under the leadership of Shri Narasingh Misra, MLA and Sri Dury Duryodhan Bhoi, Secretary, District Committee: Cherupali, Balapur, Debaling and Mendha, all important places of Bolangir district. Identical resolutions were adopted at the meetings and were sent to the Home Minister of India and the Chief Minister, Orissa.

Mr. P. K. Deo, M.P., reports that at Bhawanipatna Anti-Naxalite Day was observed by holding a public meeting. The Kalahandi District Unit President, Mr. Madhusudan Sahoo and Mr. Niladrinath Panda addressed the gathering and explained the destructive activities of the Naxalites and described them as enemies of democracy.

A resolution passed at the meeting urged the Government of India to "seek army help in crushing these traitors to the Motherland."

Kerala

The Alleppey Primary Unit held a public meeting at Alleppey which was addressed by Mr. E. C. Joseph, Mr. A. J. Dominic and Mr. P. Balakrishnan Nair.

At the meeting leaflets were distributed giving the public an idea of the extent of Naxalite menace.

Maharashtra

Mr. Sumantilal P. Shah, General Secretary of Maharashtra State Unit and President of Poona District Unit, reports that a public meeting was held in Poona. Mr. E. F. Eduljee, Treasurer of Maharashtra State Unit, presided.

Mr. G. B. Sukhee, Convenor of the Co-ordinating Committee of Independent Trade Unions, said, "Communists whether Right, Left or Naxalites must be

banned by the Government. The Naxalite outbreak was not due to any economic grievance or agrarian problem, but due to the collusion of Indian Communists with the Communist regime in China. Their aim was to create chaos in India and destroy democracy."

Mr. Sumatilal Shah said, "The Naxalites are receiving arms from the Chinese Communist regime," and they posed a danger to democracy and independence of India.

Pondichery

Mr. N. Mohammed Hussain reports that the Anti-Naxalite Day was observed by the Pondichery Regional Unit. Many posters depicting the horrors and atrocities of the Naxalites were displayed at all im-

portant centres of the town. Later, a public meeting was held, addressed by Mr. J. D. Selvaraj and Mr. N. Mohammed Hussain. The speakers demanded the banning of all varieties of Communist Parties and the immediate recall of the West Bengal Governor Mr. S. S. Dhavan, the well known crypto-Communist.

Rajasthan

Thakur Vikram Singh, Vice-President, Rajasthan State Unit, reports that in Jodhpur a huge procession was organised. A life size effigy of Mao Tse-tung was carried and the processionists shouted anti-Naxalite slogans. Mao's effigy was then burnt.

Mr. D. N. Patodia, M.P. reports that the Day was observed in Jalore by holding a public meeting.

Save Democracy Convention

The Leader of our Group in Parliament Prof. N. G. Ranga had a providential escape on April 24 when five bomb explosions in quick succession rocked the "Save Democracy Convention" in Patna.

The explosions occurred when Prof. Ranga was addressing the Convention organised by former Chief Minister Mr. Mahamaya Prasad Sinha.

Mahamaya Babu alleged that the miscreants shouted

"Mao Zindabad" at the time of throwing the bombs.

Prof. Ranga in the course of his speech charged that the Communists in collaboration with Mrs. Gandhi were conspiring to subvert Indian democracy.

In a message to the Convention Rajaji said: "The first and most important thing to do is for the leaders to forget their ego and do all they can for democracy and preservation of the Constitution."

Russian-Aided Public Undertakings

25 Swatantra and 8 Jan Sangh M.P.s have in a joint letter to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi on 29th April 1970, drawn her attention to the heavy losses suffered by the public sector projects especially those run with Russian help. The following is an extract from the letter:

"The Public Undertakings Committee has recently submitted some reports in which they have brought out the glaring inefficiencies in regard to management of certain public sector undertakings, especially those being run with Russian help. The Committee in its latest report said that the work on the second stage of Bokaro Steel Project should not proceed without proper techno-economic reappraisal because the first stage of the Project itself is likely to incur a running loss of Rs. 20 crores every year. The original estimate for completion of the first stage of Bokaro Steel Plant was Rs. 590 crores which was subsequently revised to 672 crores, then Rs. 760 crores and finally it has reached an astronomical figure of over Rs. 1000 crores. The schedule for the completion of the first stage was March, 1970 and now it is estimated that this would not be completed before March, 1973, i.e. the project would be three years behind schedule.

"Mines and Allied Machinery Corporation, as has been brought out by the Public Undertakings Com-

mittee, has suffered an aggregate loss of Rs. 20 crores and a loss of Rs. 7 crores on an average annually. Against its targeted capacity of 45,000 tonnes the production has reached 6000 tonnes, i.e. 11 per cent of its capacity while the staff employed in the Corporation is what is needed for its 100 per cent targetted capacity. Even if there is a satisfactory continuous progress and efficient management of the project it would not reach more than 50 per cent of its targetted capacity during the next five years. The original target of M.A.M.C. was 30,000 tonnes. On Russia's insistence it was raised to 45,000 tonnes in 1959 which later on, when the actual demand survey was conducted by the Government of India some time in 1968, it was found that the expected demand for the mining machinery was not more than 2,850 tonnes, while at present it does not supply mining machinery of more than 1250 tonnes.

"Then the big scandal about the working of the I.D.P.L. was recently brought out by the Swatantra Party members in the Rajya Sabha when the Minister had to admit that against an annual sale of Rs. 1 crore the project incurred a loss of Rs. 7 crores. Our information was that the project suffered a loss of Rs. 9 crores. The plant at Rishikesh is age-old and out-dated and has not reached even the

break-even point. The plant at Hyderabad is also obsolete, machinery is out-dated, the drugs manufactured have gone out of use for several years past. How on earth under the circumstances they can find market for their produce? The Surgical Instruments, a unit of I.D.P.L. at Madras, is manufacturing instruments which are no more in demand. They are not needed even for our own requirements.

"As for the Heavy Engineering Corporation the story is dismal and not in any way better. It has been incurring heavy losses. It has not even reached 20 per cent of the targetted capacity. It is not delivering machinery inspite of accepting orders and that has led to a tussel between the HEC and the Bokaro Steel Project and a number of other public sector Undertakings.

"From this we hope there will not be two opinions that there is definitely something inher-

ently wrong in the public sector projects especially those run with the Russian help. They need immediate attention at the hands of the Government. We would be grateful to have your reactions in this regard."

Earlier, 11 Swatantra M.P.s had written a letter to the Prime Minister on April 24, 1970 protesting against 'the abnormal emoluments' paid to the Russian technicians in Soviet-aided projects, and demanded an investigation into the functioning of these units.

In a joint letter to the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi they said that some 948 Russian technicians were employed in thirteen projects and their "aggregate emoluments amount to Rs. 12.5 crores, the per capita monthly salary working out to Rs. 35,000, i.e. three and a half times higher than that of even the President of India."

Privy Purses

The President of the Swatantra Party, Mr. M. R. Masani, and the BKD Secretary, Mr. Prakash Vir Shastri, addressed a communication to the President, Mr. V. V. Giri on 13th April 1970 urging that the proposed Constitution (Amendment) Bill to do away with Privy Purses and the Special Privileges of former rulers should not be introduced in Parliament before securing the opinion of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Masani has pointed out that some eminent jurists had given an opinion that such an amendment would raise issues in regard to its validity. They had, therefore, suggested that a question of such a nature and importance called for the advisory opinion of the Supreme Court being obtained before any legislation was initiated. "We understand that the Maharaja of Dhrangadhra and the Maharaja of Baroda have already requested that you may be pleased to take such action."

"There have already been recent instances of a confrontation between Parliament and the supreme judiciary and we believe that you will agree that, as

far as possible, it will be desirable to avoid controversial legislation which may result in further confrontations of this nature." In such a situation the question of an amendment of the Constitution to alter the provisions about the former rulers should not be undertaken until the advisory opinion of the Supreme Court had been obtained.

"It was for that purpose that provision had been made in Article 143 in the Constitution for the President to consult the Supreme Court and invite its opinion. It would also be fair that the terms of reference to the Supreme Court should be worked out in consultation with the parties to the dispute.

"Since this matter involves national commitments and pledges, we are sure you will agree that nothing should be done which may in any way bring dishonour or discredit to the country and its pledged word. This consideration, in our view, makes it all the more desirable that the procedure we have suggested should be followed."

FOCUS ON ORISSA

State Convention

The Third Annual Convention of the Swatantra Party, Orissa, was held at Rourkela on 3rd and 4th May, 1970. The Chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr. Debanand Amat, M.P., in his welcome address to the delegates said that Orissa occupied a unique position in India, having the highest concentration of Tribal population. Out of 22% of the backward population of India, Orissa has 14-15% with as many as 62 Tribal Communities.

Mr. Debanand Amat said that since Independence nothing worth mentioning had been done for the

upliftment of the backward masses, with the result the weaker sections of the society had not made any progress economically, socially or educationally. However, a relieving feature was that after the 1967 Elections a Swatantra Government had been installed in Orissa. It was trying to give special attention for the neglected people under the able leadership of the Orissa Chief Minister, Mr. R. N. Singh Deo.

Resolutions

In all, 22 resolutions were passed at the Convention. The political resolution after surveying the current

political situation in Orissa said that since a Swatantra-led Coalition government had come to power there were persistent efforts by interested parties to create conditions of chaos and indiscipline to embarrass the Orissa Government with a view to toppling it ultimately.

The resolution however noted with satisfaction that the efforts of the Congress and Communists to rouse the people against the government had miserably failed. After having failed in their efforts to topple the Orissa Government, they resorted to defection tactics which had become common after the 1967 General Elections. There too they miserably failed due to the sense of political maturity of our members, and in the ensuing trial of strength, the Swatantra-led coalition had emerged even stronger than before. Out of sheer desperation, some camps were seriously contemplating violence. The left communists, i.e. Naxalites from West Bengal were now making incursions into Orissa to create law and order problems on the lines of what was happening in West Bengal. These elements were infiltrating into other smaller parties and inciting them to adopt their tactics. This has posed a great problem for Orissa, and which had to be dealt with firmly at all levels. The resolution went on to affirm that the spread of communism from West Bengal to Orissa had been effectively checked. The resolution recorded the deplorable fact that the Central Government, which had the ultimate duty and responsibility to maintain law and order throughout the country, had been actually subverting the efforts of the Orissa Government by giving all sorts of encouragement to these extreme elements to carry on their violent activities. This action of the Central Government deserved to be severely condemned.

The resolution on Steel Plants said that the Government of Orissa submitted a memorandum to the Government of India in 1964 for the establishment of two Steel Plants at Bonaigarh and Nayagarh which have vast deposits of iron ore. The Government of India did not take any steps to study the feasibility of these projects nor did they explain why the demand of the Orissa Government was rejected. The resolution said that political and non-economic considerations had weighed with the Central Government. The rejection of the State Government's demand had shocked and surprised the people of Orissa. Therefore, the Convention strongly protested against the manner in which the Central Government had behaved and also called upon them to take speedy steps to sanction the location of the steel plants in Bonaigarh and Nayagarh.

The resolution on employment said that there was possibility of increasing employment by rapid industrialisation and through avocations with self-employment opportunities. The resolution went on to say that the present education system in the country was not labour-oriented. The Convention demanded that the curriculum should be (1) labour, agriculture and industry oriented, (2) more and more financial help

should be given to the educated unemployed through self-employment schemes and (3) steps should be taken for speedy decisions and financial sanctions by the Government of India under the State Industry Aid Act.

The resolution on Nationalisation of Text Books disapproved this policy and urged upon the Government of Orissa to at least stop further nationalisation of text books.

The Convention also called upon the Government of India to take immediate steps to denationalise public transport because it had failed to meet the demands of the travelling public.

The resolution on Agricultural Wealth Tax requested the Orissa State Government to resist its implementation.

On Rural Electrification the resolution said that electricity was an important aspect of civilisation and source of wealth. By rural electrification it would be easier to utilise the underground water through tube well drilling, and in place of one crop, two or three crops could be raised, thus stepping up production of food. Rural electrification could also help in the installation of small scale industries in rural areas.

As regards Agriculture and Industry the resolution said that the speedy development of agriculture and industry was impeded by the wrong policies and the non-utilisation of the efficiency and ability of the people. The countries in which agriculture and industry have been nationalised have shown little or no progress. The empty slogan of nationalisation had had a harmful effect on production and had also misled the public. The resolution went on to say that even in Russia economic policies were being reviewed and this should be an eye-opener to us. The Convention therefore urged the State Government to encourage private efforts in agriculture and industries to increase production and employment.

The resolution on Agricultural Income Tax said that due to inflation, prices on all goods had gone up at least seven times since 1948, but the tax free limit on agricultural income had been reduced from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 3,000/- per year. The Convention therefore felt that the tax free limit be raised proportionately and that the complicated provisions of Agricultural Income Act and rules be simplified.

The Convention also passed a resolution urging the State Government to remove all restrictions on the free movement of food grains inside the State of Orissa.

Dealing with Party organisation which stated *inter alia* that the conditions prevailing in our country placed a heavy burden on the Swatantra Party to discharge its responsibility, it called upon the workers of the Party to educate the masses who for 23 years had been misled by empty slogans of socialism. The Convention called upon each and every citizen having faith in democracy and individualism to make the Swatantra Party strong and desired that necessary arrangements be made to propagate the Swatantra ideals by establishing training centres at District and State levels.

The Convention also recorded its deep concern over the move being made to remove the chapter on Fundamental Rights from our Constitution. Describing this move as being mischievous and dangerous, the resolution feared that if allowed to pass it would ultimately pave the way for a totalitarian monolithic State. The Convention therefore called upon the people to oppose tooth and nail all efforts to tamper with the Constitution particularly the Fundamental Rights of the Citizen.

Presidential Address

State Chief Minister Mr. R. N. Singh Deo, President of the State Unit delivered the Presidential Address.

He said that the days of brute majority of the Congress were over and the Central Government was depending on the strength of the Leftist Parties to sustain itself. The Central Government considered nationalisation as the panacea for all evils. Inefficiency, mismanagement, loss of production and unemployment arising from nationalisation were sought to be cured by more nationalisation. The need of the hour was pragmatic, economic and other policies. The sanctity of the Constitution was violated by frequent amendments of the Fundamental Rights and now there was even talk of abolishing totally the Fundamental Right to Property. This posed a threat to the independence of judiciary in the name of progress and socialism. Mr. R. N. Singh Deo went on to say that all these authoritarian trends had to be resolutely resisted, and any show of weakness on the part of the sober elements in our society would mean surrender to disaster. All efforts had to be made to bring together all the parties who had faith in democracy, in moral and higher values and in the good of the people in order to provide a democratic and stable alternative capable of replacing the present government at the Centre.

Mr. R. N. Singh Deo, listed the following among the achievements of the Swatantra-led coalition:

the abolition of Land Revenue, appointment of a Commission of Enquiry to probe into the charges of corruption against the former Orissa Ministers; reduction of water rate in canal irrigation areas; complete separation of Judiciary from the Executive; expansion and reorientation of the educational system; and ushering in of the green revolution in the State by the introduction of high yielding varieties of grain seeds.

In the industrial field there were also noteworthy achievements, viz., the completion and commissioning of the Ferro-Chrome plant; the Hira Cement Factory, the Hirakud Re-rolling Mills; a Cooperative Spinning Mill and the expansion of Kalinga Iron Works and Hirakud Industrial Works.

All this was achieved by the State Government despite heavy debt servicing, interest charges and repayment liabilities, incomplete projects, etc., which were inherited from the previous governments. Mr. R. N. Singh Deo expressed satisfaction that the State's

finances were now on a sound footing and the government was capable of undertaking new developmental work.

As for future development plans in Orissa Mr. R. N. Singh Deo had this to say, "In spite of all these hurdles, because of constant pleading and pressure from our Government, the Centre had to agree to the setting up of a Rs. 73 crore Fertilizer Project at Talchar, which will provide employment to many, both skilled and unskilled. The cargo berth at Paradeep at a cost of Rs. 2.29 crores and the Cuttack-Paradeep Railway line at a cost of Rs. 10 crores are our achievements. The Naval Training Centre for boys at Chilka which is a project of about Rs. 8/- crores, has been cleared. It will be launched some time during this year. But these are only a small part of what is legitimately due to us. There are many applications pending now with the Centre, for example one for a Rs. 60/- crore Fertilizer project at Paradeep, a Pesticide project at Ganjam using the now-wasted by-product of Chlorine as raw material, a Sodium Hydrosulphite and Polyester Fibre Project, etc. The hinterland to Paradeep Port needs to be connected by both rail and road. Because of our demand the Central Government has already ordered a survey of the Bimlagarh-Talcher proposed railway line and all efforts would be made by us to induce the Central Government to start construction work within the Fourth Five Year Plan period."

Referring to the rejection, by the Central Government, of the proposal to set up steel plants at Bonai-garh and Nayagarh, Mr. R. N. Singh Deo said that this confirmed their belief that in order to get justice there was no way out but to adopt agitational methods. "However much we may like to avoid such methods, therefore, we shall have to be prepared to resort to agitation also if that becomes necessary due to the intransigent, indifferent and discriminatory attitude of the Centre. But our agitation will be different from the agitation of the disruptionists. Ours will be completely a non-violent one, strictly sober and orderly causing no loss to public property. Therefore let us remain alert and convey to the Centre that their profession and practice should be one and we shall not take it lying down if any injustice is done to us."

Another noteworthy point regarding Centre-State relationship was the attempt by the Centre to topple non-Congress State Governments. Orissa became a victim of this toppling game during the Budget Session. In this connection Mr. R. N. Singh Deo said, without naming Mr. Jagjivan Ram, "a responsible Central Minister who is also the President of a political party directly engineered such a move of which some of our political parties become instruments." Fortunately for the people of Orissa, the calamity was averted. Mr. R. N. Singh Deo advised the Central Government that instead of expending their energies on trying to topple State Governments led by Parties other than their own, the Ruling Congress Government at the Centre should concentrate on developmental and nation building activities.

Address by Masani

"Orissa has provided the whole country with a model of how a coalition government can come to power after the parties involved in it face the electorate with an agreed programme and obtain a mandate," claimed Mr. M. R. Masani, President of the Swatantra Party, while addressing a public rally which marked the conclusion of the two-day Convention. Mr. Rajvallah Mishra presided.

Mr. Masani expressed his satisfaction that the recent effort to topple the Swatantra-Jana Congress coalition Government in Orissa had signally failed. He complimented the Chief Minister, Mr. R. N. Singh Deo, and members of the Swatantra Party on the one side and Mr. Pabitra Mohan Pradhan, Dr. Hare Krushna Mahtab and the Jana Congress on the other on the steadfastness shown by them and the way in which they had held together in the face of the threat. The Orissa Government had a good record of promises carried out and the provision of clean and good administration. They could look forward to continued stability in Orissa over the next two years. He hoped that the Swatantra-Jana Congress coalition would be put on a more permanent basis for the future.

Discussing the state of the nation, Mr. Masani said India was drifting to disaster owing to a weak government which lacked a majority in the Lok Sabha and which was thus at the mercy of every pressure and every vested interest.

Mrs. Gandhi's Government was following a pro-Communist policy of conniving at violence and terrorism in West Bengal. President's Rule under a Communist fellow-traveller like Mr. Dhavan was proving a mockery and Naxalites and Marxist Communists were continuing to rampage at the cost of the lives and property of the people of Bengal. "What can one expect from a Governor," asked Mr. Masani, "who in 1950 had welcomed the Chinese Communist invasion of Tibet by saying that 'Tibet will share the benefits of

civilisation like all the other countries of Central Asia which had passed under Communist rule?" Such a man was unfit to be the Governor of Bengal or any other State and the fact that Mrs. Gandhi had appointed him, despite warnings, was significant.

Simultaneously, Mrs. Gandhi's supporters were attacking the concept of Fundamental Rights embodied in the Constitution and the authority of the Supreme Court. The Swatantra Party, in agreement with the Opposition Congress Party and the Jana Sangh, had decided to sponsor a mass petition in defence of Fundamental Rights including the right to property and he exhorted members of the Party in Orissa to obtain lakhs of signatures on this petition.

"There are four things which almost every one of us would agree the country needs," said Mr. Masani. "These are, first, a clean and efficient administration, the second is the restoration of law and order, the third is hard work and increased production, and the fourth is a pragmatic approach to our problems. This Government is incapable of providing any of these four needs."

The removal of Mrs. Gandhi's Government was Priority Number One for the country and Mr. Masani expressed the hope that no more time would be lost by parties pledged to democracy and nationalism in coming together to form what Rajaji had called "a grand alliance" for the purpose of displacing the present Government in New Delhi. It was for the people to knock together the heads of the political leaders concerned. Any activity in any part of India which came in the way of the establishment of this Grand Coalition was against the interests of the country and was to be deprecated. He deplored the fact that parochial and local considerations dominated the minds of many people in all parties to the neglect of the larger national interest.

Others who addressed the public meeting were Mr. R. N. Singh Deo, Mr. Harihar Patel, Mr. Loknath Misra and Mr. G. B. Sukhee.

Nursing the Constituency

Reports from Party M.P.s

Introducing our journal *Swatantra in Parliament* in April 1965 we had observed

"In a parliamentary democracy, there should always be close ties between the people and their chosen representatives. The closer these ties, the better will parliamentary democracy flourish.

Swatantra in Parliament is published to report to the people on what members of the Swatantra Party are doing within the portals of parliament."

But the duties and responsibilities of an M.P. do not end with what he does inside Parliament. He has an

equally important responsibility to discharge — to his constituency. 'Nursing' the Constituency is a continuous process even if looked at from the very narrow point of view of retaining the electorate's confidence in successive elections. Polling day for a sitting M.P. seeking re-election is very much like a student appearing for his final examination. His success depends very much on the attention he has paid to his studies round the year.

At a recent meeting of the National Executive, it was decided that the Party's legislators should submit quarterly reports of their activities in Parliament and

Constituency. This decision, as Mr. Lobo Prabhu the Party's M.P. from Udipi in Mysore observes, "is a development of importance to democracy as they will not only enforce attention of each legislator to his work but also, on publication, will make for continuous participation between the legislator and the public." The spectrum disclosed can be challenging and corrective to those legislators who have not used their crucial position between the public and the administration.

Swatantra Newsletter, beginning with this issue, would like to share with its readers, reports received from the Party's M.P.s.

We begin with reports received from Mr. J. M. Lobo Prabhu, Mr. N. K. Somani, Mr. Piloo Mody and Mr. Y. G. Gowd.

J. M. Lobo Prabhu (Udipi — Mysore)

"In the Constituency, I had programmed to visit forty panchayats but owing to illness I was able to visit only half that number. I was accompanied by the Assistant Engineers of the PWD and the Panchayat Extension Officers of the block. In most panchayats, irrespective of Party affiliations, I was welcomed by the Chairman and members and treated even to lavish hospitality. The discussion was mostly on missing roads and bridges, failures of irrigation works, electricity, bus transport, Land Reforms. As a result of my correspondence, the following has eventuated (1) Superintendent Engineer PWD has agreed to construct submersible bridges at the Puthige Temple, the Maranakatte Temple and at Marne which will end the isolation of several villages. He has agreed also to blacktop the road from Wandse to Kollur Temple, with improvement of the roads from Hemmadi to Wandse and Tallur to Naralkatte. The Divisional Commissioner has asked the Mangalore Taluk Board for plans and estimates for blacktopping the Neermarga Bondanthila, and the Kalavoor Panambur roads, and bridging the Kandawar Addayapady road. The Minister for Transportation, India has also informed me that lack of tenders has delayed the blacktopping of the Kalavoor Panambur and the Hosabettu Katipalla roads. The best news is the provision of 30 lakhs in the Mysore Budget for the Mallur Ghat Road to the Kudremukh Iron Project, on which I had addressed the Chief Minister on 15th January 1970. This will be the shortest route over the Western Ghats, without any hairpin bends which will also connect the historic temples of Karkal and Sringeri, open up a river locked area of Karkal Taluk, while at the same time leading to the exploitation of the Kudremukh Ore, on which the success of Mangalore Port depends to a considerable extent.

During the quarter, due to unrelenting pressure on the Executive Engineer, the Barkur Bridge was opened, one year ahead of schedule and the Udipi Bypass, which had stalled for six years, was completed. The Kandalur Bridge is likely to be completed before the rains and the Kadanthal Bridge within 8 months.

It is my ambition to end the isolation during the monsoon of another 50 villages and I have requested the District Development Council to obtain plans and estimates for all the bridges necessary. At the same time, I have pressed the Prime Minister and the Minister for Transport to increase the Plan allocation for feeder roads.

In Irrigation about two thirds has been lost due to the silting up of tanks and disrepair of vented dams. The District Development Council has been requested to arrange for a complete survey with estimates and plans. The Central Irrigation Minister, Shri Nijalingappa and the Chief Minister have also been addressed about this and about three projects of the previous Madras Government, which have been shelved by the Mysore Government. I have pointed out that South Kanara which is entitled on the basis of population to 5 crores in the Irrigation expenditure of the State under the Fourth Plan expects the Bijur Project on which 7 lakhs have been spent and the Halladi Project which will irrigate 30,000 at the very low cost of development of Rs. 1,000 an acre to be taken up immediately. The Guppur Project can be rectified with an expenditure of a few lakhs to provide irrigation for the second crop.

On Electricity, I have tried to raise a storm about the delay in assembling Transformers, one of which at Coondapur is idling for 2 years, another replaced at Hiriadka is not coordinated with the distribution while two more have to come after disassembly at Shimoga. At the same time, the Transformer received for Mangalore is being assembled too slowly. The results are that current has failed 10,000 pumpsets with a loss running into lakhs, while the water supply in Mangalore is subject to interruptions for days at a time. I have personally spoken to the Chief Minister and things may now begin to move.

The Mangalore Harbour Project was stalled for four months due to some unnecessary objection raised by the Finance Ministry. Within a week of my writing, sanction was received for the construction of the wharfs. I am now pursuing the Ministry for dredgers as those planned are inadequate and may delay the project for two years, with a loss in interest only, equal to the cost of hiring the dredgers.

My proposal for a stopover once a week at Goa on the Mangalore Bombay flight has been promised early implementation. I am also pressing for more seats in the Mangalore Bombay flight by a new flight from Mangalore Bangalore Madras.

My correspondence averages about 200 letters a month. Replies which are of general interest are printed in my Monthly periodical, "Gaon Sewak," which has a circulation of 10,000. The paper exercises some control on officials as their work is constantly reviewed. Even though I work now more than I ever did when I was in the ICS, I have the satisfaction of finding political power more effective than official proceedings."

N. K. Somani (Nagaur — Rajasthan)

Taking advantage of my unit to Jaipur to attend meetings of Party Workers and the State Executive I spent three days in Jaipur, Ajmer and Udaipur respectively and met prominent workers as also MLAs of my area and discussed various problems.

I have been regularly sending about 8 to 900 letters to my constituents. These newsletters cover the range of my activities as well as news of political importance and developments.

Each and every letter received from the constituency is answered by me and action taken as per their desire. Most of the representations are sent with my covering letter to the Collector of the District and/or to the Ministers of the Rajasthan Government.

A tour of the Senior Officers of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission was organized in my District so that they could survey the potential of such activities in the area. It is expected that some village industries will be established during the next 3 months as a result of this tour.

I visited about 40 villages spread all over the District during March 19 to March 22, both inclusive, and met thousands of people in all these villages. I also took an opportunity to meet various gangs of workers who are employed under the famine relief work of the Government of Rajasthan and have made several representations to the Prime Minister and the Rajasthan Cabinet for an early redressal of their grievances.

I have been sponsoring a large number of public welfare programmes like digging and deepening of village tanks, digging of individual agricultural wells in the fields, contributing to various schools and other institutions, helping people to repair wells, provision of scholarship, etc. through my own as well as other sources. About Rs. 3½ lakhs worth of public works were conducted largely through the assistance of CASA, an international agency and more works are to be undertaken later this summer. So far about one dozen large tanks and 50 drinking water and irrigation wells have been completed under this assistance."

Piloo Mody (Godhra — Gujarat)

"I have so far visited about 200 of the most important villages out of the 1200 villages of my constituency. In terms of spread that would represent at least 600 villages i.e. half the villages of my constituency. These villages do not leave any blank spots

in the entire constituency although some villages may have been bypassed in a particular area.

In addition to this, in 1967, I started The Panchmahals Famine Relief Committee through which we distributed over Rs. 60,000/- collected through public donation including Rs. 5,000/- from the Prime Minister's relief fund.

In 1968, I started The Panchmahals Community Chest, which in the last two years has distributed about a lakh of rupees also raised from public funds and charity shows.

In 1969, I started The Panchmahals Khedut Vikas Kendra, which operating through various relief agencies is currently providing employment to 800 people on digging tanks and has a very ambitious programme of digging thousands of wells in the future, financed by banks and Government agencies.

The only shortfall that I experience, which inhibits my work, is the number of reliable party workers in the area, for which adequate steps are being taken to improve the situation."

Y. Gadilingana Goud (Kurnool — Andhra)

During the quarter under report, I was ill and was medically advised not to undertake any kind of journey. Therefore, though I could not tour in the Kurnool Parliamentary Constituency, which I represent, I have attended to the following matters:

Several requests received from people of the Constituency for community help relating to either state or the centre were attended to and the letters written on the subjects came to about 500 during this quarter. Some of the works such as arranging for opening of Post Offices, getting new telephone connections, etc. were successfully completed. Some people requested me to contact for individual helps also such as appointments of their children etc. Often those requests were also attended to by writing to the concerned authorities.

Elections to Village Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and Zilla Parishads are to come off in the ensuing quarter. Elections to Panchayats commence in the month of May. As I have already stated, it has not been possible for me to visit the constituency on medical advice, I therefore invited some important leaders from Adoni, and Alur Taluks to Delhi for discussions on the subject and for setting up party candidates or sympathisers of the party for panchayat elections which is the base for all other elections."

NEWS FROM STATE UNITS

BOMBAY

A press release issued on 14th May 1970, by the Swatantra Party, Bombay Region in connection with the recent communal riots in Bhiwandi and other neighbouring regions, criticised Union Home Minister Y. B. Chavan for his statement in the Lok Sabha on

the riots which it termed as "highly mischievous and irresponsible." Swatantra leaders Madhu Mehta and Nana Chudasama, after a visit to riot-torn areas, told newsmen on Thursday that the riots had been touched off by Communist Marxists. The two leaders also dubbed the P.M.'s visit to the riot stricken areas as "politically-motivated."

Mrs. Sharayu A. Daftary was the Party's candidate in the elections to Maharashtra Legislative Council from the Bombay Graduates Constituency. Though unsuccessful her performance was creditable. She lost the election in the eighth count.

BIHAR

The nucleus of a Kisan Sena to protect the interests of Kisans of Bihar was formed in Patna on April 19, 1970 at the initiative of Mr. Yashwant Kumar Choudhary, MLA and leader of the Swatantra group in the Bihar Assembly. Mr. Chaudhary told reporters that the Sena had been formed to meet effectively the "large-scale" violence and the looting of crops and other properties of kisans in Bihar by the Communists. Mr. Choudhary said looting of crops in broad daylight was going on in several parts of the State particularly in the districts of Purnea, Gaya, Saharsa, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Monghyr. He alleged that the victims were generally small kisans. He demanded the resignations of the Union Home Minister, Mr. Y. B. Chavan and Mr. Daroga Rai Chief Minister of Bihar for their failure to deal with these anti-national elements and the menace of growing violence.

DELHI REGION

A workers meeting of the Chandni Chowk unit held on 5th April, 1970 was addressed by Joint Secretary N. K. Somani, M.P., who explained the role of the business community in present political situation. He called upon Swatantra workers to educate the public on the dangers to our democracy of statism.

The Lajpat Nagar unit organised a public meeting on 11th April, 1970. Messrs. N. K. Somani and Piloo Mody explained the implications of the Budget and its impact on common people. Mrs. Kailash Rekhi, Mr. Jethanand Betab, Mr. Mohan Lal Jatav and Mr. Shiv Jee Mathur explained the importance of preserving Fundamental Rights.

A meeting of workers of the Delhi Unit was addressed by Mr. M. R. Masani on 2nd May, 1970. He explained the importance of Fundamental Rights and warned against the new dangers posed by Naxalites. He also stressed the importance of forming a Consumers Protection Society.

A meeting of the Delhi Regional Executive Committee was held on 27th May, 1970. The executive decided to activate the units keeping in view the forthcoming Municipal Corporation Elections. The Executive Committee was of the opinion that it was desirable to postpone the Municipal Elections till 1972, in order to save unnecessary expenditure. However if the elections were held as scheduled, the regional unit was fully prepared to contest the elections. The regional General Secretary M. R. Arya revealed that the process of selection of candidates had already begun.

GUJARAT

The Executive Committee and State Council of the Gujarat Unit of the Party met in Ahmedabad on 19th April, 1970. Mr. H. M. Patel presided. At the outset tributes were paid to the late Bhaikaka. In a resolution passed at both these meetings, Bhaikaka's services to Gujarat were lauded. The resolution recalled that Bhaikaka was the founder of the Sardar Patel University at Vallabh Vidyanagar. He always led a simple life and was the champion of the cause of the small kisan and common man. A minute's silence was observed after the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Shankerlal Guru by his resolution demanded that the Gujarat Government should sanction a 480 megawatt thermal power station in North Gujarat. The resolution went on to say that North Gujarat had always received step-motherly treatment at the hands of the Gujarat Government.

Mr. Ratibhai Ukabhai Patel moved a resolution condemning the imposition by panchayats all over Gujarat of an education cess on agricultural lands, the income from which will be more than the income from land revenue, resulting in increasing the burden on 80 per cent of the small farmers already groaning under such taxes as local cess, irrigation cess, land development cess, etc. levied by the local panchayats.

Mr. Devjibhai Parmar was of the opinion that Harijans and Adivasis should be allotted fallow lands for cultivation in order to improve their miserable lot and called upon the State Government to remove all the impediments for the speedy transfer of such lands.

Another resolution on famine relief moved by Mr. Balashanker Joshi said that people employed for relief works in Banaskantha, Kutch, Surendranagar, Bhavnagar, Mehsana and other districts were not paid regularly and even drinking water was not supplied to them. The resolution called upon the Gujarat Government that more and more relief works centres should be speedily opened as soon as relief work in one area was completed.

Yet another resolution adopted by the Council related to Mr. C. C. Desai's expulsion from the Party. The resolution requested the National Executive to reconsider its decision. The resolution explained that "the Gujarat Unit of the Party thinks it has valid and proper grounds" which will be placed before the National Executive.

The Party's candidate Mr. Govindbhai Patel lost to the Congress (O) candidate by 7,399 votes in the Sarsa Assembly by-election caused by Bhaikaka's demise.

Commenting on the defeat, the President of the Gujarat State Unit, Mr. H. M. Patel said that this was a result of recourse to undemocratic and corrupt practices by the Congress (O). The Government machinery was misused, large scale use of money power was resorted to and liquor flowed freely under the very eyes of the guardians of the law.

KASHMIR

Mr. M. R. Masani was in Srinagar on 11th May, 1970.

Addressing a Press Conference, Mr. Masani expressed his belief that an alternative to Mrs. Gandhi's Government would emerge "long before" the 1972 General Election. He said his party did not want to *topple* Mrs. Gandhi's Ministry, as toppling was undemocratic. "We believe in *replacement* of the present Government at the Centre".

He disclosed that a petition would shortly be sent to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha by members of Parliament, including those belonging to the Opposition Congress, to press the demand for respecting the inviolability of the Fundamental Rights enshrined in our Constitution.

Referring to the recent series of fires in certain parts of the Kashmir valley, Mr. Masani said these appeared to be the work of Naxalites. He regretted that this menace had appeared in this part of the country as well and observed that the State Government's attitude towards the extremists was passive.

Stressing the need to counter allegations about rigged elections in the State, Mr. Masani said the Election Commission should post Returning Officers in Kashmir from outside the State. He also suggested that observers be deputed to the State at time of the next General Election.

According to Mr. Masani, civil liberties in Kashmir left "much to be desired". In this connection he made special mention of the Preventive Detention Act still in force in the State and regretted that it did not have such restraints on its application as existed in other parts of the country.

KERALA

Mr. Mathew George, Secretary of the Moovattupuzha District Unit of the Party, reports that on 5th April, 1970, a one day Conference of the workers from the district was held at Thodupuzha. The Conference was inaugurated by State General Secretary Mr. K. C. Joseph and addressed by State President Mr. M. K. Stephen, Mr. V. V. Antony, Vice President, Mr. Babu Joseph and Mr. V. D. Joseph.

Two public meetings were held under the Chairmanship of Mr. M. Mathew, Vice President of the Kerala State Unit. The first meeting was held on 4th April, 1970 at Moovattupuzha and the second meeting was held on 12th April, 1970 at Kodikulan. Both these meetings protested against the move to abolish the Fundamental Right to Property. Among the other Speakers were Mr. Babu Joseph, Mr. A. V. Varkey, Mr. V. D. Joseph and Mr. Mathew George, Secretary of the District Unit.

General Secretary of the Party Dr. R. C. Cooper said at Kottayam on 24th May 1970, that the Swatantra

Party would be prepared for adjustments even with the Ruling Congress "provided it gets unequivocal assurances from the Prime Minister and the party leaders that they will give up the policy of getting the support of undemocratic parties like the communists."

Dr. Cooper, who was participating in the Meet-the-Press programme of the Kottayam Press Club, added: "Any possible adjustment with the Ruling Congress will be entirely on the basis of such an assurance and change of heart on its part."

Asked whether the Swatantra Party would ask the Ruling Congress to change its policy of socialism, Dr. Cooper said the Swatantra Party was not opposed to the right type of socialism.

Dr. Cooper said the major mistake, which the communists, the Ruling Congress and many democratic parties in the country were making, were that they were not trying to practise the right type of socialism. Reasonable scope should be given for private enterprise, and within limits, social control could be exercised.

Dr. Cooper felt that adjustments among democratic opposition parties was a 'must' before 1972 if democracy was to survive in the country. He said the parties should be prepared to give up their ideology for at least five years in the larger interest of the country and adopt a more pragmatic and practical policy.

The move to amend the Constitution so as to remove the Fundamental Rights was "dangerous", he added.

The Southern Regional Convention of the Kerala State Unit was held at Ranni near Kottayam on 23rd May, 1970.

The Convention which was attended by over 300 delegates was inaugurated by Dr. R. C. Cooper. State President M. K. Stephen presided over the deliberations.

A political resolution adopted at the Convention said that political uncertainty and all round chaos would prevail in the country if democratic parties remained divided. The Convention wanted a sincere effort on the part of all the non-Communist parties in the State to forge a wider democratic United Front before the 1972 General Elections. Such a front alone would effectively check the increasing communist menace and protect the larger interests of the State. The Convention also deplored the fact that the Central Government was not willing to take strong preventive action against the Naxalites.

The Convention expressed its strong disapproval of the Kerala Government's report to the Centre to the effect that the standard of education in the institutions run by religious minorities in Kerala had gone down.

The Convention further demanded that the State Government should withdraw all penal actions taken against agriculturists on the technical ground that they had not filed their Returns as per Section 35 of the Kerala Land Reforms Act, despite the fact that

the Supreme Court and the Kerala High Court had granted stay against the operation of the Clause.

The Convention further recorded its strong protest against the attempts of the new Congress and the Communists to abolish the Fundamental Rights enshrined in our Constitution.

By another resolution the Convention called upon the peasantry to vigorously fight the disastrous measure of the Central Government to impose Wealth Tax on agricultural land, and deplored the attempt made by the Kerala Revenue Minister to implement the unlawful and unethical provisions of the Kerala Land Reforms Act.

MYSORE

Mr. N. K. Ganapaiah, President of the Mysore State Unit, toured various parts of Hassan Districts. At Sringeri he was able to enrol two life workers and a few workers from Sringeri Primary Unit. He formed an ad-hoc primary committee for Mudigere constituency. At Koppa he enrolled two more life workers. At Sakrepatna he was able to form an ad-hoc primary committee for the Birur Constituency.

At the request of Mr. G. M. Manjanathaya, MLA, Mr. Ganapaiah went to Coorg and constituted an ad-hoc Coorg District Committee.

Mr. N. K. Ganapaiah formed an ad-hoc committee for Chickmagalur District unit. A number of resolutions were adopted at the first meeting of the Committee dealing with various matters. The meeting thanked providence for saving Prof. Ranga's life in the bomb explosion at Patna when he was addressing the "Save Democracy Convention," on 24th April, 1970.

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Mr. Ganapaiah has been active in the campaign for the defence of Fundamental Rights. Over 1000 signatures to memoranda addressed to the President of India from farmers, shopkeepers, small traders in the Talukas of Saklasapur, Guha, Hobli, Munzrabad, Ramnathpur, Arkalgod to name a few have been secured and forwarded to the President of India by the General Secretary from the National Headquarters.

The memorandum which opposed Mr. Nath Pai's Bill to amend the Constitution also makes the following demands:

- (a) It is dangerous to lower the ceiling limits on land holdings.
- (b) In view of the Agricultural Income-Tax already introduced, the Agricultural Wealth Tax should be removed.
- (c) There should be a floor price for the crop raised by the farmers.
- (d) The farmers should get short term and long term loans for Agricultural inputs.
- (e) Relief should be given to the farmers whose lands are affected by droughts, floods, diseases and thereafter introduce crop insurance.

On 9th May Mr. Ganapaiah addressed a public meeting at Chickmagalur which was presided over by

Mr. A. C. Shive Gowda, the President of the Chickmagalur District Committee. Others who spoke at the meeting were Mr. Y. Krupadas and Shri K. Dathu Rao, who analysed the present critical political situation.

A new Kannada Weekly 'Swatantra' was released in Hassan on 8th April, 1970. Mr. N. K. Ganapaiah presided over the function and appealed to the public to treat the weekly as their own.

The Weekly was released by Dr. K. Shivaram Karanth a leading citizen of Hassan who said that a language paper like this was badly needed to reach the rural homes to educate the public in protecting the Fundamental Rights and Civil Liberties and fighting the injurious and unwanted control-permit system.

Mr. B. N. Boranna Gowdh, President of the Hassan District Unit welcomed the guests. Mr. N. Shivappa, M.P., and Mr. K. N. Murthy, appealed to the public to give encouragement to the paper.

State General Secretary, V. T. Sreenivasan proposed a vote of thanks.

RAJASTHAN

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Rajasthan State Unit held in Jaipur on 15th May 1970, a resolution was adopted demanding the setting up of a Bench of the Rajasthan High Court at Jaipur. The resolution went on to say that the location of the High Court at Jodhpur denied cheap justice to the people living in the eastern districts.

By another resolution the Executive urged the Centre to solve the water problem in the desert areas and also demanded the appointment of a Commission to probe into the charges of corruption in the administration of famine relief works.

The party decided to observe 15th June 1970 as "employment day" in the State to focus public attention on the problem of unemployment in Rajasthan.

TAMIL NADU

The Madras Legislature Party at its meeting held on 7th April 1970, elected Mr. K. R. Cheemaichami as its Leader. Dr. H. V. Hande was elected Deputy Leader-cum-Secretary and Mr. R. Krishnaswami Gounder as Treasurer.

Mr. V. S. Srikumar, Secretary of the Madras District reported that a public meeting was held on 5th April at the Gokhale Hall to oppose Mr. Nath Pai's Bill empowering Parliament to amend Fundamental Rights. The meeting was presided over by Mr. C. R. Narasimhan, MLC. Among other speakers were Mr. V. Subramanian, Advocate, Mr. S. Narayanaswamy, Mr. N. R. Veerajinnu Chettiar, Mr. G. Swaminathan, MLC., Dr. H. V. Hande, MLA, and Mr. V. S. Srikumar. All over Madras City, 8000 posters were pasted and a large number of handbills distributed.

Dr. Hande reports after a visit to Kumbakonam that Papanasam Constituency Unit was inaugurated at Ayyampettai near Kumbakonam.

from the General Secretary's desk

Dear Friend,

IS THIS SOCIALISM?

In the course of his Speech in the Lok Sabha on the Finance Bill on May 4, the Party's Vice-President, Mr. N. Dandekar produced a devastating array of facts and figures to prove that Central Ministers draw a gross salary of 4.48 lakhs a year. No one challenged Mr. Dandekar's figures except a member of the SSP who felt that the figures were actually an understatement! Mr. Dandekar's figures are authentic and based on detailed computation.

A tabulated statement on Ministers' Salaries allowances and perquisites based on Mr. Dandekar's figures published by the *March of the Nation* in its issue of 16th May, 1970 is reproduced below.

The figures speak for themselves and the gulf between the profession and practices of the Ruling Congress stand exposed for:

DO YOU KNOW

1. That a Cabinet Minister of Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Socialist Government receives Free of Tax Salary and Perquisites amounting to Rs. 70,900/- per annum, i.e. Rs. 5908/- per month?
2. That in terms of taxable income this comes to Rs. 448,000/- per annum or Rs. 37,333/- per month?
3. That the per capita National income of an Indian is only Rs. 525/- per annum i.e. only Rs. 44/- per month?
4. That, therefore, the Cabinet Minister's income is 848 times the income of an average citizen of the country?

5. That this income of the Cabinet Minister is 2½ times higher than that of a topmost Company Managing Director?
6. That in the case of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the income is very much more than the above figures?
7. That it is the same Prime Minister of the Ruling Congress Party who preaches day in and day out, the urgent need for a Socialist Society to improve the lot of the masses, and the need for imposing a ceiling on the income and wealth of everyone else except her and her 'honourable' Ministers? Why these double standards — one for the common citizen and another for the privileged Minister?

Should you not demand that, like other citizens of India, the salary and perquisites of a Minister be taxed at the same rate as any other tax payer?

These facts need to be conveyed to every Indian citizen as day in and day out the propagandists of the Ruling Congress have been dishing out the Big Lie that they are for the common man and proclaim themselves as the messiah of hope with their totem pole of socialism.

Jai Swatantra

R. E. Cooper
General Secretary

SOCIALIST PRINCES

Central Cabinet Ministers' Salaries, Allowances and Perquisites

I:

Particulars

		Rs. (Net: free of tax)	
1. Salary (Rs. 27,000/- Less Tax Rs. 5,280/-).		21,720	
2. Sumptuary Allowance		6,000	
3. Rent of Bungalow		7,800	
4. Rent of Furniture & Appliances		7,704	
5. Mali, Chowkidar & Sweeper (420 x 12)		5,040	
6. Maintenance, Repairs & Decoration of Bungalow and Grounds, Furniture & Appliances (½ x 20,000)		10,000	} 15,040
7. Electricity & Water		2,400	
8. Motor Car: Personal use			
Driver's Salary (200 x 12)	2,400		
Petrol (500 x 12)	6,000		
Depreciation (20% of 21,000)	4,200		
Interest (10% of 21,000)	2,100		
Insurance	600		
	(15,300 x 1/5th)	3,060*	
9. Personal Travelling	(30,000 x 1/5th)	6,000*	
10. Personal Telephone	(6,000 x 1/5th)	1,200*	
	TOTAL	70,924	

* 1/5th taken for Personal Use, this being well established practice in Income-Tax Assessments.

II:

N.B. If the NET (tax free) income is Rs. 70,920/- then the "grossed up" taxable income for the Assessment Year 1971-72 would be Rs. 4,48,000

Details of Working

	Gross Income	Tax & Surcharge thereon	Total Tax	Net Income after tax
Rs.	4,00,000	3,02,000 + 30,200	3,77,080	70,920
Plus	48,000	40,800 + 4,080		
TOTAL	Rs. 4,48,000	3,42,800 + 34,280	3,77,080	70,920

—March of the Nation, May 16, 1970

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS FRONT

Prof. N. G. Ranga, who is taking special interest in this matter as well has written to the General Secretary to state that our stand on Fundamental Rights is being endorsed by the Congress (O), the Jan Sangh and a large number of non-Party public men.

The Organisational Plan for this Committee's work throughout India will be along the following lines:

- (a) There shall be a Convenor for each State or Region, as the case may be.
 - (b) The Convenor (State or Regional) will in turn appoint *Sub-Convenors* to take charge of the Committee's Work among
 - (i) Students and Youth
 - (ii) Women
 - (iii) Industrial labour
 - (iv) Peasants
 - (v) Artisans and shopkeepers
 - (vi) Entrepreneurs, industrialists and businessmen, and
 - (vii) Lawyers, Doctors and other professionals
 - (c) The State Convenor will appoint either directly or through the recommendation of the *Sub-Convenors*, *Assistant Convenors* for individual institutions, like colleges, high schools, social and cultural institutions, professional bodies eg., bar council, Merchants' Chamber, Institution of Engineers etc.
- Those who obtain 25 signatures to an appeal will also be designated as *Assistant Convenors*.

FUNCTIONS

- (i) *State Convenors*
- (a) The State Convenors will coordinate the functioning of the *Sub-Convenors* and *Assistant Convenors* in their State by holding regular meetings with them in furtherance of the objectives of the Committee.
- (b) He will act as a liaison between the work of the State and the National Headquarters.
- (ii) *Sub-Convenors*

The *Sub-Convenors* will coordinate the activities of the *Assistant Convenors*. They will assist the *Assistant Convenors* in arranging speeches, holding meetings and in the printing and distribution of material dealing with Fundamental Rights. From time to time, they will organise regional or district meetings for educational and refresher purposes.

(iii) *Assistant Convenors*

Being at the grass roots, the work of the *Assistant Convenors* is of the utmost importance. It is they who will organise signature campaigns on petitions and forward them to the State Convenors who, in turn, will from time to time forward these petitions to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. The following petition addressed to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha should be distributed among the *Sub-Convenors* and the *Assistant Convenors* so as to collect as many signatures as possible to the petition and forward them as mentioned above.

The Speaker,
Lok Sabha,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned, pray that Parliament should respect the inviolability of the third chapter of the Constitution on Fundamental Rights and desist from taking any steps to amend or curtail or weaken or abolish the Fundamental Rights, (Articles 12 to 55 especially Articles 19 and 31 including the right to acquire, hold and dispose of property along with all the limitation mentioned in that chapter) and respect Article 32 guaranteeing the right to appeal to the Supreme Court for redress regarding any infringement of Fundamental Rights.

We request the authorities concerned to convey this appeal to the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Extracts from the Constitution:

"Article 19(i): All citizens shall have the right—
(a) to freedom of speech and expression; (b) to assemble peaceably and without arms; (c) to form associations or unions; (d) to move freely throughout the territory of India; (e) to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India; (f) to acquire, hold and dispose of property and (g) to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.

Article 31(1): No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law, subject to the limitations mentioned in the same chapter."

The Party's State/Regional Units are requested to take this matter up at the local levels with the leaders of other like-minded Parties and seek their support to ensure the success of the campaign.

(For Private Circulation)