

3763

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board held
at the Vithalbhai Patel Bhavan, New Delhi on November 24, 1968

Present :

Prof. N.G. Ranga - in the Chair
Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy
Mr. B.P. Singh
Mr. Laxmansingh of Dungarpur
Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel
Mr. N. Dandeker

1. The Minutes of the meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board held in Bhubaneswar on October 3, 1968 were confirmed.
2. Arising out of the Minutes

- (a) the Board noted the decision of the Party's Parliamentary Group to vote against Mr. Vajpayee's Resolution for the full integration of Kashmir with the rest of India; and in the light of this decision and the communications on this subject received from Rajaji and Mr. Masani, the Board rescinded its earlier decision to abstain and endorsed the Parliamentary Group's decision;
- (b) the General Secretary reported that the Election Commission had agreed to withdraw the Flower symbol from the list of Free Symbols (except in Assam where it was the reserved symbol of the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference). The Board welcomed this decision.

The General Secretary also reported on the discussion he had with the Election Commission in regard to the possibility of slightly altering the Party's symbol by removing the black patch which served as a background to the Star. He said the Commission had expressed its willingness to consider a suitable alternative.

In this connection two specimens of the Symbol, one with a black and one with a grey background; were examined by the Board and it was agreed that the symbol with the grey background was preferable and should be submitted to the Commission for acceptance.

3. The forthcoming mid-term elections in West Bengal, U.P., Bihar and Punjab were discussed. The President and the General Secretary reported on their visits to the first three of these States and on the meetings of the relevant sub-committees held since the last meeting of the Board.

The General Secretary stated that these sub-committees were, in their selection of constituencies and candidates, adhering to the principles laid down by the Board at its meeting in New Delhi on August 31. In addition some persons who had contested and won as 'Independents' in the last General Election and who had now expressed their desire to join the Party and to contest as our candidates were also being considered.

4. (1) On the recommendation of the Parliamentary Board of the Tamil Nadu Unit of the Party, the Board approved the nomination of Dr. M. Mathias as the Party's candidate in the Nagercoil Parliamentary by-election.
- (2) The Board ratified the approval given to Mr. Himmatbhai Gumanbhai Patel as the Party's candidate in the by-election to the Gujarat State Assembly from the Ankleshwar Assembly Constituency.
- (3) The Board noted with regret the failure of the Party's candidates in the by-elections to the Andhra Assembly from Koduru, to the Rajasthan Assembly from Jalore and to the Mysore Assembly from Belthangady.
5. The Board noted the concern expressed by the Party's Parliamentary Group at its meeting on November 15, 1968 in regard to the unruly scenes witnessed in Parliament on November 13 during the debate on the "No Confidence" Motion and recommended the attached resolution for adoption by the National Executive. It was also agreed that while forwarding the resolution to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Prof. Ranga and Shri Dahyabhai Patel, respectively, would emphasise in their covering letter the urgent need to enforce the Rules of Procedure which provide for adequate resources to maintain order, decorum and discipline in Parliament.
6. The General Secretary referred to the possibility of some of those who had been expelled from the Party seeking re-entry into the Party. In this connection he drew the attention of the Board to a decision of the National Executive at its meeting in New Delhi on April 14 that the question of readmitting those expelled from Party will be treated on merits whenever the occasion arose.

The General Secretary felt that such a situation might well arise in the very near future, especially in those States where mid-term Elections were to be held. The Board therefore decided to recommend to the National Executive that the General Secretary be authorised to admit into the Party those expelled from the Party who expressed in writing their desire to return to the Party, in consultation with State Units and after satisfying himself that such persons deserved readmission to the Party's membership once again on merits.
7. In regard to local Election Manifestoes which any of the State Units might wish to issue in connection with the forthcoming mid-term Elections, the General Secretary was authorised to approve such Manifestoes in consultation with the President.
8. The meeting then terminated.

SWATANTRA PARTY
National Executive
New Delhi
November 24, 1968.

RESOLUTION ON UNRULY BEHAVIOUR IN PARLIAMENT.

The National Executive of the Swatantra Party expresses its deep anxiety with the manner in which some Member of certain Opposition Parties deliberately indulged in unruly behaviour in the Lok Sabha during the discussion on the Government Employees Strike in the course of the recent debate on the "No Confidence" Motion.

The National Executive, while congratulating the Party's group in Parliament for dissociating itself from such un-parliamentary behaviour and for expressing its strong indignation, is of the view that Members of Parliament, particularly those belonging to democratic parties, have a special responsibility not merely to ensure the maintenance of Parliamentary decorum and to set an example to all other legislatures in the country but also to guard against calculated attempts by avowed enemies of democracy to bring Parliamentary institutions into contempt and disrepute.
