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Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board held at the Red Cross Bhavan, Bhubaneswar on October 3, 1968.

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Present:

Prof. N.G.Ranga (in the Chair)  
Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy  
Mr. R.N.Singh Deo  
Mr. B.P.Singh  
Mr. H.M.Patel  
Mr. N.Dandeker

1. The Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board held in New Delhi on August 31, 1968, were confirmed.

2. Arising out of the Minutes,

- (a) The Board's attention was drawn to a communication from Mr.Masani referring to the Central Parliamentary Board's decision to permit Mr. Mohammed Imam to move an amendment to Mr.Nath Pai's Bill on Fundamental Rights and pointing out that in view of certain amendments already tabled by him and the Maharaja of Dharangadhra to the effect that the provisions in the Constitution relating to Fundamental Rights could only be amended through a Referendum, it might lead to some embarrassment if Mr.Imam moved a different Amendment. The Board decided that both the Amendments could be moved, but that Mr.Imam should press his amendment only if Mr.Masani's Amendment was rejected. The Board was of the view that this was not anything unusual in parliamentary practice and hence decided that no change was called for in its decision to permit Mr.Imam to move his amendment.
- (b) In regard to another decision recorded in the Minutes of the meeting in New Delhi on August 31, permitting Mr.C.C.Desai freedom to support the relevant provisions in the Company Law Amendment Bill for the abolition of political contributions by Companies, the Board noted that the Party's Parliamentary Group had already decided to support this provision. It was evident therefore that the freedom of action given by the Central Parliamentary Board to Mr.C.C.Desai was redundant.

3. Mid-term Elections

The Board reviewed the progress made with preparations for the mid-term elections in Bengal, UP and Bihar.

- (i) West Bengal:

The General Secretary reported that polling in West Bengal was scheduled for 17th November, and that a joint meeting of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Central Parliamentary Board and the Ad Hoc Organising Committee appointed for West Bengal would be held in Calcutta on 12th October to consider all matters relating to the mid-term Election.

- (ii) U.P.

The General Secretary reported on the discussion that he had had with the President of the UP State. He emphasised particularly the difficult financial situation. He further said that he was pursuing his efforts to collect whatever was possible from

UP and was, in fact, proposing to visit various centres in UP for the purpose.

(111) Bihar

It was reported that the Sub-Committee appointed by the Central Parliamentary Board to look into the various matters connected with the mid-term poll in Bihar would sit with the State Ad-Hoc Committee at Patna as early as may be practicable.

4. Manifesto for the Mid-Term Elections

- The Board decided that State Units should be left free to formulate their own Manifesto for the ensuing mid-term elections in the light of local conditions but within the ambit of the National Manifesto issued for the General Elections in 1967.

5. Election symbols of Parties

A Notification received from the Election Commission entitled 'The Election Symbol (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968', dealing with the Registration of Political Parties, their Election Symbols and various matters connected therewith was communicated to the Board by the General Secretary.

The Board noted that in terms of this notification, the Swatantra Party had been recognised as a "National Party" throughout India and that it was automatically so registered with the Election Commission as it fulfilled the conditions laid down by the Commission to enable such automatic recognition. It was also noted that the Party's symbol, the "Star", would be a reserved symbol for the Party throughout India.

In this connection, the confusion caused by the "Flower" symbol was discussed at length. The General Secretary reported that he was already in touch with the Election Commission on the subject.

Another suggestion made was that the General Secretary should take up with the Election Commission the possibility of slightly altering the background of the Party's Symbol by removing the black patch which served as a background to the STAR as this patch frequently gave room for confusion in the public mind.

6. Kashmir

The Board considered the request from the Party's group in Parliament concerning the Party's attitude in regard to Mr. Vajpayee's Resolution in the Lok Sabha for the full integration of Kashmir with the rest of India. After some discussion, it was decided that the Party's Group should neither participate nor vote as a Party, but that members of the Group would be free to speak in support or otherwise of Mr. Vajpayee's motion. In any event, the Board was clear that members of the Party's Group should refrain from voting.

7. The meeting then terminated.