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Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board
held at Kalki Buildings, Madras on September 29, 1967.

Present :

Prof. N.G. Ranga (In the Chair)
Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy
Mr. R.N. Singh Deo
Mr. G. Latchanna
Mr. B.P. Singh
Mr. M.R. Masani
Mr. N. Dandeker

Mr. C. Rai
Mr. K. Sundaram } By special Invitation

1. The Minutes of the last meeting held in Madras on July 23, 1967 were confirmed.
- 2.(1) Prof. Ranga and Mr. Masani reviewed the Party's performance in the last session of Parliament. The Board was informed that, in terms of Opposition unity, there was a setback in the last Session due to basic differences on issues of an ideological nature. The Speaker's weakness in not taking a stern view of noisy, unparliamentary and obstructive behaviour was mentioned.
- (2) The Board then took up for consideration several issues that would come up before the next Session of Parliament.
- (a) Private Member's Bill on amending the Constitution: A Private Member's Bill to amend the Constitution tabled by Mr. Meghrajji, M.P., of Dharangadhra (of our Party's Group) after obtaining the prior approval of the Board by circular last month was again considered. The approval accorded was confirmed subject to the Mover tabling the following amendments to the Bill :
 - (i) That the proposed amendment Bill should be confined only to Fundamental Rights in Part III of the Constitution; and
 - (ii) That the proposal for a Referendum contained in the Bill should clarify that such a Referendum should not coincide with the General Elections in the country.
- (b) Social Control of Banking: The Board felt that the powers presently vested in the Reserve Bank of India were quite adequate for the exercise of social control over credit policies and management of Banking institutions. The Parliamentary Group of the Party was asked to be vigilant and oppose any extension of these powers or any measure which would constitute undue interference with the autonomous working of commercial banks.
- (c) Nationalisation of General Insurance: The Board condemned the move to nationalise General Insurance and asked the Party's Parliamentary Group to oppose such a proposal if introduced in Parliament.
- (d) Monopolies Bill : The Board reiterated the Party's opposition to Monopolies and monopolistic practices as much in the State Sector as in the Free Sector of the Economy. The Party's Group in Parliament was asked to study the provisions of the Bill carefully and to deal with them on merits in the light of the Party's policy on the subject.

3.

Review of the Performance of the Orissa Government:

Mr. R.N. Singh Deo reported at length on several aspects of the functioning of the Orissa Government. Among the issues that were discussed in this connection were the Telegu-Oriya tension, Students' agitation, Cabinet expansion, the system of Food Zones, food procurement policy and prices, the Code of Conduct for Ministers, and the abolition of land revenue and panchayat taxes.

The Board recorded its appreciation of the good work done by the Orissa Government and in particular the relief given by the Government to peasants. The Code of Conduct recently adopted by them (copy attached) was especially commended.

Mr. Singh Deo fully concurred with the suggestion that, in order to establish better understanding between the State Government on the one side and the Party's Central Organisation on the other, individual members of the Party's Central Parliamentary Board should pay informal visits to Orissa to study and discuss with the Party's colleagues in the Government and also their coalition partners problems confronting the State Government and the practical difficulties encountered in implementing the Party's policies (within the ambit of the agreed common programme). Among those who offered to visit the State for this purpose were :

Prof. N.G. Ranga,
Mr. M.R. Masani,
Mr. B.P. Singh,
Mr. G. Latchanna,
Mr. C. Rai, and
Mr. N. Dandekar.

4.

Review of the Party's Performance in the State Legislatures:

The Board reviewed the performance for the Party's Group in the various State Legislatures.

(a) Mysore: The Officiating General Secretary reported on the correspondence with the Mysore Unit regarding the Bill to enhance the Salaries of Legislators and Ministers that was unfortunately moved by Mr. S.V. Kashimath, the Chief Whip of the Party in the State Legislature. The Board while deploring Mr. Kashimath's action decided to await the recommendation of the Committee appointed by the State Unit to enquire into the disciplinary aspect of this matter.

(b) Gujarat: The Board noted with regret the repeated absence of the representative from Gujarat from meetings of the Central Parliamentary Board. The Board also expressed concern over the recent defections from the Party in the State Legislature which had reduced its strength from 65 to 62.

The Board was of the view that the Swatantra Party in the Gujarat Legislature should be advised not to pursue its futile efforts to seek power (in competition with the Congress Party) through what plainly amounted to "horse-trading", but to play its role as an effective and vigorous opposition.

The Officiating General Secretary was asked personally to meet the leaders of the Party in and outside the Gujarat Legislature and discuss with them various issues connected with the functioning of the Party generally as well as in the State Assembly.

- (c) Uttar Pradesh: Mr. B.P. Singh reported on recent developments regarding the State Party's relations with the S.V.D. Government and in particular the efforts of the U.P. Chief Minister to bypass the established leadership of the Swatantra Party in the State and to deal directly with members of the Party's Group in the U.P. Legislature. He also reported upon recent developments concerning Government policy and party politics in U.P. and the present situation in that regard.

In the light of these and other developments, the Board requested the Officiating General Secretary to write to the Chief Minister of U.P. that the Party had decided to withdraw from the S.V.D. and resume its freedom of action to deal with issues of public policy arising from time to time on merits.

In this context, the Board considered the State President's request for a clarification of the Party's position specifically as regards the status of Jerusalem and the treatment of Palestine refugees. The following resolution was recommended for adoption by the National Executive of the Party :

"Apart from all other aspects of the problems arising out of the West Asian Conflict, in regard to which the Party has already adopted an impartial, objective and non-partisan approach, the National Executive is of the view that:

- (a) the Holy City of Jerusalem should be declared a Free City under some form of international trusteeship or supervision so as to ensure free access to members of all religions; and
- (b) the problem of Palestine refugees is one concerning which the nations involved as also the rest of the world should make special efforts for the amelioration of their plight and for their rehabilitation."

- (d) Andhra:

Mr. Latchanna reported on the functioning of the Swatantra-led United Democratic Front in the State Legislature. In order to ensure that the Party's participation in the U.D.F. should not mar the Party's identity or blur its image, the Board requested Mr. Latchanna to make efforts to get the Front's name so changed as to emphasise the major status of our Party.

- (e) Rajasthan:

Mr. Mandhata Singh, who was invited to join the meeting at this stage, reported on the Party's functioning in the State Legislature with particular reference to the numerous defections from the Party's Group (12 to the Congress and 2 to the Janata Party). In the light of his report and the earlier doubts of the Board regarding the advisability of continuing in the so-called "united front" arrangements with the Janata Party in view of the latter's unsatisfactory attitude vis-a-vis our Group,

the Officiating General Secretary was asked to convey to the Leader of our Legislature Party, Mr. Laxman Singh, the Board's view that the Party should now withdraw from the United Front and resume its role as the leading Opposition Party in the State Assembly.

(f) Bihar: The request of the Party's Convenor in Bihar (Mr. Parmanand) to participate in efforts to form a Group of non-Congress-non-Communist Opposition members was approved.

(g) Bengal: The Board felt that efforts to form a non-Congress-non-Communist Government should be welcomed.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the President.

Encl : *

SWATANTRA PARTY, ORISSA

Subject - Code of Conduct for Ministers

A Minister shall -

- a) within three months after his appointment give a confidential report to the Chief Minister stating his/her total world assets and liabilities and the name and nature of the business in which he/she or any member of his/her family is interested;
 - b) sever all connection, except of divesting himself/herself of the ownership, with the conduct and management of any business in which he/she or any member of his/her family was interested before his/her appointment as a Minister.

Provided, however, that he/she may transfer his/her interests in the conduct and management of any business to any member of his/her family other than his/her wife (or husband as the case may be) or a dependant child of his/her;
 - c) furnish annually by the 31st March to the Chief Minister a confidential report as to the increase or decrease, along with details as far as practicable, of his/her assets and liabilities anywhere in the world;
 - d) refrain from selling to the Government any moveable or immovable property unless he/she is so permitted to do by the Chief Minister and that only in the best interests of the State;
 - e) refrain from conducting or managing any business or undertaking for profit;
 - f) not be a Director of any Limited Company other than a Cooperative Society and that only with the express permission of the Chief Minister;
 - g) ensure that the members of his/her family also do not engage themselves in any business or contract or work, supply or service with the Government or undertakings under the Government except supply of goods or service at standard market rates;
 - h) refrain from getting in his/her name or name of any member of his/her family any licence, permit, quota for the purpose of business and leases from the Government or Government undertaking of the State without express permission from the Chief Minister;
 - i) report to the Chief Minister if any member of his/her family joins against his/her wishes the conduct and management of any business;
 - j) not accept personally or through a member of his/her family any sort of pecuniary gratification or contributions for any purpose, whether political, charitable or otherwise.
2. No Minister shall personally or through any member of his family raise subscriptions or accept contributions for any purpose other than those laid herein below:-
- In case any purse intended for charitable purpose or for any specific purpose is presented to him, in any public gathering, he shall pass over the said property to the concerned institution or for the concerned purpose at his earliest.

Code of Conduct for Ministers.

Provided that in case any money or property is so given for the purpose of a political party, a Minister shall on payment of the same to the party authorities secure a receipt for the same.

3. A Minister shall not accept any gifts or other gratifications except customary ones that are consistent with his or her social traditions. Such gifts may, however, be not accepted from officers of the State or officers in any State undertaking, or others who are not relations or friends with whom there is customary exchange of gifts.

4. A Minister shall not himself/herself or through any of his/her family members contract debts from persons or sources which may embarrass or influence him/her in discharge of his/her official duties.

5. A Minister as far as practicable during his/her official tour avoid to stay in the private house of anybody other than a relation and discourage lavishness or extravagance in parties given to him/her or on his/her behalf.

6. Whenever a Chief Minister shall be of the opinion that a Minister is not keeping to the Code so prescribed, he may bring the matter to the notice of the Minister concerned who thereupon may inform the Chief Minister about the bonafides of his dealings in the matter.

7. The informations required under clauses (a) and (c) shall be put in a cover sealed by the Minister. After it is presented to the Chief Minister, the Chief Minister's seal shall be put on the same. The cover thereafter shall be kept in personal custody of the Chief Minister as a most confidential document. The sealed cover so kept shall not be opened unless so decided by the Cabinet and that for the only purpose of any enquiry, investigation into the conduct of a present or past Minister. The cover shall be opened and used in such way and manner as shall be directed by the Cabinet from time to time.

8. In case of the Chief Minister, the very same code of Conduct as laid above for a Minister shall apply but for the purposes for filing the informations required under clauses (a) and (c) above, the Chief Minister shall file the said informations in cover under his own seal. The said cover shall be presented to the Council of Ministers and as directed by the Council of Ministers the said covers shall be sealed with the seal of another Minister. After being so sealed, the documents shall be kept in the personal custody of the Chief Minister.

The term "Members of the family" referred to above shall mean the wife, or husband as the case may be and any dependent child.

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