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Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 31, at Mr. Masani's residence, New Delhi.

Present

1. Prof. N. G. Ranga - in the Chair
2. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
3. Mr. K. M. Munshi
4. Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy
5. Jathedar Ugham Singh Nagoke
6. Smt. Gayatri Devi.
7. Mr. R. N. Singh Deo
8. Mr. B. P. Singh
9. Mr. Jaideep Singh
10. Mr. G. Latchanna
11. Mr. M. R. Masani
12. Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel.) By special invitation.
13. Mr. N. Dandeker)

The Minutes of the last meeting held in Madras on June 4 and 5, 1965 were confirmed.

Arising out of the Minutes of the last meeting, Mr. Masani reported on the decision of the three Akali members to continue their association with the Swatantra Group in Parliament and to withdraw their earlier decision to sit separately. The Board expressed its satisfaction at the decision.

A letter of resignation from Mr. Narendrasingh Mahida from Membership of the Swatantra Group in Parliament and of the Party was considered. The resignation was accepted.

The Board then reviewed the work of the Party's Group in both Houses of Parliament during the last session. Satisfaction was expressed at the good work done by the Party's members in Parliament.

The Board's attention was drawn to the fact that certain members of the Party in Parliament had signed an appeal supporting the manufacture of an indigenous Atom Bomb. The Board endorsed the advice given by the Leader of the Party in Parliament that he should be consulted before members commit themselves on such issues which was recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parliamentary Group held on September 24, 1965.

After discussing the matter further, the Parliamentary Board advised Members of the Party in Parliament and the State Legislatures not to join in signing any manifestoes or appeals got up by members of other Parties or Groups regarding any public issue without obtaining the permission of the Leader or Deputy Leader or whoever else is in charge at the time, nor to join any conference, meeting or delegation without first obtaining similar permission.

The General Secretary then reported on the invitation extended to him by Government to join a Goodwill Mission of M.P.s to visit North Africa. While expressing his own desire, viz; that he would like to be excused, the General Secretary sought the guidance of the Board on the matter.

The Board agreed with the General Secretary's disinclination to accept the invitation and advised him to mention the following reasons while declining the invitation:

- a) Not much purpose would be served by such delegations by way of explaining the country's position, which was the job of the Publicity Wing in the External Affairs Ministry and of our Missions abroad.

- b) Such delegations sometimes interfered with the work of our diplomatic missions abroad and placed the Heads of our Missions abroad in a difficult position.
- c) It involved a needless drain on an already critical foreign position which faced the country.

The Board then went on to review the progress made in Constituencies where prospective Parliamentary candidates had been nominated. A tabulated statement and brief extracts from quarterly reports submitted by some of the prospective candidates were circulated to members present. The Board regretted that as many as nine out of fifteen prospective candidates had failed to submit in time their quarterly reports and statements of accounts. The Board decided that those concerned should be warned to take the matter more seriously and to submit without further delay the reports and accounts and to ensure that in future such reports and statements of accounts were submitted as and when they fell due.

Arising out of a discussion on the need to guide candidates and fix targets for their organisational achievements in the context of nursing their constituencies, the Board requested Mr. N. Dandekar and Bhanu Pratap Singh to prepare a draft scheme which might be circulated by the Central Office.

A suggestion that the Party should appeal to the people in Constituencies where prospective candidates had been nominated to support the Party's candidates was considered. Since the question whether or not to publicise the names of candidates had been left to State Units in the light of circumstances obtaining in the respective States, the General Secretary agreed to convey the suggestion to State Units that they should, when they found it helpful, issue such appeals in the name of the Party.

The Board nominated the following as the Party's prospective candidates

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| 1. Orissa | Phulbani Parliamentary Const. | - Mr. Anirudha Dipa |
| | Angul Parliamentary Const. | - Mr. Harihar Patel, MLA. |
| 2. Maharashtra | Buldana Parliamentary Const. | - Mr. V. N. Patil |
| 3. Gujarat | Mehsana Parliamentary Const. | - Mr. Ramchandra B. Amin |
| | Patan Parliamentary Const. (SC) | - Mr. Dahyabhai Parmar |

While discussing the Patan Parliamentary Constituency in Gujarat, the Board noted that this nomination was the result of an understanding with the Republican Party, who would be free to set up their candidate in the Gandhinagar Parliamentary Constituency (SC) in Ahmedabad District.

The Board shared with Mr. Munshi his disappointment over the neglect of Ahmedabad City by the Party. To help in developing the Party's organisation in Ahmedabad, it was decided that Mr. K.M. Munshi, Mr. Masani, Mr. N. Dandekar and Mr. Dahyabhai Patel should visit Ahmedabad to address public meetings and meet various people and groups and enlist their cooperation in the Party's work in the City.

The Board then took up for consideration recommendations of Assembly nominations received from the Orissa State Unit's Parliamentary Board. In the context of the possibility of the elections being postponed to 1967 the Board felt that the matter could be gone into more thoroughly and with the concurrence of Mr. R. N. Singh Deo, the State President, requested him, Mr. M. R. Masani, the General Secretary, and Mr. Dandekar, the Joint Secretary, to scrutinise the recommendations again and to circulate the final list to the Parliamentary Sub-Committee for its approval.

The General Secretary then informed the Board of a letter he had received from the Election Commission forwarding a copy of a letter they had received from the Raja of Ramgarh seeking recognition of the Janata Party in Bihar, and asking for comments on the letter. The Board asked the General Secretary in his reply to resist the claim made by the Raja of Ramgarh.

The Board then took up for consideration business coming up before the winter Session of Parliament. The Board asked the Party's members in Parliament to speak and vote against a non-official bill before the Lok Sabha seeking India's withdrawal from the Commonwealth.

The Board advised the Party's members to be vigilant and to scrutinise the provisions of the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill and Unlawful Associations Bill that will be likely to come up before Parliament from the point of civil liberties and the fundamental rights of the citizen.

Considering the possibility of legislation being introduced seeking the postponement of Assembly elections in Orissa scheduled next year, the Board reaffirmed that the Party's Group in both Houses should strenuously oppose any such move.

In regard to the possibility of a resolution coming up before Parliament for extending President's Rule in Kerala for a further period of six months, the Board advised the Party's Group in Parliament to oppose the move.

The meeting then terminated.