

Swatantra Party

CENTRAL OFFICE

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GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER No. 123

June 6, 1966.

Dear Friend,

The Central Parliamentary Board at its meeting in Bombay on 26th and 29th May considered certain proposals I had put before it regarding prospective Parliamentary candidates, 3-Man Committees and Field Organisers in Parliamentary constituencies selected by the Central Parliamentary Board. These proposals were accepted by the Board, as also three additional items suggested during the course of the discussion.

The following are the Board's decisions :

- a) While full-time Organisers at constituency level should continue to send their reports, as at present, simultaneously to the Central Office and the State Office, they are placed from now on directly under the supervision and control of the candidate and the 3-Man Committee in the constituency and should do their work in accordance with the instructions and directions of the candidate and the 3-Man Committee, subject to the over-all supervision of the State Office and the Central Office.
- b) In view of the greater role that 3-Man Committees in the constituency will have to play from now till the General Elections, State Units are requested to scrutinise the composition of the 3-Man Committees in their respective States so that, wherever necessary, they may be reconstituted by agreement between the prospective Parliamentary candidate and the office-bearers of the State Unit concerned.
- c) State Units are requested, in order to ensure smoother coordination of work and greater dynamism at constituency level, to call a joint meeting of prospective Parliamentary and Assembly candidates, members of 3-Man Committees and Field Organisers in their respective State Units, at which the General Secretary or the Joint Secretary of the Party should be requested to be present or be represented.
- d) State Units are requested to take greater initiative than they have done so far in supervising the work of the Party's prospective candidates, 3-Man Committees and full-time Organisers in order to provide them with the necessary leadership, direction and guidance.
- e) At the meeting of the 3-Man Committees, two would form a quorum. However, the third member should have to be informed and his concurrence obtained when forwarding quarterly reports and statements of accounts.
- f) In order to expedite the nomination of Assembly candidates, the Board decided that lists of candidates recommended, with the requisite information should be sent for consideration by the Central Parliamentary Board, who would nominate a representative to visit the State and discuss the proposals with the State Parliamentary Board, candidates and others concerned. When satisfied, the representative will be authorised to give approval. In other cases, the matter will be referred to the Central Parliamentary Board or the Parliamentary Sub-Committee for consideration. Alternatively, the Central Office will have the discretion, where there is a unanimous recommendation of an Assembly Candidate by a State Parliamentary Board and no appeal or objection is received, to obtain the approval of the Board or its Sub-Committee by circular.

In so far as the nomination of Scheduled Caste candidates is concerned, it is felt that for political reasons the maintenance of secrecy is of considerable importance.

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In the light of these decisions, State Officers should please :

- (i) forward regularly their comments on the functioning of full-time field organisers;
- (ii) submit their suggestions in regard to the reconstitution of 3-Man Committees, wherever necessary, in consultation with the prospective Parliamentary Candidate concerned;
- (iii) submit their proposals in regard to the convening of a joint meeting of prospective Parliamentary and Assembly candidates, members of 3-Man Committees and Field Organisers, giving tentative date(s) on which such a meeting is proposed to be called to enable either myself or Mr. Dandekar or some other representative of the Central Office to be present.

In regard to the recommendation of prospective Assembly Candidates, the following should be borne in mind when submitting such recommendations:

- (i) Every recommendation should be accompanied by a letter of consent from the candidate concerned;
- (ii) Every recommendation should be accompanied by the information required as set out in General Secretary's Letter No.97 of March 23, 1965.

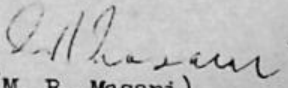
This procedure in effect throws almost the entire burden for the careful scrutiny of candidates and constituencies at the Assembly Constituency level on the State units. We sincerely hope that State Parliamentary Boards will, in the light of this responsibility placed on them by the Central Parliamentary Board, ensure that only good candidates are recommended and all steps taken to satisfy themselves not only about the integrity of the candidate concerned but also the response he is likely to elicit from the Constituency in 1967.

The Central Office wishes to emphasize that, for its part, it will do its best to see that the recommendations are processed expeditiously if State Offices on their part will ensure that the information which should accompany such recommendations is sent.

It will be seen that State Units have an important role to play, not only in making recommendations but also in supervising the work of prospective Parliamentary candidates, their 3-Man Committees and full-time Field Organisers.

The Central Office will be happy to offer its utmost cooperation in assisting State Offices in the discharge of these responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,


(M. R. Masani)
General Secretary