

53 North Avenue
New Delhi-1
NOVEMBER 9, 1970

MINUTES OF MEETING

A meeting of the General Body of the Swatantra Party in Parliament was held on Sunday, 8th November 1970 in room No. 50, Parliament House, New Delhi. The following Members were present:

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| 1. Prof. N.G. Munga | 13. Mr. N.K. Somani |
| 2. Mr. M.R. Masani | 14. Mr. K.C. Panda |
| 3. Mr. Bahyabhai Patel | 15. Mr. R.R. Singh Deo |
| 4. Mr. N. Dandekar | 16. Mr. K.P. Singh Deo |
| 5. Mr. P.K. Deo | 17. Mr. Sundermani Patel |
| 6. Mr. A.K. Amin | 18. Mr. D. Amat |
| 7. Mr. Piloo Nody | 19. Mr. G.C. Naik |
| 8. Mr. Y.G. Gowd | 20. Mr. B.N. Deo |
| 9. Mr. M.K. Nanja Gowder | 21. Mr. P. Ramamurthy |
| 10. Raja Venkatappa Naik | 22. Mr. D.N. Patodia |
| 11. Mr. M. Rajhi | 23. Mr. M.K. Mohta |
| 12. Mr. Viren Shah | |

2. The Members observed two minutes silence on the sudden and sad demise of our Punjab leader, Sardar Basant Singh, and our former President of the Mysore Unit, Shri Jinaraj Hegde.

3. The President of the Party, Mr. M.R. Masani, gave details of two-day deliberations of the Central Parliamentary Board and the National Executive. He told the Members that the Central Parliamentary Board had decided that:-

- (i) We should not rise in support of the No-Confidence Motion tabled by Members of the BKD and the SSP in line with our earlier stand. Such No-Confidence Motions at the beginning of each Session have become almost a ritual and have, therefore, served no purpose of the Opposition. In case the Motion was admitted we will take part in the discussion and at the stage of final voting will vote for the Motion.
- (ii) It was decided that the Chanda Committee's Report on the functioning of All India Radio should be raised in both Houses of Parliament by Members of our Party.
- (iii) The Central Parliamentary Board was opposed to the proposed Constitution Amendment Bills for regulating the powers of Governors. It was, however, suggested that some guidelines should be formulated on the subject so that to avoid repetition of developments like in U.P. recently.

(iv) The party was in support of banning of the Naxalites and other Extremists elements. In case the Government of India was not prepared to take such an initiative, the Party would support Preventive Detention Act for Bengal. The Party, however, was opposed to the Preventive Detention Act to be extended to the whole of India. This has been the stand of the Party from the very beginning as such arbitrary legislation violate the fundamental rights of the people.

(v) The Party was opposed to the proposed private members amendment to the Bonus Act. Mr. Dandekar was requested to study the Bill and then brief the Party on the subject.

(vi) Mr. Masani gave details of the correspondence he had in regard to formation of a common bloc of 4 parties in Parliament with the Presidents of the Congress(C), BKD and the Jan Sangh. According to him, there was an identity of approach on the subject between the Swatantra, Jan Sangh and the BKD. Unfortunately, there was a division amongst leaders of the Congress(C) and as a result the formation of the bloc has been delayed. The Swatantra Party, however, would continue its efforts in this direction.

(vii) Mr. Masani explained the Party's stand regarding Shiv Sena's Parel election. The Party as such did not support. At local level, as a lever as against Communist some members might have shown sympathy.

3. The Members agreed with the suggestion of the Central Parliamentary Board that we should not rise in support of the proposed No-Confidence Motions.

4. It was decided that we should press our Adjournment Motions on West Bengal and rising prices. We should also support Adjournment Motions on U.P. tabled by Members of some of the Opposition parties. Regarding the controversy on Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri's death, the Members were free to express their opinion on the subject.

5. It was decided that Adjournment Motions at the beginning of the Session may be tabled by our Members subject to subsequent ratification by the Party. In case the Party do not agree with the Motion, the Members should withdraw the Motion in line with the decision of the Party. If possible, prior permission, before tabling Adjournment Motions, might be obtained of the Leader, or the Deputy Leader. In case, both the leader and the Deputy Leader were not available, the leader of the Rajya Sabha or one of the Secretaries could be consulted in this regard.

6. The Members, however, should not table any No-Confidence Motion without the specific permission of the Party.

7. The meeting adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/- R.K. Amin
Secretary

To

All Members