

Swatantra Party

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March 25, 1965.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER NO. 98.

Dear Friend,

Civic elections

The Central Parliamentary Board of the Party, which met in New Delhi on March 14, discussed among other things the impending civic elections in several States. While reaffirming the earlier decision of the Party that State units should be free to decide on whether or not to contest civic and Jilla Parishad elections in the name of the Party, the Board expressed the view that the pattern furnished by our Units' attitudes in the Bangalore and Ahmedabad municipal elections, namely, that of participating in the formation of a Civic Front (excluding communists) and of fighting the elections on a civic programme was a happy model for other State Units of the Party to follow.

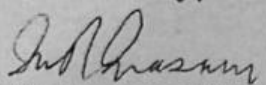
2. For your reference, General Secretary's Letter No. 44 of June 6, 1962, communicated to you the following decision of the old Parliamentary Board:

"That a decision in regard to whether or not elections to Zila Parishads, Panchayat Samitis or Municipal bodies should be contested in the name of the Party should be left to each State Unit."

3. We do hope that your State Committee or your Parliamentary Board as the case may be, will give thought to this question and a decision along the lines recommended by the Central Parliamentary Board.

4. There is one other point that needs to be emphasised in this connection. Decisions in regard to contesting elections to specific local bodies should arise out of a decision of the State Committee or its Parliamentary Board to contest that body. This authority should not be transferred to District or other lower Units although the decision to contest elections to a particular body will naturally be based on a recommendation from the District or lower unit concerned.

Yours truly,


(M.R. Masani)
General Secretary.