

Swatantra Party

CENTRAL OFFICE

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March 25, 1965.

3889
GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER NO. 99.

Dear Friend,

By-elections to Parliament and
the State Legislatures.

The Central Parliamentary Board of the Party, which met in New Delhi on March 14, noted with regret that notwithstanding repeated requests by the Central Office, State Executive Committees and Parliamentary Boards have failed to consider in time the position they wish to adopt in the face of impending by-elections to Parliament or State Legislatures. As a result, the Central Parliamentary Board is almost invariably ignored and quite often recommendations are received in the Central Office within two or three days of the last date for nomination and after someone has already been advised to put in his nomination paper.

2. The results of this laxity have been disastrous. Time after time, mistakes that could have been avoided have been committed, resulting in the rout of the Party's candidate and even the forfeiture of his security deposit. What is more harmful than the defeat itself is the deleterious effect it has on the Party's prestige throughout the country where a local defeat is magnified into a national trend.

3. The Central Parliamentary Board feels it can no longer tolerate the continuance of this course of behaviour for which there is no excuse whatsoever. In all cases when a member of a Legislature dies or retires and a vacancy is created, there are several weeks and months before the election is notified and that time should be utilised to consider the Party's position and make suitable recommendations.

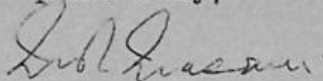
4. The Central Parliamentary Board therefore wishes to inform all State units that recommendations in regard to contesting by-elections should be received well in advance to enable them to be carefully considered.

5. These recommendations, which must necessarily emanate from the State Parliamentary Boards concerned, should:

- a. Be received within a couple of weeks from the time the seat becomes vacant, and well in advance of the election,
- b. Be accompanied by details in regard to the candidate; the commitment he is willing to undertake; whether the State Unit is also committing itself to assist the candidate with local resources; the voting pattern in the last election in that constituency; what are the chances of success; local factors that might contribute to the possibility of success of our candidate, etc.,
- c. a copy of the relevant minutes of the meeting of the State Parliamentary Board which makes the recommendation.

6. Unless the recommendation is received well in advance, the Central Parliamentary Board will not be able to approve of last minute haphazard nominations and the Unit concerned will not be free to nominate any candidate at all.

yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. R. Masani', written in a cursive style.

(M. R. Masani)

General Secretary.