

Swatantra Party

CENTRAL OFFICE

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March 23, 1965.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER NO.97.

Dear Friend,

As you are aware, the General Council of the Party which met in Bombay last month endorsed a Statement on Organisation submitted to it. A copy of the Statement is attached herewith for ready reference.

2. You will notice from the Statement that the proposals outlined in Part II are directed towards the organisation of a national campaign to carry the Party to success in the General Elections of 1967.

3. The task of supervising and controlling the day-to-day development of this campaign has been entrusted to the Central Parliamentary Board of the Party.

4. The Central Parliamentary Board of the Party had its first meeting in New Delhi on March 14. It discussed in detail the procedure to be adopted regarding the selection of Parliamentary constituencies and the nomination of prospective Parliamentary Assembly Candidates.

5. The implementation of the procedure decided upon the Central Parliamentary Board calls for the following action on the part of State Units:

(a) The setting up of State Parliamentary Committee or Board:

The first thing to do is for every State Executive Committee to set up a compact Parliamentary Board which will devote its attention to all matters relating to the conduct of the General Election campaign in that State. Information available with the Central Office shows that such Committees or Boards exist in the following States:

Andhra, Gujarat, Mysore, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

If your Unit is not in the list mentioned above, this is first thing you may kindly attend to.

(b) List of Parliamentary Constituencies:-

The State Parliamentary Committee or Board will then have to decide as to which are the Parliamentary constituencies in the State likely to be most responsive to our Party. They should be listed in an order of priority. The recommendation in regard to every constituency should be backed by reasons why the State Parliamentary Board considers it worth while of inclusion in the list. The reasons should state among other things:

- (i) The composition of the electorate viz. literacy ratio, area of the constituency (physical size), communities, number of Assembly Constituencies, whether rural or urban, state of economic development (industrial area) etc.

- (ii) State of Party organisation (Membership, No. of Constituency Committees at the Assembly Constituency level, District Committee, etc.)
- (iii) Present representative of the Constituency in the Lok Sabha and representatives in the State Assembly from the Component Assembly Constituencies.
- (iv) Voting pattern in the last General Election and in by-elections if any, including data on the size of the electorate, votes polled etc.

(c) Recommending Prospective Parliamentary Candidates:

The Central Parliamentary Board regards the search for good candidates to be the immediate task of State units. Two important considerations must be borne in mind while recommending Prospective Parliamentary Candidates:

- (i) The good character, personality and political record of the candidate.
- (ii) The candidate's suitability for, and acceptability to, the Constituency.

The Central Parliamentary Board does not wish to lay down any rigid procedure at the Constituency and State levels to be followed by State Parliamentary Boards in the selection of Candidates. This is left to each State Parliamentary Board to devise in the light of its own circumstances and requirements.

However, when recommending the name of person as a prospective candidate for a Constituency, the recommendation should state what steps have been taken in regard to scrutinising the candidate's credentials and ensuring that the candidate is generally acceptable to the Party's workers and to the Constituency in general.

Every recommendation, justified by reasons outlined above, should be formally approved at a duly convened meeting of the State Parliamentary Board. A copy of the minutes of the meeting should also be forwarded along with the recommendations to the Central Office.

It might so happen that the Central Office may in sometimes be able to help the State Parliamentary Board by suggesting names of suitable persons, from within the State or outside, who would be valuable to the Party in Parliament, either for a particular constituency or generally from the State. In that case, the State Parliamentary Board should send its detailed and well-considered comment or recommendation in regard to such a name while forwarding its own recommendation to the Central Parliamentary Board.

6. Processing of names at the Centre:

Once the recommendations have been received by the Central Office, necessary inquiries will be instituted and the Office will submit its own report, along with the recommendations received to the Central Parliamentary Board. It will be the endeavour of the Central Office to complete such enquiries within a month or two of the receipt of recommendation, if not earlier.

7. To obviate delay, the Central Parliamentary Board has constituted a Sub-committee consisting of the President, Rajaji, Mr. R.N. Singh Deo and the General Secretary which will go into the State Parliamentary Board's recommendation and the report of the Central Office thereon. If the sub-Committee is unanimous, the recommendation will be circulated to the Central Parliamentary Board for its approval in matters where unanimity is not found possible will be referred to the next meeting of the full Board. The leaders of the two Houses of Parliament and of State Legislatures who are not members of the Sub-committee may if necessary, be invited to be present at meetings of the Sub-committee when matters concerning their House or the nomination of candidates to it are to be discussed.

8. Recommending Prospective Assembly candidates:

The procedure and norms outlined for the selection of Parliamentary candidates hold equally true in the choice of Assembly candidates. The procedure to be followed by State Parliamentary Boards while recommending Assembly candidates is also left to the State Parliamentary Boards to decide in the light of circumstances and requirements within each State.

However, the selection of prospective Assembly candidates will involve greater attention and consultation at the Assembly Constituency, Parliamentary Constituency and State level. Wherever prospective Parliamentary candidates have already been nominated, it is essential that they should be consulted in regard to prospective Assembly candidates within their constituency.

The State Parliamentary Board, while recommending the names of prospective Assembly candidates to the Central Parliamentary Board, should report not only on the merits of the candidate and other details to reinforce their recommendation, but also whether the Assembly candidate so recommended has the concurrence of the prospective Parliamentary candidate whenever already nominated. Whenever differences of opinion arise between the Parliamentary candidate and the recommending authority, the Parliamentary candidate should be asked to submit reasons for his objections.

Wherever Assembly candidates are recommended in Constituencies where the Party does not propose to contest the Parliamentary seat, adequate reasons must be provided to justify such a recommendation. The recommendation should also indicate how it is proposed to raise locally the necessary resources.

9. Appointment of Field Organisers at the Parliamentary Constituency level:

The Central Parliamentary Board urges that the recruitment of Field Organisers at Parliamentary Constituency level should be pursued simultaneously with the search for good candidates.

In the choice of a field worker, the views of the prospective Parliamentary candidate, if there is one already nominated, should be borne in mind. He should be consulted, and his opinion ascertained by those who have been requested in each State to make such recommendations.

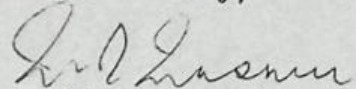
10. It is hoped that, in line with the procedure outlined above, State Units will now settle down to the serious business of desiding on Constituencies and scouting for talent among those who could be

the Party's standard bearers in the constituencies. Briefly your Unit is expected to:

1. Set up a Parliamentary Committee or Board (if not already functioning).
2. Prepare a list of constituencies where the Party should put up candidates, in order of priority.
3. Recommend suitable prospective Parliamentary candidates.
4. Recommend suitable prospective Assembly candidates.
5. Recommend suitable field organisers at the Parliamentary Constituency level, who could be screened at the Centre and trained if found competent.

11. May we suggest that an immediate meeting of State Parliamentary Board or in its absence of your State Committee be convened to consider this circular and let us have a copy of the proceedings of such a meeting.

Yours truly,



(M.R. Masani)
General Secretary.