

3895

Swatantra Party

Procedure regarding By-Elections to the Lok Sabha,
Rajya Sabha and State Assemblies and Councils
between now and the General Elections, 1967.

It is a matter for regret that, notwithstanding repeated requests, 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 Assemblies. 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. 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 reverse is magnified into a national trend.

The two most recent examples of this are the by-election in Mysore State where our Party's candidate polled 2,702 votes as opposed to 73,193 votes secured by the winning candidate and 36,763 votes by an Independent candidate and forfeited his deposit; and a defeat of the Party's candidate by 92 votes to 39 in an election to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan.

The Central Parliamentary Board obviously cannot be expected to 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.

State Units will now have to be informed that unless they are able to send their recommendations well in advance to enable the Central Parliamentary Board to meet and consider their recommendation, they will no longer consider themselves free to nominate any candidate at all.
