

# Swatantra Party

CENTRAL OFFICE

PHONE: 251424

GRAMS: SURAJYAM



3903

SASOON BUILDING,  
143, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,  
BOMBAY 1.

December 18, 1967

When replying, please quote our Reference No. \_\_\_\_\_

## Central Parliamentary Board Circular No. 22

Dear Friend,

Sub : Mr. Rajendra Singh Singhi's (MLA-  
-Swatantra) inclusion in the West  
Bengal Cabinet headed by Dr. P. C. Ghosh

You may have read in the newspapers that our lone MLA in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Mr. Rajendra Singh Singhi, has accepted the invitation extended to him by Dr. P. C. Ghosh to join the West Bengal Cabinet as a Minister of State.

2. The facts are as follows :

- (i) Ever since the formation of the United Front Government soon after the last General Elections, Mr. Singhi has withstood all kinds of pressures both from the then United Front Government and the Congress Party to lend his support to the one or the other.
- (ii) Soon after the formation of the P.C. Ghosh Government, I happened to be in Calcutta. And, on December 2nd, 1967, I discussed with Mr. C. R. Irani (our Joint Secretary in charge of West Bengal) and Mr. Rajendra Singh Singhi, our Party's attitude to Dr. Ghosh's Government in the light of the unanimous Resolution on West Bengal (Copy attached) adopted at the meeting of the General Council of the Party held on November 26. At that time, neither Mr. Irani nor Mr. Rajendra Singh Singhi had any inkling that the latter would be invited to join Dr. Ghosh's Government as a Minister.
- (iii) I left Calcutta on 2nd December. On the night of the 3rd December, Dr. Ghosh invited Mr. Singhi to join his Cabinet as a Minister of State. Mr. Singhi had to give his answer immediately, but was unable to contact Mr. Irani. So he accepted; and the news was in the papers the following morning.
- (iv) This was indeed a great honour for Mr. Singhi, he being the lone member of our Party in the West Bengal legislature as against 17 admitted supporters of Dr. Ghosh and some Independents, apart from Congressmen. Moreover, although our Party might have preferred President's Rule (instead of a Minority Government with Congress backing being installed) after the

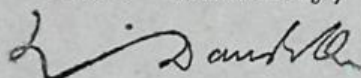


dismissal of the Ajoy Mukherjee Government, our disinclination to welcome the formation of the Minority Governments does not go so far as to refuse to cooperate with the P.C. Ghosh Government, much less to bring it down, because the alternative may well be the reinstallation of the communist-dominated United Front Government with all its disastrous consequences.

- (v) Therefore, at least on negative grounds (i.e. taking the situation as it was de facto and not as we would have wished it) we must not be too critical of Mr. Rajendra Singh Singhi's acceptance of the Ministership; much less, should we ask him to resign.
- (vi) Also, the advantages to the Party of being so dramatically put on the political map of West Bengal, are considerable.

4. I have discussed this matter with the President, Prof. Ranga who concurred with my view that now that Mr. Singhi has accepted a position in the West Bengal Cabinet, we should not disturb the status quo. In these circumstances, on receipt of this Circular, ~~could~~ you kindly convey to me your approval as well ?

Yours sincerely,



(N. Dandekar)  
General Secretary

## SWATANTRA PARTY

Resolution moved by Mr. M.R. Masani and unanimously adopted by the  
General Council

The General Council takes note of and endorses the Resolutions of the National Executive of May 1967 ruling out the possibility of the Swatantra Party joining a Government at the Centre which includes Communists of either variety and of September 1967 calling for the banning of both Communist Parties and the removal of Communist Ministers from the Government of West Bengal.

The General Council welcomes the dismissal though belated of the Cabinet which was perverted by the Communists into an instrument of disruption and subversion of the Rule of Law as instanced by Gheraoes and Naxalbari and calls for the banning of the Communist Parties.