

Swatantra Party

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When replying, please quote our Reference No.

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General Secretary's Letter to M.P.s No. 14

Dear Friend,

The Central Parliamentary Board of the Party met in Madras on September 29. Apart from reviewing our Party's performances in the last session of Parliament, the Board considered several issues that are likely to come up in the next session of Parliament and gave the following guidance to the Party's members in both Houses in regard to some of them.

Social Control of Banking : The Board felt that the powers presently vested in the Reserve Bank of India were quite adequate for the exercise of social control over credit policies and management of Banking institutions. The Parliamentary Group of the Party was asked to be vigilant and oppose any extension of these powers or any measure which would constitute undue interference with the autonomous working of commercial banks.

Nationalisation of General Insurance : The Board condemned the move to nationalise General Insurance and asked the Party's Parliamentary Group to oppose such a proposal if introduced in Parliament.

Monopolies Bill : The Board reiterated the Party's opposition to Monopolies and monopolistic practices as much in the State Sector as in the Free Sector of the Economy. The Party's Group in Parliament was asked to study the provisions of the Bill carefully and to deal with them on merits in the light of the Party's policy on the subject.

When the National Executive of the Party met later in the day it considered the Language and Education issue and took the following stand:

Language and Education : The Executive approved the motion tabled by Mr. Masani and Mr. Dandekar on the language issue, and reaffirmed the position taken by the Central Parliamentary Board on July 23 that :

- (a) That the autonomy of the Universities should be respected and they should be left free to determine what should be the medium of instruction;
- (b) That parents must be left free to determine the language in which their children should be taught, and
- (c) That the Party opposed the concept of neighbourhood schools, and insisted that parents be left free to send their children to the schools of their choice.

Yours sincerely,

(N. Dandekar)

Officiating General Secretary