

Swatantra Party

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When replying, please quote our Reference No.

August 8, 1967

GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER NO. 161

Dear Friend,

On referring to the records of Party Elections held in 1964, we came upon certain issues which then required elucidation. To minimise needless correspondence on these same issues in connection with the ensuing Party Elections, we give below some guidance in regard to some of these issues.

I. State Councils

a. Representation of District Units on the State Council

Paragraph 32 on page 9 of the "Procedure for Party Elections" lays down the minimum and maximum representation of a District on the State or Regional Council to be determined by the State or Regional Committee. But it does not prescribe the ratio of representation of District Committees strictly proportionate to number of Workers enrolled in that district. It merely provides an illustration. Your State or Regional Committee is free to adopt any other formula which meets its needs and is in consonance with democratic representation, subject of course to the ceiling of 10 representatives per district.

b. Size of State Councils

While the maximum possible size of your State Council will be the aggregate of the maximum number of representatives permissible for each district (i.e. if there are 10 districts in your State, the maximum size of your Council would be $10 \times 10 = 100$ members), the actual size is likely to be less because enrolment is not likely to be uniform throughout the State and a number of districts will not be able to attain the maximum. Requests for a larger Council with seats kept vacant for filling in as and when enrolment increases, will not be entertained at this stage. Requests for sanction to add to the strength of the State Council to give representation to districts where enrolment may subsequently improve will be considered from time to time on merits as occasion arises.

c. Cooptions To State Council

Under Clause 11 (c) of the Party's Constitution, it is left to each State Council, when it meets for the first time, to decide

- (i) Whether to proceed first with the election of the State/Regional Committee, its Office Bearers and its representatives on the General Council, and then to coopt as additional members of the State Council "a number of members not more than one-tenth of the respective numbers of their elected members" or

- (ii) Whether to coopt first such additional members (within the permissible limit) of the State/Regional Committee, the Office Bearers and its representatives on the General Council as it may decide, and then to proceed with the election.

If the second alternative is adopted, then those coopted members who are present on the occasion can immediately join the meeting and be entitled to take part in the voting. In no case however should a meeting of a State Council be adjourned or delayed for the sake of allowing coopted members to participate in the elections.

II. Eligibility for Membership on Committees and Councils from the District To The National Level -

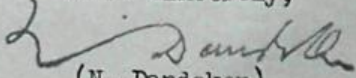
It is not necessary that a candidate for election:-

- to the District Committee should be a member of the Primary Unit Committee;
- or to the State Council should be a member of the District Committee;
- or to the State Executive should be a member of the State Council;
- or to the General Council should be a member of the State Council;
- or to the National Executive should be a member of the General Council.

The organisation Sub-Committee of the Party when it met on September 4, 1964 confirmed the interpretation of the relevant clauses in the Constitution by the Central Office that "members of the National Executive need not necessarily be elected from among the members of the General Council since the words "from among themselves" were not mentioned in Clause 10 A of the Constitution. Similar considerations would apply to all other Party elections." Thus to be a member of the District Committee one need not be a member of a Primary Unit Committee or to be a member of the General Council one need not necessarily be a member of the State Council.

All that is necessary is that the person who seeks membership or office of one of these Committees or Councils should have been enrolled on or before June 30, 1967 and his membership valid at the time of his seeking election.

Yours sincerely,


(N. Dandeker)
Officiating General Secretary