



3947

When replying, please quote our Reference No. _____

August 7, 1967

GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER NO. 160

Composition of State/Regional Council

Dear Friend,

The Purpose of this letter is to invite your kind attention to the relevant provision of our Constitution and the Procedure for Party Elections (copies attached) relating to the composition and election of the State/Regional Council.

2. Article 8 (b) of the Constitution of the Party provides as follows :

"Every such State or Regional Council shall be constituted of such number as may be prescribed from time to time by the National Executive. Such a State or Regional Council shall be elected by the elected members of all the District Committees in the State or Region by the method of proportional representation."

The procedure for Party Elections (paragraph 32, page 9) lays down that representation of each district (where there is a District Committee) on the State Council shall be subject to a minimum of one and a maximum of ten, depending on the number of District Committees and the number of Workers enrolled in each District.

3. Will you kindly let us have by August 31st, 1967, the recommendation of your State Committee concerning the representation to be given on your State Council to each district proportionate to the enrolment of Workers in that district? Your recommendations should be accompanied by the following information :

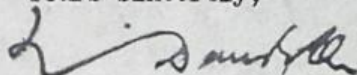
- a. The ratio of representation on the State Council to number of Workers enrolled;
- b. The allocation of seats on the State Council to each organised district, and
- c. The resulting strength of the State Council.

4. The certified membership of your State Unit will be communicated to you after our receiving the report of inspection of your membership records by our representative. You may therefore expect to hear from us about this between August 15th and 20th. In the meanwhile, this Circular letter is intended to alert you to the issues relating to the composition of the State Council, so as to enable you to convene a meeting of your State Committee in the third week of August to make appropriate recommendations in regard to (a), (b) and (c) above.

....2/-

5. Since we ourselves will then have to circulate our final recommendation (based on your proposals) to the members of the National Executive for their approval, would you kindly ensure that the information required is received by us not later than August 31, 1967 ?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'N. Dandeker', written in a cursive style.

(N. Dandeker)
Officiating General Secretary

SWATANTRA PARTY

CONSTITUTION



*As amended on December 12, 1966 by the
Fourth National Convention in New Delhi*

Swatantra Party

CONSTITUTION

*As amended on December 12, 1966 by the
Fourth National Convention in New Delhi*

1. NAME

The name of the Party shall be the Swatantra Party.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Party shall be to further and endeavour to put into effect the principles adopted by the Convention in Bombay on August 1 and 2, 1959, and such policies and programmes as the Party may from time to time adopt in furtherance of those principles.

3. HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Party shall be located at such place as may from time to time be decided by the General Council.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Every person above the age of 18 who subscribes in writing to the principles of the Party, pays the prescribed fee and expresses his readiness to work for the Party will be eligible to be a Worker of the Party.
- (b) Work for the Party may be any of the following activities:
 - (i) Enrolling new members;
 - (ii) Introducing new Workers;
 - (iii) Campaigning for the Party;

- (iv) Attending to public grievances on behalf of the Party and securing their redress;
 - (v) Functioning, when called upon, as prospective candidate of the Party to an elective public body;
 - (vi) Collection of funds;
 - (vii) Acceptance of executive responsibilities in the Party;
 - (viii) Preparation of literature;
 - (ix) Distribution of literature;
 - (x) Organisation of study circles and meetings;
 - (xi) Helping to run Party offices;
 - (xii) Any other approved activity.
- (c) The State Executive Committee shall be competent to frame rules in this behalf.
- (d) Decisions in regard to enrolment of workers shall be taken by the State Executive Committee either on its own initiative or on the recommendation of Constituency and District Committees.
- (e) Whenever the State Executive has doubts as to the desirability of enrolling a Worker, it shall forward the application with its comments to the National Executive, which shall, after considering the application and the comments directly or through an appropriate body, decide whether or not the Worker should be enrolled, and such decision shall be final.
- (f) Only Workers shall have the right to vote in Party elections or to serve as office bearers or members of the elective committees.

5. SUBSCRIPTION

- (a) Each Worker of the Party will pay a subscription of Rs. 3.00 per year, or a Life Worker's fee of Rs. 100.00. Persons already enrolled as

permanent members of the Party by the end of 1963 will be entitled to claim exemption from paying any further fee as Life Members with the right to vote.

- (b) A Worker of the Party will continue as such as long as he pays his dues. Each Worker of the Party will be issued a Party Card.
- (c) The National Executive of the Party will have the authority to expel a Worker or a member if in its opinion, which shall be final, his continuance as a Worker or member of the party is undesirable.
- (d) The subscription for membership shall be divided between the various bodies of the Party in the following manner: Constituency 20 per cent, District 50 per cent, State or Region 25 per cent, Centre 5 per cent. Provided that the State or Regional Council may modify the proportion in which the membership subscription is to be distributed within the State or Region.
- (e) Every unit shall maintain appropriate accounts of the receipts and expenditure, which shall be annually audited.

5A. MEMBERS

Every person above the age of 18 who subscribes in writing to the principles of the Party will be eligible to be a member of the Party. No fee will be payable by a member. Meetings of such members may be convened from time to time by the State, District or Constituency Committees so that they may be given opportunities to be consulted and associated with the work of the Party.

6. PRIMARY UNITS

- (a) A primary unit of the Party shall be formed in

respect of every Legislative Assembly constituency in the State.

- (b) Every such primary unit shall elect a Constituency Committee provided there are not less than 20 Workers in that constituency.

Provided that the State or Regional authority may for more convenient discharge of the Party's work authorise the formation of a Committee for any area comprising more than one constituency or for any area smaller than one constituency.

7. DISTRICT COMMITTEE

- (a) For every revenue district of the State, there shall be a District Committee constituted of such number as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee of the State or Region.
- (b) Such a District Committee shall be elected by the elected members of the primary bodies of that district by proportional representation.
- (c) Each District Committee shall elect a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries and one or more Treasurers.

8. STATE OR REGIONAL COUNCILS

- (a) For every State or any part thereof, as may be recognised by the General Council for this purpose, there shall be a State or Regional Council.
- (b) Every such State or Regional Council shall be constituted of such number as may be prescribed from time to time by the National Executive. Such a State or Regional Council shall be elected by the elected members of all the District

Committees in the State or Region by the method of proportional representation.

- (c) Each State or Regional Council shall elect an Executive Committee consisting of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries, one or more Treasurers and not less than 10 and not more than 20 other members.

9. GENERAL COUNCIL

- (a) There shall be a General Council consisting of not more than 250 persons.
- (b) The General Council shall be constituted of not less than 3 and not more than 20 from each State or Region as the case may be.
- (c) The number allotted to each State or Regional Party between the minimum and the maximum mentioned in sub-clause (b) shall be determined in proportion to the number of Workers and Life Workers enrolled in the State or Region as the case may be.
- (d) The members of the General Council allotted to a State or Region shall be elected by the appropriate State or Regional Council by proportional representation.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

- (a) The General Council shall elect the National Executive of the Party.
- (b) The National Executive shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries, one or more Treasurers and not less than 10 and not more than 20 members besides the co-opted or nominated members referred to in Clause 11.

- (c) The election of office-bearers and members of the National Executive shall take place at a meeting of the General Council and, if possible, such meeting may be held on the eve of the Annual Convention.
- (d) The National Executive shall be competent and shall have the power
 - (i) to take all such actions and decisions and to do all such things and acts as it may consider necessary or desirable in furtherance of the Party's objective; and
 - (ii) to raise funds, collect subscriptions and to borrow moneys for that purpose.

11. CO-OPTION

- (a) The General Council shall be entitled to co-opt members who shall not be more than one-tenth of the number of its elected members.
- (b) The President shall, for giving representation to unrepresented States or Regions or for other reasons, have the power to nominate not more than 7 members elected under Rule 10.
- (c) The State or Regional Councils shall be entitled to co-opt a number of members not more than one-tenth of the respective numbers of their elected members.
- (d) A State or Regional Council as the case may be shall have the power to authorise a District or Constituency Committee to co-opt members in number not more than one-tenth of the number of elected members of such bodies.

12. TERM OF OFFICE

- (a) The first elections to the primary bodies, District Committees, State or Regional Councils and General Council under the revised rules

shall be held before the end of 1964 and thereafter by the end of every alternate year.

- (b) Workers and Life Workers duly enrolled by July 31, 1964, and Life Members enrolled on or before December 31, 1963, will be entitled to vote in the first elections to the bodies referred to in sub-clause (a).
- (c) The elections to the State and Regional Executive Committees and the National Executive referred to in clauses 8 and 10 shall be held as soon as practicable after the elections to the Committees and Councils are held as provided in sub-clause (a).

13. NATIONAL CONVENTION

- (a) The National Convention of the Party shall be held at least once every year.
- (b) The Convention shall be constituted of delegates elected on the basis of direct election by Workers, Life Workers and Life Members of the Party in such manner as may be prescribed by the General Council.
- (c) The appropriate strength of delegates from each State shall be determined by the General Council.

14. STATE OR REGIONAL CONVENTION

- (a) Every State or Region as the case may be shall hold an Annual Convention of the Party for making recommendations in regard to the policy of the Party and for deciding policy in respect of matters relating to the State or the Region concerned.
- (b) Delegates to such Convention shall be elected on the basis of direct election by Workers, Life Workers and Life Members in the State or

Region in such manner as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee of the State or Region.

15. RULES

- (a) The General Council shall have the power to prescribe by rules such matters as are herein provided to be so prescribed and such other matters which may be necessary for or incidental to carrying out the objects of the Party.
- (b) Subject to the rule making powers of the General Council, the National Executive shall have the power to frame such rules as may be necessary for or incidental to carrying out the programme or activities of the Party.
- (c) Every State or Regional Council shall have the power to prescribe by rules such matters as are herein provided to be so prescribed and such other matters as may be found necessary to carry out its functions and duties in accordance with the Constitution.

16. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at the Annual Convention:

- (a) on the recommendation of the General Council by a majority of delegates present and voting at such Convention, or
- (b) on a proposal by 200 Workers, Life Workers or Life Members of the Party by a three-fourth majority of the delegates present and voting, provided 30 days clear notice thereof had been given to the National Executive.

17. TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Central Organising Committee shall have power to make transitional arrangements for purposes necessary for, or incidental to, the functioning of the Party.

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Swatantra Party

Procedure for Party Elections

Issued by the Swatantra Party, Central Office

The National Executive of the Party at its meeting in New Delhi on March 15, 1967, adopted the following time-table for Party Elections:

Last date for enrolment of Workers and Life Workers for purposes of Party elections	June 30, 1967
Last date for receipt of Register of Membership Entries and Centre's quota of subscription	July 15, 1967
Conclusion of scrutiny of Workers/Life Workers registers and their verification	August 15, 1967
Completion of elections at the Primary (Constituency) level	September 15, 1967
Completion of elections at District level	September 30, 1967
Completion of election for State Committees	October 15, 1967
Completion of elections for General Council	October 30, 1967
Election of National Executive by General Council	December 1, 1967
Assumption of office by new National Executive	December 1, 1967

2. The dates fixed in the above schedule cannot be altered.
3. The Committees at the Primary (Constituency) level, and at the District, State and National levels will assume office immediately on completion of their respective elections.
4. (a) Only those who have been enrolled as Workers/Life Workers on or before 30th June 1967, will be eligible to participate in the elections and/or stand for elections to

7. From 15th July, 1967, which is the last date for the receipt by the Central Office of Register entries and the Centre's quota of subscriptions, the Central Office will arrange for the inspection and checking, at each State or Regional Office, of Registers and books of account of subscription collected in order to verify the lists of Workers/Life Workers/Life Members. Only after the

6. Those who prefer to retain their old Life Membership but have not chosen between either of the alternatives mentioned above will, in accordance with Clause 5(a) of the Constitution, have the right to vote but not the right to stand as a candidate for any election.

OR (b) given an undertaking to do one or more kinds of work listed in Clause 4(b) of the Constitution.

(a) paid an additional sum of Rs. 90/- and converted their Life Membership to that of Life Workers, 1963 on payment of a subscription of Rs. 10 only) will be eligible to participate in the elections provided they have:

5. Life Members (those enrolled on or before December 31, 1967) will be eligible to participate in those elections which fall within their respective period of grace.

(c) In the case of those whose present membership as Workers expires on or after 1st May 1967, they will be allowed a grace period of three months within which to pay their renewal subscriptions; meanwhile, they will be eligible to participate in those elections which fall within their respective period of grace.

(b) Those whose membership as Workers expired on or before 30th April 1967 will not be eligible to participate in the elections or to stand for election themselves unless they have paid their renewal subscriptions on or before 30th June 1967.

Party Committees or as Office Bearers. [But it must be emphasised in this connection that enrolment of Workers/Life Workers is a continuous process which should not cease on 30th June 1967 merely because of the ensuing elections].

Central Office has certified the Registers and book of account to be in order, can elections in that State proceed.

8. The undermentioned procedure for Party elections is based mainly on the procedure adopted by the National Executive on the occasion of the last Party Elections held in 1964, with such modifications as experience has shown to be necessary.

The Primary Unit

9. Since the Primary Unit of the Party at the Assembly Constituency level is the base for the Party's organisational pyramid, great care should be taken in regard to elections at that level.

10. The Constitution prescribes in Clause 6(a) that a Primary Unit will consist of a "Legislative Assembly Constituency". There is, however, a proviso that "for more convenient discharge of the Party's work", a State or Regional Committee may "authorise the formation of a Committee for any area comprising more than one Constituency or for any area smaller than one Constituency". In this way, in some cases, whole Talukas or Tehsils have been accepted as areas for setting up Primary Units.

11. Each such Primary Unit should have a minimum of 20 Workers and/or Life Workers on its rolls to be eligible to hold elections in accordance with Clause 6(b) of the Constitution.

12. On or before 15th August 1967 (and, if possible, concurrently with the scrutiny of the Membership Registers by the Central Office) it will be the duty of the State or Regional Committee to prepare a final "Electoral Roll" of eligible Workers/Life Workers, separately for each Primary Unit and grouped in each case into separate categories as follows:

- (i) Life Workers, including old Life Members falling under para 6(a) or (b) above;
- (ii) New Workers enrolled upto 30th June 1967;
- (iii) Old Workers who, *if they renewed their membership within the grace period*, are or will be eligible to vote

17. The Returning Officer (or his duly authorised nominee) should intimate direct to the voters the date, time and place of

16. Nominations should be invited for election to Committees of the Primary Units, consisting of a minimum of five and a maximum of eleven members (including Office Bearers), as may be decided by the State or Regional Committee.

15. In consultation with the Returning Officers, the State or Regional Committee should fix the last date or dates for receipt of nomination papers by Returning Officers and the date by which polling should be completed at the Primary Unit level in each District.

14. Every Returning Officer should be empowered, if he so thinks fit to appoint in writing one or more non-contesting Party Workers/Life Workers as his representative (hereinafter referred to as his "duly authorised nominee") to supervise elections at the Primary Unit level in his Districts. Alternatively, the Returning Officer may so fix the programme of elections in the District assigned to him as will enable him personally to supervise the elections in all Primary Units within the days allotted for this purpose.

13. The State or Regional Committee should appoint Returning Officers for each District to supervise the conduct of the elections in their area. Every such Returning Officer (who should not himself be a candidate for election in the District under his supervision) should be supplied by the State or Regional Office with authenticated copies of the Electoral Rolls prepared as above (separately for each Primary Unit within the District with which he is concerned), together with the addresses and card numbers of all those whose names are on such Electoral Rolls.

- and stand for election in accordance with para 4(b) and (c) above;
- (iv) Old Life Members entitled to vote but not eligible to stand for any election.

a meeting where the election will take place, along with the list of candidates. The Returning Officers (or his duly authorised nominee) will preside over such a meeting specially convened for conducting the election. Voting will be by secret ballot; and for this purpose the Returning Officer (or his duly authorised nominee) should be provided with simple ballot papers (bearing the names of candidates) and with a simple ballot box. The Returning Officer must take adequate precautions to limit entry to the meeting to only bonafide eligible voters.

18. Every eligible voter on the Electoral Roll, whose entry into the meeting will be permitted after he has submitted his Worker/Life Worker Card or Life Membership Counterfoil to be scrutinised or after he has been otherwise indentified to the satisfaction of the Returning Officer (or his duly authorised nominee), will then be issued with a ballot paper on which to mark his preference against the names of candidates and drop it into the ballot box.

19. After all those present have voted, the Returning Officer (or his duly authorised nominee) will open the ballot box then and there in the presence of those present at the meeting, count the votes and declare the result. The meeting will then terminate.

20. But those elected to the Committee of the Primary Unit shall however stay on and hold their first meeting for the specific purpose of electing from among themselves the office bearers for the Primary Unit and also their representative(s) on the District Committee. It is necessary that there should be the following office bearers:

President, (with or without a vice-President); General Secretary, (with or without Joint Secretary); Treasurer.

21. The Returning Officer (or his duly authorised nominee) will preside over this first meeting of the newly-elected Committee of the Primary Unit.

- (a) He will first call for nominations for the above offices, duly proposed and seconded by any two from among those present. Where there is more than one candidate for the

23. The Constitution, vide Clause 7(a), has given the State or Regional Committees the power to determine the number of members on District Committees. Since the Constitution also prescribes that a District Committee will be elected on the basis of proportional representation, the State or Regional Committee will have to decide on the specific number of representatives on the District Committee to be elected from particular Primary Units, on the basis of the number of Workers/Life Workers (including Life Members enrolled before December 1963), on the

District Unit

(b) In regard to Primary Unit *areas* where Primary Unit Committees cannot be formed by reason of total eligible voters being less than 20, the procedure laid down in parts 29 & 30 below should be followed.

22. (a) After the newly elected Committee of the Primary Unit has concluded its business as above at its first meeting, the Returning Officer (or his duly authorised nominee) should prepare his report and forward it to the State or Regional Office; (in the case of a nominee, this report should be sent through the Returning Officer). It is desirable that such a report is countersigned by the President and the General Secretary of the newly elected Committee of the Primary Unit concerned.

(b) Thereafter, the Returning Officer (or his duly authorised nominee) will call for nominations for electing the representative(s) of the Primary Unit on the District Committee. [The number of representatives to be so elected should be not less than one nor more than three, as may have been previously decided by the State or Regional Committee, *vide* paras 23 to 30 below]. Where there are more candidates than seats available, voting will be by show of hands or ballots as may then and there be decided by the Returning Officer (or his duly authorised nominee).

same office, voting should be by a show of hands or by ballot as may be then and there decided by the Returning Officer (or his duly authorised nominee).

Electoral Rolls prepared under para 12 above. It is recommended that such representation of Primary Units on the District Committee should be subject to a minimum of one (so as to give representation to all Primary Units) and a maximum of three (so as to avoid an unwieldy District Committee).

24. For example, if in a Primary Unit there are 50 Workers and Life Workers and 10 Life Members, making a total of 60, the State or Regional Committee may prescribe the representation of this Unit on the District Committee at the level of 3, on the basis of one representative for membership upto the first twenty-five of such members, and additional representatives (upto a maximum of two more), at the rate of one for membership in excess of 25 upto 50, and one more for membership in excess of 50.

25. Thus a Primary Unit with 20 to 25 workers will have one representative; another with membership of more than 25 upto 50 Workers will be entitled to have two representatives; and those with membership in excess of 50 Workers will be entitled to the maximum of three representatives on the District Committee.

26. The representatives so elected to the District Committee from the Primary Units will then proceed at their first meeting to elect the office bearers of the District Committee in accordance with Clause 7(c) of the Constitution, viz. a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries and one or more Treasurers. At the same meeting the District Committee will also elect its representatives on the State or Regional Council. The date, place and time of this first meeting shall be notified to the members of the newly elected District Committee by the Returning Officer of the District.

27. This first meeting shall be presided over personally by the Returning Officer appointed by the State or Regional Committee to supervise elections in the District. The Returning Officer should not himself be a candidate for office or a member of the District Committee of the District in question.

(a) The Returning Officer will call for nominations for the offices mentioned above. These should be duly proposed

and seconded by anyone from among those present. The number of Vice-Presidents, Joint Secretaries and Treasurers to be elected by the District Committee should be decided upon by the State or Regional Committee. In the event of there being more than one candidate for the same office, voting should be by a show of hands or ballot as may be then and there decided by the Returning Officer. (b) Thereafter the meeting will also proceed similarly to elect the District Committee's representatives on the State or Regional Council in accordance with the quota allotted to it. (See paras 31 to 34 below).

28. As soon as the above elections are over, the Returning Officer will submit a report to the State Office. Such a report should be countersigned by the newly elected President and General Secretary of the District Committee.

29. In respect of Primary Unit *areas* where a Primary Unit Committee cannot be formed because the minimum enrolment of 20 Workers at the Primary level has not taken place, the individual Workers/Life Workers/Life Members in such areas will be grouped together so as to constitute a separate "Special Primary constituency" for electing its proportionate number of representatives on the District Committee subject to a minimum of one and a maximum of three.

30. The Returning Officer shall call a meeting of the Workers/Life Workers/Life Members from such otherwise unrepresented areas.

(a) At such a meeting the Returning Officer will, after ascertaining the numerical strength of eligible Workers/Life Workers and Life Members of such a Special Constituency call for nominations for electing their representatives on the District Unit. These should be duly proposed and seconded by those present. Voting should be by a show of hands or by secret ballot as may be then and there decided by the Returning Officer.

- (b) The representatives so elected will in all respects be members of the District Committee and so entitled to participate in the meeting for electing the District Office-bearers and the District representatives on the State or Regional Council mentioned above.

State or Regional Councils

31. The number of members on the State or Regional Council is to be prescribed by the National Executive as laid down by Clause 9(b) of the Constitution. Until then, what follows is only for general guidance.

32. The members of the District Committees will elect representatives on the State or Regional Council in proportion to the number of Workers/Life Workers/Life Members in the District. For example, if there is a total number of 200 Workers/Life Workers/Life Members in a District, the representation of such a District on the State or Regional Council may be on the basis of 2 representatives for the first 50 Workers/Life Workers/Life Members and one representative for every additional 20 Workers/Life Workers/Life Members. Thus a District with 200 Workers/Life Workers/Life Members may have a representation of nine on the State or Regional Council. Representation on the State or Regional Council will, however, be subject to a minimum of one and a maximum of 10 per District.

33. In regard to Districts where it has not been found possible to have elected Committees the Workers/Life Workers/Life Members because of paucity of members at the Primary area level, these should be lumped together to constitute a "Special District Constituency", so that they may be able to elect a proportionate number of representatives on the State Council, subject to a minimum of one and maximum of ten.

34. Since calling a meeting of Workers/Life Workers/Life Members of such a Special District Constituency may be impracticable (because the membership will be scattered and more than one District may be involved), the State or Regional

Committee may authorise a postal ballot. The procedure for this will be as follows:

- (1) The State or Regional Committee should first—
 - (i) send to every member in the Special Constituency a complete list of the eligible Workers/Life Workers/Life Members;

- (ii) Indicate the number of representatives which the Special Constituency is entitled to elect to the State or Regional Council;
 - (iii) Invite them to send on or before a specified date nominations for such elections, duly proposed and seconded, accompanied by the consent of the candidate(s) so proposed.

- (II) On the receipt of nominations, the State or Regional Committee should

- (i) send to every eligible voter a ballot paper (together with an addressed envelope for its return), containing a list of candidates with instructions as to the manner of voting;

- (ii) prescribe the last date on or before which the ballot papers should be received at the State or Regional Office.

- (III) The result of the election should then be declared and communicated to those elected and to the voters of the Special Constituency.

35. All such communications between the State or Regional Committee and the voters in the Special Constituency (and also vice-versa if possible) should be under "Certificate of Posting". The State or Regional Committee may, if it so desires, publicise the membership of such a Special Constituency in any manner it considers necessary to ensure that the members concerned know that they belong to such a Special Constituency for the purpose of electing their representatives on the State or Regional Council. The entire process of this election from the Special

Constituency must be undertaken expeditiously so as to enable the representatives so elected to the State or Regional Council to attend the first meeting of the new Council.

State Executive Committee

36. The State or Regional Council elected and composed as above (paras 31 to 35) will elect:

- (I) Executive Committee for the State or Region consisting of
 - (a) a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries, and one or more Treasurers *plus*
 - (b) not less than 10 and not more than 20 members as prescribed in Clause 8(c) of the Constitution; and
- (II) its representatives on the General Council of the Party.

37. For this purpose the outgoing State or Regional Committee will arrange the first meeting of the new State or Regional Council at the State (or Regional) Capital, giving due notice of the date, time and place of the meeting to the representatives elected by the District Committee (and Special Constituencies mentioned in paragraphs 34 and 35 above).

38. The National Executive will nominate a person to preside over such first meeting of the State or Regional Council. Such a nominee will not be a candidate for office or for membership of the State or Regional Executive Committee. The Chairman of such a meeting will call on those present to propose and second names for the various offices and for membership of the State or Regional Executive Committee and its representatives on the General Council. Voting will be by a show of hands or by ballot if demanded. The number of Vice-Presidents, Joint Secretaries, Treasurers, and members of the Committee to be elected may be decided at the meeting itself. It is suggested that ordinarily besides the President, General Secretary and Treasurer there should not be more than

2 Vice-Presidents
1 Joint Secretary

2 Treasurers, and
12 members of the Committee.

39. At the same meeting the State or Regional Council will also elect its representatives on the General Council in accordance with the quota fixed by the National Executive (see para 41).

40. After the meeting has concluded its business, the Chairman of the meeting will submit a report to the National Executive on the election of new office-bearers and members of the State or Regional Executive Committee. This report will be countersigned by the President and General Secretary of the newly elected State or Regional Executive Committee.

General Council

41. The State or Regional Council shall elect representatives on the General Council of the Party in proportion to the number of Workers/Life Workers/Life Members enrolled in the State, subject to a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 20 as prescribed in clause 9(b) of the Constitution. In any case, the total strength of the General Council shall not exceed 250 members as stipulated in Clause 9(a) of the Constitution.

42. The actual number of representatives to be elected to the General Council from each State or Region shall, subject to the foregoing, be such number as the National Executive may prescribe in this behalf.

National Executive

43. For the purpose of electing the new National Executive, the outgoing National Executive will convene the first meeting of the representatives elected as above by the State or Regional Councils to serve on the General Council of the Party. Sufficient notice as to the date, time and place of such meeting shall be given to the newly elected members of the General Council.

44. The composition of the National Executive and the question of co-options are prescribed in Clauses 10 and 11 of the Constitution.