

Swatantra Party

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29th May, 1967

GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER No.155

Dear friend,

The National Executive at its meeting in New Delhi on May 21, adopted 4 Resolutions, on the following subjects :-

Gheraos;
The Congress Working Committee's Resolution;
Famine and Drought situation; and
Mr. Chagla's statement re: cooperation with South-East Asian countries.

Copies of the Resolutions (in English) are enclosed.

While it would be in the interest of the Party for you to have these Resolutions translated in the language of your State and given as wide a publicity as possible, I would like to draw your specific attention to the resolution on the famine and drought situation and in particular to the last paragraph of the resolution in which the Executive appeals to the people as a whole and to the Party's workers throughout the country in particular, to collect funds, foodgrains, clothes and medicines and send them to the local branch of the Ramakrishna Mission or such other social organisations as may be taking part in relief work.

The worst affected States are Bihar, U.P., parts of Gujerat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. You should get in touch with the Party's Units in these States, whose addresses are given below, and enquire of them as to the organisation concerned through which such collections from your State could be channelled.

One way of going about these collections is to fix a "Day" to be called "Famine and Drought Relief Day" and to make an intensive effort to collect funds, foodgrains, clothes and medicines, etc. While it would have been ideal to have one "Day" for the whole country, it may perhaps not be feasible. We, therefore, leave you free to fix upon a day convenient to you and to let us have your report on the extent to which the day observed by you has been successful.

I am sure that your unit will respond to this humanitarian call of the National Executive.

Yours sincerely,

(N. Dandeker)

Actg. General Secretary

Address of our State Units

- 1) Mr. T. Parmanand,
Swatantra Party, Bihar
Fraser Road, Patna-1, BIHAR
- 2) Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh,
Swatantra Party, Uttar Pradesh
Kaiserbagh, Lucknow, U.P.
- 3) Mr. N.C. Zamindar,
Swatantra Party, Indore Region
Bada Rawla, INDORE CITY (M.P.)
- 4) Mr. Chimanbhai Desai,
Swatantra Party, Gujerat,
Vallabh Vidyanagar, Dist.Kaira(Gujerat)
5. Thakur Mandhata Singh,
Swatantra Party, Rajasthan,
Post Box No.147, JAIPUR (Rajasthan)

SWATANTRA PARTY
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Resolution on Gherao

The National Executive of the Swatantra Party views with grave concern the increasing resort in recent months to the new and essentially communist weapon of GHERAO.

2. Gheraos constitute a direct illegal assault on the personal freedom, rights and liberties of the individuals subjected to them, and of their families, involving as they do wrongful restraint and confinement under duress, backed by overt or implicit threats of physical violence.

3. But the far more menacing aspect of Gheraos is the fact that some of the State Governments concerned have as a matter of policy failed to intervene on such occasions to protect the rights and liberties of the gheraoed citizens, on the ground that Gheraos are legitimate weapons for the quick settlement of industrial disputes.

4. The National Executive of the Swatantra Party rejects this pernicious doctrine outright and declares that, unlike strikes and lock-outs, the Gherao is a wholly illegitimate, anti-social and illegal weapon against which there is ample provision in the code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Code which must be invoked and enforced by the authorities charged with the responsibility of protecting the citizen and maintaining law and order.

5. The National Executive is convinced that if the Gherao movement is allowed to spread instead of being immediately scotched, it will not be confined to attacking industrial and commercial enterprises, but, as has already happened in Bengal and Bihar, it will soon overtake all sections of the law abiding public and all sectors of public and private activity, including the Governments themselves. If Gheraos are countenanced instead of being condemned, there will be an end to all fundamental rights and the rule of law; civil liberties will be imperilled and democracy itself will be threatened with extinction by mob rule; and a new Indian version of the Chinese Communist Terror miscalled "the Cultural Revolution" will engulf the country.

6. The National Executive therefore demands that the Central and State Governments should put an end to the Gherao Terror firmly and forthwith.

SWATANTRA PARTY
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Resolution on the Congress Working Committee's Resolution

1. The recent resolution of the Congress Working Committee, issuing a mandate to the Central Government to widen and strengthen its control over the economy, has made it clear that the Congress Party is incapable of learning from its past mistakes. It also confirms the view that the growth of Statism is a self-perpetuating process: Statist controls leading to poor production and alround misery, to relieve which a further dose of controls is prescribed. This process goes on till either the people wake up in time or lose their freedom altogether. State Enterprises have given poor returns and worse service conditions to their employees; and socialism generally has widened rather than narrowed inequalities. In spite of all this the Congress Working Committee has decided to traverse the same disastrous course which it embarked upon at Avadi a decade ago and which has led to alround shortages in the country and made its economy dependent on deficit financing and foreign doles.
 2. The Swatantra Party has no quarrel with some of the pious intentions expressed in the resolution, such as provision of the minimum needs to the entire community, rural works programmes, drinking water facilities in village etc., which have evidently been lifted out of the Swatantra Party manifesto. But bereft of these sugar coatings, the Congress prescription is nothing but a stronger dose of State Capitalism which is bound to act like poison on the economy of the country in its present diseased condition.
 3. Any attempt to implement the latest Congress programme involving extension of social control on banking, nationalisation of general insurance, further nationalisation of foreign trade, expansion of state sector in the processing and manufacturing industries and State Trading in foodgrains will only lead to further concentration of economic power in the hands of political bosses, bureaucratic proliferation, more corruption and waste of national resources which the country can now ill-afford.
 4. The Swatantra Party hopes that public opinion will still prevail and present the Congress Government from implementing this disastrous programme.
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SWATANTRA PARTY
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Resolution on Famine and Drought Situation

1. The National Executive of the Swatantra Party expresses its deep concern over the cruel grip of famine over expanding areas and people in the country from Bihar to U.P. and parts of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan. This disaster is due not merely to the failure of the monsoon during the last two years but also to wrong planning and failure to give first priority to the development of agriculture, especially in regard to minor and medium irrigation, roads and drainage, the provision of security of tenure and adequate credit facilities to the peasantry. The disaster has been aggravated by compulsory monopoly procurement of foodgrains and zonal restrictions on the movement of foodgrains.
 2. The National Executive therefore warns the people that the recurrence of such terrible tragedies resulting in starvation deaths and under-nourishment of millions of young men, women and children cannot be avoided whenever there is even a partial failure of rains, until and unless the agricultural plans, policies and programmes of the Central and State Governments are radically changed.
 3. In the meanwhile, it is the duty of all the political parties and social organisations in the country to mobilise public relief so as to minimise the sufferings of the people affected. The National Executive therefore appeals to the people as a whole and the Swatantra Party Workers throughout the country in particular to collect funds, foodgrains, clothes and medicines and send them to the local branches of Ramakrishna Mission or such other social organisations as may be taking part in relief work.
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SWATANTRA PARTY
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Resolution on Co-operation with the countries of South East Asia

The National Executive of the Swatantra Party welcomes the announcement by the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Chagla) concerning a move to establish a Regional Organisation for Economic Co-operation in South East Asia. This belated recognition of the need which the Swatantra Party has repeatedly emphasised to establish close economic and cultural ties between the free countries of South-East Asia must be warmly applauded. It is the only way to establish mutual confidence between these countries, which could eventually develop into a system of collective security for mutual defence against aggression.
