

Swatantra Party

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When replying, please quote our Reference No.

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GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER TO MPs and MLAs No.12

Dear friend,

As you must have seen from the newspapers, the leaders of the seven Opposition Parties including ours have sponsored the candidature of former Chief Justice Subba Rao for the Presidentship of India and of Prof. Habib for the Vice-Presidentship. Mr. Rao's name has been proposed by me and seconded by Mr. R.N. Singh Deo, Chief Minister of Orissa.

2. As a member of the Swatantra Group in Parliament or Assembly, we are sure you will realise your duty to cast your vote on Saturday, 6th May. In due course, you will receive an appeal signed by leaders of the seven Opposition Parties explaining the reasons which led to our sponsoring Mr. Subba Rao's candidature.

3. It may be explained that for the Presidential elections, if you are a member of the State Assembly, you have a right to vote at your own State's Capital and you should take the trouble to do so.

4. If you are a Member of Parliament, you are free to vote in the Presidential elections at your State Capital provided you give a notice in writing to the Election Commission, New Delhi, of your intention to vote at your own particular State Capital otherwise you have to cast your vote in Delhi on May 6.

5. In so far as the Vice-Presidential election (which is confined to Members of Parliament) is concerned, it is obligatory for all Members of Parliament to vote in Delhi. In view of this, if you are a Member of Parliament you should see that you are in Delhi on the 6th of May. If however you do not find this feasible, then you should write to the Election Commission and notify that you will be voting at a particular State Capital in the Presidential Elections so that the Election Commission may inform the Returning Officer concerned accordingly. Such a notification should reach the Election Commission not later than 30th April.

6. In so far as the cost of travel is concerned, if you are a Member of Parliament you have a free Railway Pass which will enable you to undertake the visit to Delhi or to your State Capital without any cost.

7. If you are a Member of the Legislative Assembly your State probably has provided you with the facility of free rail or Road transport (by State Transport buses). So here also no problem will arise. If however, no such facilities are available in your State, the Party will arrange to reimburse you for your rail or bus fare both ways after you have gone to the State Capital for this purpose on the 6th and cast your vote. The reimbursement will be made by the State Office on behalf of the Central Office.

Yours sincerely,

M. R. Masani

(M. R. Masani)
General Secretary