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SWATANTRA PARLIAMENTARY PARTY

53, North Avenue
New Delhi.

December 4, 1969

400

Minutes of the Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Swatantra Party in Parliament was held this morning in the Party Room, Central Hall, Parliament House. The following members were present:-

1. Mr. M.R. Masani
2. Mr. N. Dandekar
3. Mr. D.N. Deb
4. Mr. S.L. Tapuriah
5. Mr. P.L. Deo
6. Mr. Sriraj Dharamghra
7. Mr. Loknath Misra
8. Prof. M. Luthraswamy
9. Mr. J.K. Inam

The Deputy Leader explained the background leading to the democratic Opposition parties favouring Mr. Kunte for election to the office of the Deputy Speaker. Efforts were still going on to evolve a consensus and the final decision might be possible in this regard in a couple of days.

The Deputy Leader was authorised to write a letter to the Prime Minister saying that it would not be possible for him to attend the Leaders' meeting with the Prime Minister this evening and that the Party's views would be represented by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Loknath Misra explained the various developments in regard to the election of the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. He was asked to report to the Party before committing the Party on the subject.

The Committee authorised the Deputy Leader to write a letter to the Speaker, Lok Sabha, to the effect that Dr. Ram Subhag Singh is the Leader of the Opposition and an announcement to this effect may be made on the floor of the House.

The Deputy Leader explained the details of the decision taken by the National Executive in regard to the Constitution (23rd Amendment) Bill for reservation to seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It was in consonance with the decision of the National Executive that an amendment has been tabled by him and other members seeking gradual reduction of percentage of reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It was also decided that an informal meeting of our Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes members may be called to explain the Party's point of view to them.

The members were given freedom of vote on any amendment dealing with continued nomination of members of the Anglo-Indian community to the Lok Sabha.

The Leader and the Deputy Leader were given discretion to decide on other matters concerning this subject as and when they come up on the floor of the House.

Our MPs in the Rajya Sabha abstaining from voting on the Rabat question was also briefly discussed.

It was decided that Mr. Masani should be the first speaker on the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Bill and that it should be left to the Leader to decide as to who should speak on the third reading stage of the Bill or ask either Mr. Dandekar or Mr. Sonani to do so.

Sd. M.R. Masani
Deputy Leader