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Swatantra Party

MAHARASHTRA

Phones : 271578 / 270610

J. Venkiteswaran - President
L. R. Sampath - General Secretary

Sasson Building,
143, Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay - 400 023.

August 1, 1989

By Registered A.D.

The Secretary
Election Commission of India
Nirvachan Sadan,
Ashok Road,
New Delhi - 110 001.

Dear Sir,

This refers to the reports in the press that political parties should register with the Election Commission of India.

We, the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra in existence since August 1959, though not quite sure about the validity of the law calling for registration of political parties, hereby ask to register us. We do so without prejudice to our right to question the Constitutional validity of the amendment to the Representation of the People's Act making registration mandatory.

While seeking registration under the existing law of the land the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra reaffirms its loyalty to the Constitution of India a fact affirmed in our Statement of Policy - "To Prosperity Through Freedom" as far back as March 1960 (copy attached).

We also reiterate our loyalty to the principles of secularism and democracy.

Though we were part of the national Swatantra Party we decide not to merge with the Lok Dal in August 1974. A copy of the Resolution adopted by the State Council of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra at its meeting held on 6th July, 1974 is enclosed.

We therefore seek registration as a State party confined to Maharashtra until such time as we revert to you for a change of status.

We are enclosing a copy of our Constitution and Statement of Principles as desired by you.

Thanking you,

Yours very truly,
FOR SWATANTRA PARTY, MAHARASHTRA

Sd/-

(J. Venkiteswaran)
PRESIDENT

- Encl: 1. Statement of Policy
2. Constitution
3. Statement of Principles
4. Copy of Resolution.

6th July, 1974.

**Copy of Resolution adopted by the State Council
of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra
at its meeting held on 6th July, 1974 at Bombay.**

"This meeting of the State Council of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra, has carefully considered the proposal placed before it that the Swatantra Party be dissolved along with the similar dissolution of six other parties as to facilitate the formation of a new Party.

The State Council notes that of the seven parties that are expected to dissolve to enable the formation of new Party, Swatantra Party is the only National Party, the others being confined to particular States or parts of a State.

The State Council is firmly convinced that the Party's principles and policies continue to be valid and that had the policies of Government been formulated on the basis of the said principles, our country would not be in the present critical situation.

The Council is equally convinced that the new Party will mark no advance in the search for a truly national alternative comprising as it does that who, though for the present have consented to get together on a general programme are bound to disagree in regard to the interpretation of a vague and general statement of policy.

Moreover, with opposition parties like the Congress (O) and the Jan Sangh continuing their individual existence, the objective of a two-party system and its electoral benefits will continue to elude us. On the other hand, there is real danger of the ruling Congress on the one side and the Jan Sangh on the other being the direct beneficiaries of such a development.

The State Council of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra, does not consider the time or occasion opportune for the dis-appearance of the Swatantra Party from the Indian political scene, and is, therefore, opposed to the proposal to dissolve the Party.

The Maharastra State Council therefore requests the office bearers of the Party to convene another meeting of the General Council on the eve of the National Convention to enable this matter to be reviewed once again before it is brought up at the Convention.

In the event of a resolution to dissolve the Party being carried in the National Convention, the Maharashtra State Swatantra Party will continue to retain its identity as Swatantra Party and carry on the message and flag of the Party."

Proposed by Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal
Seconded by : Mr. K. K. Subramaniam

Passed by one dissenting vote from Mr. N. K. Jagtap.