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January 6, 1964.

My dear Rajaji,

I have been meaning to write to you about various things but partly because of my own preoccupation with the National Convention and partly because I thought it best to leave you and not bother you about Party matters till you have completely recovered your strength, I did not do so.

I have paid recently a visit to Bangalore. I sat with all our members and office bearers and we worked out the entire programme of the COC, GC and delegates meeting, also an open air meeting on the evening of Sunday, February 2, which will be presided over by Maharani Gayatri Devi as suggested by you. I have persuaded her to come to Bangalore and preside at this meeting. A copy of our latest circular giving our programme is attached.

I think you need not worry about the success of the Bangalore Convention. They have taken the matter in hand seriously and will give a good account of themselves.

Our Andhra friends seem to be on warpath. Latchanna has been flooding me with telegrams and letters asking for permission to start satyagraha against the 17th Amendment and also some other local agricultural grievances. I have firmly resisted this pressure, pointing out:

- 1) that I have no authority to change the decision of the COC at its meeting in Madras on August 4 when direct action was ruled out,
- 2) that the COC, GC and the National Convention will be meeting at the end of this month and the matter can be reviewed then,
- 3) that even if satyagraha is to be resorted to, no harm would be done by waiting for a month and the intervening period could be utilised advantageously in arousing popular consciousness in regard to the issues involved.

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I suspect similar approaches must have been made to you and I have no doubt you will have also not have given any countenance to this revolutionary zest which savours of what the Communists would call 'an ultra-leftist deviation.'

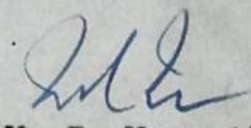
We shall have to give serious thought to this matter which is deeply agitating members of our Party in some other States also, like Gujarat and Rajasthan. Ranga of course is desperately keen on it. Would you consider the possibility of keeping the Party out of any breach of law while allowing individual members who feel like it to resort to individual satyagraha on the issue of the 17th Amendment? I wonder how your mind is working on this subject. Do let me have a line in reply by way of enlightenment.

I have no information about the progress you are making by way of recuperation since your return from Delhi. I do hope that the strain of coming to Bangalore and participating in the proceedings there will not be too much of a strain on you.

■ With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Encl*


(M. R. Masani)

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