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24th July, 1964

My dear Ranga,

When I was in Delhi last week, I found that the Statesman had a news item from their special representative in Delhi proclaiming very prominently that the Swatantra Party had decided to launch direct action, namely, Satyagraha, against the 17th Amendment and that the final decision would be taken at a meeting called by the Party on September 6.

As it would have been unfair to the Party to allow this wrong impression to prevail, I had to write a letter to the Editor pointing out that the Party had taken no such decision but that members in their individual capacity had been given permission, if they so desired, to participate in any agitation, including Satyagraha, that might be started by the Bharat Kisan Sammelan or some such similar organisation. A few weeks earlier, a similar confusion had been shown in an item in the Indian Express which also I had corrected.

We are trying to clarify this matter in the next issue of our Newsletter but I thought I would mention this to you as Mr. Chopra, the editor of Statesman, in his reply to me mentions that their reporter had "made the unexpected mistake of misunderstanding what was given to him by representatives of Professor Ranga's Kisan organisation." I am sure you will appreciate the necessity of making it very clear in all further discussions of this matter that such moves as may be made are made by the Bharat Kisan Sammelan and have nothing to do with the Swatantra Party as such. This will avoid the confusion in the public mind which may arise from your being a pillar of both organisations.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Professor H. G. Ranga,
Calcutta.

(H. R. MASANI)

c.c. Prof. H. G. Ranga,
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