

P. K. Deo M.P.

Bhawanipatna

4345

18.6.64.

My dear Respected Rajaji,

As the delimitation Commission is meeting at Bhubaneswar from the 25th of this month to the 3rd of July to finalise the Lok Sabha and Assembly Constituencies of Orissa, I being an associate member for Orissa have to stay at Bhubaneswar. So I will not be able to attend the C.O.C. and the General Council meetings of the Party at Bombay. I have already intimated Mr. Masani regarding my inability to attend the said two meetings.

I need your advise and help regarding my personal case. Last year after Mr. Masani's election to the Lok Sabha, even though you suggested that I continue as Deputy Leader of the Party along with Mr. Masani, at our party meeting at Delhi, I proposed Mr. Masani as Deputy Leader and myself resiled to the position of Secretary. This was done to put a stop to all the wild speculation going on at Delhi that Swatantra people are fighting for posts. Prof. Ranga and Mr. Masani were good enough to offer me a seat in the second row, when Mr. Yashpal Singh insisted for his seat and threatened that he would quit the Party, I offered myself to go behind and now I am in the fourth bench.

I made a mistake by not agreeing to your advice and not continuing as a Deputy Leader. I feel having been neglected; in the Constituency also I feel small when people talk that he is one who was Leader once and then a Deputy Leader and now a Secretary that too not in charge of the office, as Sardar Kapur Singh wanted to be in charge of the office.

As the Swatantra Party is going to be the main opposition in the Lok Sabha from the next session, will you be good enough to suggest that let there be 2 Deputy Leaders of the Party: (1) Mr. Masani and (2) myself, as envisaged by you earlier and I be provided with a seat in the second row. I am keen for a second row seat as it has a desk to keep my books and files etc. The Communist Party has two Deputy Leaders now. With our new responsibility as the main opposition in the Lok Sabha, creation of two Deputy Leaders posts will not be misunderstood. I crave your indulgence and hope you will kindly make a suggestion in the Parliamentary Board and get it accepted. I am sorry to trouble you in this matter which is personal.

Trust it will find you in the best of health.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

s/d. P. K. Deo