

Extract from the Minutes of the National Executive Meeting.

Disciplinary Action Against Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel

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The General Secretary reported that the Gujarat State Executive Committee had at its meeting on 27.5.1968 adopted a Resolution recommending that no disciplinary action be taken against Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel since there was no direct evidence against him before the Enquiry Committee (appointed by the Gujarat State Unit) to warrant the conclusion that he had worked against Mt. Masani's candidature and against the interests of the Party. The Gujarat Executive Committee (by the same Resolution) expressed the view that "it would suffice if it was indicated to him (Mr. Bhagwanjibhai) that the Party did not approve of his conduct in having voiced his feelings against Mr. Masani even though in private Workers."

As against this, there was a communication (which the General Secretary read out) from Mr. Ratibhai Ukabhai Patel, the General Secretary of the Rajkot District Committee and Joint Secretary of the State Unit, who disagreed with the recommendation contained in the resolution of the Gujarat State Executive and demanded Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel's expulsion from the Party.

Decision :

In the light of this and the fact that the Enquiry Committee had failed to afford an opportunity to those who had complained against Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel to adduce evidence, the National Executive was satisfied after a full discussion that Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel had in fact acted against the Party's candidate in the Rajkot Parliamentary Constituency. The fact that he might not have done so publicly, but only in private conversation, was immaterial.

Having due regard to all the circumstances, the National Executive decided that Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel should be debarred from holding any office whatsoever in the Party for a period of two years with immediate effect.

Mr. B.P. Singh desired that his dissent from this decision be recorded as he felt that the action proposed was wholly inadequate to meet the needs of the case and was of opinion that Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel should be expelled.

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