

J. M. Lobo Prabhu, ICS (Retd)

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
(LOK SABHA)



Chateau de Lou,
Mangalore-I.

16th May, 1968.

4554

My dear Masani,

I am probably the oldest friend you have in the Party and I am certainly one of those who is fully aware of your contribution to the Party. In the circumstances, I regard, I have a right to let you know what your present posture means to your friends and to the Party.

1. Your demand for "ethical and disciplined functioning of the Party" can suggest that the Party is worse than others, which opponents can exploit in elections. Even if some members of the Party did not come up to your standards, this is a domestic affair, which cannot benefit from publicity.

2. Your "holier than thou" attitude to Ranga and Dandekar who were also involved in the decision which the Gujarat Party did not accept, implies that your principles are higher. You suggest a monopoly for rectitude, which is a slur on all of us.

3. Your arrogation of being superior to the National Executive and the Gujarat State Unit in the decision of appropriate punishment to those at fault, is extremely undemocratic and even undisciplined, to use your own term.

However important you may be to the Party, decisions taken unanimously by others deserve your respect, if the set up of the Party is to have any meaning.

4. On the actual issue, the Gujarat State Unit could conclude that you failed to consider its own rights and responsibilities, particularly, as you never cared to meet the members and ascertain their commitments before they were asked to vote for an outside candidate, who had no regard for any one but you.

From the correspondence, it is also evident that the President who agreed with you, stated in his letter to the members that he did so "with reluctance"

In fact, those who voted against your candidate could well have assumed that the letter to them was not a whip but a request made under duress.

P.T.O.

J.M. Lobe Prabhu ICS (Retd)

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Chateau de Lou
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May 16. 1968

My dear Rajaji,

I am sending a copy of my letter to Masani. I am confident that you will be able to convince him that his temperamental lapse is very seriously injuring the Party.

I have been very worried that your guidance is not available to the Party, which in Parliament is making a very poor showing for reasons, first that most members speak as if the Party is only for big business, without even trying to disguise or present their own interests as those of the consumers and of the country generally. Secondly, speeches are assigned to members without reference to their qualifications as if it is more necessary to project them more than the Party. Thirdly, there is no common orientation on important issues and the only uniformity is in respect of hostility to the Congress and to the Communists.

I venture to suggest that at the meeting of the

General Council you may suggest that every speech in the legislators must be related to a Mass base, which is neither difficult nor wrong. I am not attempting to write on the subject as what I wrote for two previous meetings was not considered at all. In any case, a clear direction from you will have a vastly greater impact both on the Party and on the Public

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Copy to Shri N. Dandekar ICS (Retd) M.P.
143 M.G. Road, Bombay

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