

ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರ ಪಕ್ಷ

(ಮೈಸೂರು ರಾಜ್ಯ)

Grams: "SURAJYAM"



4601
SWATANTRA PARTY

(MYSORE STATE)

("Defend your Fundamental Rights" - RAJAJI)

Phone: 72403

State Office at 21, Jayachamaraja Road, Bangalore - 2

President:

MR. K. B. JINARAJA HEGDE

Vice-Presidents:

MR. K. H. SRINIVASAN
MR. C. M. SHIVANAGOWDAR
MR. B. N. BORANNA GOWDH
MR. MAHANTASWAMY HIREMATH

Date 18th April 1968

My Dear Dandekar,

General Secretary:

MR. V. T. SREENIVASAN

Joint Secretaries:

MR. N. K. GANAPAIH
MR. SHARAN GOWDA INAMDAR, M.L.A.

Treasurer:

MR. B. V. NARAYANA REDDY

Subject:- Rajya Sabha Elections
(S.P.C-2 dated 4/4/1968).

Mr. K.B. Jinaraja Hegde, President of the State Swatantra Party, has sent me a copy of his reply to you dated 11/4/68. I have gone through his letter extremely carefully and find myself quite unable to agree with him in the remedy suggested by him in the last para of his letter, that is that the State Parliamentary Boards and State Executive should abdicate their responsibility in the matter of the candidates to be put up for indirect election to the Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council and that this matter should be left entirely to the unfettered discretion of Party M.L.A.'s in the Assembly to vote for any body they liked. This fact only shows that, in a democratic set-up like ours, there is ample room for honest difference of opinion on a fundamental issue of this kind. I can state my personal views as set forth below for not agreeing with the remedy suggested by Sri. Jinaraja Hegde:

In the first place, in my humble opinion, the fact that ours is a party "with a difference" and that individual liberty, is given to our members in all matters that do not come within the principles of the Party does not seem to be relevant to the subject under discussion. I am not an admirer of the Congress Party or its principles or policies. If I were, I would not be in the Swatantra Party. But, in a matter of this kind, I would take off my hat to the sense of Party discipline that prevails in that party when a "whip" is given to the Congress M.L.A.'s to vote in a particular manner; for example, when the Congress High Command in this State nominated 3 candidates for the Rajya Sabha and 4 candidates for the Council, they did not choose them after consulting the 126 Congress M.L.A.'s in the Assembly. The M.L.A.'s voted loyally in accordance with the "whip" given to them and the Congress nominees won the election hands down. If this type of Party discipline cannot be inculcated among our Party M.L.A.'s on the ground that ours is a "Party with a difference", I fear that our Party will earn a most unenviable reputation as lacking in some of the most essential qualities required to build up a new political party which has the ambitious aim of taking over the administration of the Country from the Congress in the not distant future. In fact, the Kashimath episode made the thinking public wonder whether there is any party discipline at all in the Swatantra Party. When he belated apology was accepted and disciplinary proceedings were dropped, the public continued to wonder. In the light of the Kashimath episode, I am curious to know how Mr. Jinaraja Hegde will reconcile the solution he has now given with his recommendation that disciplinary action should be taken against Kashimath when he flouted the directive given to him and moved the bills to enhance the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and Legislators. When Kashimath did so, he did not violate any of the 21 Party principles!

I am in complete agreement with Sri. Hegde when he remarks how irresponsible our M.L.A.'s behave once they are elected. But the remedy, in my opinion, is to take them in a hand and teach them the duties and responsibilities. Sri. Hegde's solution is, in my opinion, a counsel of despair. His standpoint, apparently, is that our M.L.A.'s are so incorrigible that it is futile on our part to try to reform them. My stand is that we should not give way to this defeatist mentality.

I also would like to offer a solution on the following lines:-

When we nominate A-assembly candidates for the 1972 General Elections, a prior written undertaking should be taken from them in the following form. "If I am elected to the Assembly, I promise to obey the directions given to me by the Executive of the State in the discharge of my duties as an M.L.A. I shall also exercise my votes in the elections to the Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council in accordance with the directions given to me."

As you have rightly remarked, the issue is a difficult and delicate one, but on that account we cannot afford to ~~satisfy~~ ourselves by abdicating our responsibility and leaving the M.L.A.'s to behave in a manner which is quite incompatible with party discipline and a sense of propriety. *S. Kulkarni*

What I have stated in this letter are my own personal views. It is only when the State Executive meets and goes into the question in detail that we shall know what the view of the majority in the Executive will be.

with kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

V. T. Srinivasan
(V.T. SRINIVASAN.)

To:

Sri. N. Dandekar, M.P.,
No: 18, Faroushah Road,
M A M D A L H I.

General Secretary,
Executive Committee
SWATANTRA PARTY (Mysore State)

Copy to Sri. K.B. Jinaraja Hegde for information,

Copy forwarded to Revered Rajaji and Prof. H.G. Ranga M.P., and Messrs: (1) M.R. Masani M.P., (2) T. Krishnama Chaudhury, (3) K.H. Srinivasan, (4) B.V. Narayana Reddy and (5) N.K. Ganapiah, with copies of Sri Dandekar's letter to Sri. K.B. Jainaraja Hegde and copies of the reply sent by Sri. Hegde.

Copy of letter dated 11-4-'68 from Sri. K.B. Jinaraja Hegde to

Sri. N. Dandekar.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಚಿವರುಗಳಿಗೆ

"I very much appreciate your anxiety in resolving the problem related in your letter of 4th April. I am only giving my personal views as there is no time to call the meeting of the State Committee.

You may note that in our Election manifesto we emphasised that our Party is one with a difference in as much as we give liberty to our members to exercise their will in all matters not concerning the Party principles. Our M.L.A.s argue that the Organisational wing is interfering with their liberty in matters unconcerned with the Party principles. I do not feel that they are wrong.

From my past experience I feel that it is extremely difficult to control them the moment they are elected many of them forgot that they have any duty to strengthen the party organisation. This is not new to our Party. We should be satisfied if they in their legislative work keep up our party principles.

In the matter of indirect elections to Rajya Sabha and state councils the M.L.A.s are influenced by various ways. In an earlier election to Rajya Sabha when we put up Mr. Lobo Prabhu only two out of nine voted in his favour. Can there be a greater disgrace to the Party. If their revolt to the state or Central directions is taken seriously the Party would suffer seriously. Neither can we make it a Rule that a Swatantra M.L.A. should vote to a Swatantra Candidate as we do not have sufficient strength in all legislatures.

No doubt the Organisational wing has to find funds and help the candidate in various ways, but this is forgotten by them immediately. This is not peculiar to our Party alone.

Taking all these matters into consideration I would rather leave the matter to the decision of the respective Legislature party or group to nominate their own candidates in the best interest of the Party and keep the State Committees free from this responsibility. This is a solution for the better understanding between the Legislature Party and the State Party.

Revered Rajaji may be able to give a solution to the Problem."

Copy of letter No. SFC-2 dated 4th April 1968 from Sri. N. Dandekar to Sri. K.B. Jinaraja Hegde,.

"SECTION TO THE RAJYA SABHA".

Recent experience has clearly shown that in regard to the approval and nomination of our candidates for the Rajya Sabha there is plainly a serious lacuna in our procedure for consultation, especially as between:-

-----the State Parliamentary Board and/or the State Executive,
-----and the Party M.L.A.'s of the State.

The result has been the generation of very serious tensions in at least three States between the Presidents of the State Units and/or the Leaders of the Party in the State Legislature, the State ~~Party~~ Parliamentary Boards and/or the State Executives, and the Party M.L.A.'s in the State. In Gujarat, the tensions were so great as to develop ~~the~~ into an open rift within the Party; and this in turn resulted in the defeat of our nominee for the Rajya Sabha even though our voting strength was far more than was required for his success.

2. I am aware of the great efforts you have had to make to hold the Party together in your State in these difficult circumstances. And I know this has become a matter of as great concern to you ~~as~~ as to us at the Centre.

3. But it is not easy to find simple procedural solutions because there are often complications arising out of previous or current commitments, legitimately made for good reasons after consultations between the State and Central leaders, which for many reasons cannot be publicised in advance. Nevertheless, a solution must be found because the larger the number of our M.L.A.'s (as in Orissa, Rajasthan and Gujarat), the more demanding become the need for consultation with them in such matters.

4. Would you kindly consider this problem between now and 15th/14th April when the Central Parliamentary Board and the National Executive will be meeting here?