

4620
Jk
"Pallav"
Uchharang Nagar,
Rajkot-2.
Dt. 6th April, 1968.

Revered Rajaji,

I am really grateful to you for your letter of the 2nd Instant, more so when I compare it with the fact that neither Mr. Bhailalbai D. Patel, nor Mr. H. M. Patel, nor anybody of importance in Gujarat Swatantra Party, have cared to drop me even a single line. It is sad that they don't believe in creating healthy traditions of public life.

The debacle of Rajya Sabha election in Gujarat has been a great misfortune, but I agree with you that it should not result in breaking up the Party. I personally requested Baria Maharaja Shree Jayadeepsinhji on 28th Ultimo, not to resign for my sake. But he felt so bad, he could not continue as the Deputy Leader of a Party that let him down so miserably.

Mr. M. R. Masani's resignation is also a great shock. But what else can an honest man do? Every one who cares for fair dealings would feel ashamed about a deliberate breach of promise. But I find Mr. Bhailalbai Patel indulging in the luxury of giving press-interviews, although I have kept quiet about the sad affair.

I don't want the Swatantra Party to break up on my account and I am prepared to accept your guidance on this point.

But, please take it from me that myself and a few other friends won't have the heart to work for Gujarat Swatantra Party, the way we did all these years without being its members. The Party has blurred its own image in the public eye and nothing short of some drastic action will even partially re-establish its lost image. Broken word has ever played an important role in Indian History. This is one more such incident. The rotten Gujarat Congress is the gainer. The Gujarat Swatantra Party played into Congress' hands.

I do feel the Party bosses of Gujarat deliberately let me down. All the same personal losses should never blind one to wider national interests. I shall keep quiet and bear the agony in the solemn solitude of my soul.

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Hoping to receive your guidance,

Yours truly,

Babubhai P. Vaidya

(Babubhai P. Vaidya)