

From

Ratibhai Ukabhai Patel,
4, Hathikhana Road,
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Dt. 2-4-1968.

To

Mr. N. Dandekar,
M.P.,
General Secretary,
Central Swatantra Party,
18, Ferozeshah Road,
NEW DELHI-1.

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Respected Sir,

It is a painful thing that incidence of Rajya-Sabha election in Gujarat held on 28-3-68 has created a very damaging position for the future of Gujarat Swatantra Party and I am afraid that if the Central Party will take this incidence lightly and will not show courage to nip in the bud the evil of dis-honouring the decision of the Central Parliamentary Board and also breaking the promise given by the Gujarat Party Leaders in 1966 and endorsed by the General Secretary of our Central Party, this unhealthy tradition of revolting will spread up every where in our different Party units.

Though I do not prefer to post-mortem the incidence of Rajya Sabha election, I am certainly puzzled and much aggrieved when I knew that even though Mr. Babubhai Vaidya was the Party Candidate his nomination paper was not supported by any Office bearer of Gujarat Party even though Mr. Vaidya had requested the leaders of Gujarat Party.

Secondly, I do not understand how Mr. Natversinh Solanki, a member of Gujarat Parliamentary Board of Swatantra Party can sign the nomination paper of Mr. Mahida even before the final decision of the Central Party and even after knowing the decision he continued his active support to Mr. Mahida.

Thirdly, I am also surprised to note that not a single opportunity was given to Mr. Babubhai Vaidya to attend the meeting of Party M.L.As. to explain his position regarding various baseless allegations put against him.

Looking to all these facts prima-facie it appears that this is not the simple revolt of majority M.L.As. of Gujarat, but it is a well-organised plot of revolt of Gujarat Party Leaders against the

Central Parliamentary Board because Gujarat Leadership felt that in 1966 Mr. Antani was selected as a Candidate of Rajya Sabha against their wish.

But whatever the differences there is no genuine cause to break the promise given to Mr. Babubhai Vaidya in 1966.

I should appreciate Mr. Masani's stand to resign from the National Executive and the Parliamentary Board, to mitigate the damage done to the Party's image and to uphold its honour. But I insist humbly that his valuable advice and services should not be lost by the Central Party.

I am really very much disappointed by the lowering of the image of Gujarat Party and if the damage done is not recouped by taking immediate strong disciplinary actions against responsible persons to set an example, it will encourage opportunism and ill-discipline in the Party and thereby the honest and disciplined Workers of the Party will be disgusted with such public life and the result will be a loss of sympathy of such Workers to the Party. It will be a loss to the public life also.

The least that the Party can do immediately is to take action against all those including Mr. Mahida - who openly flouted the Party decision, Mr. Natversinh Solanki, Dhrol Thakore Saheb, Mr. Jamubhai Bhatt and Mr. Chimanbhai Vasava who signed the nomination papers of Mr. Mahida and actively supported him throughout the election and Mr. Chandrakant Parikh who was the Polling Agent of Mr. Mahida - all of them should be expelled from the Party immediately and a high Power Enquiry Committee should be appointed to institute further enquiry and submit its report within a fixed period.

Yours sincerely,

Ratibhai Patel

(Ratibhai Patel)

Joint Secretary, Gujarat Swatantra Party,
District Secretary, Rajkot.