

B. R. Shenoy
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UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
GUJARAT UNIVERSITY
AHMEDABAD - 9

18 March 1968

337
My dear Masani,

I have wired to you today as under :

EXPRESS

MASANI
MEMBER LOKSABHA
NEW DELHI

YOURTEL THIRTEENTH FINDING MAHIDA CONTESTING AND AS KNOWLEDGE-
ABLE OBSERVERS THINK VAIDYA HAS LOWEST CHANCE HAVE FILED MY
NOMINATION STOP AGREEABLE WITHDRAW FOR PARTY SOLIDARITY IF
MAHIDA DOES SAME STOP ALTERNATIVELY REQUEST CONSIDER GIVING
ME SECOND PREFERENCE VOTES AS THIS WILL NOT DAMAGE VAIDYAS
CHANCES

-SHENOY

Virtually everyone here, who has taken a close enough look of the situation, seems to be of the view that Mr. Babubhai Vaidya may poll about the lowest of the first preference votes. I also understand that neither Mr. Vaidya nor Mr. Mahida are members of the Swatantra Party. In view of this, I thought that I too may stand as an independent candidate. I filed my nomination last Saturday, my proposer being Shri Ratibhai K. Patell, an Independent Member of Vidhan Sabha.

2. There is no question but that I would withdraw my candidature if Mr. Mahida could be persuaded to do the same. This would preserve Party solidarity and Party prestige of its nominee being duly elected. If Mr. Mahida and I do not withdraw, Swatantra votes would be divided and the votes of the Independents, together with the surplus votes of the Congress, become subjects for competitive canvassing, a most unwelcome eventuality. While you will doubtless explore the possibility of withdrawals, since the time is short, I take the liberty of requesting you kindly to consider giving me the second preference votes of Mr. Vaidya. I feel free to make this request, among other

(contd..2)

B. R. Shenoy

DIRECTOR

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(Continuation)

Shri M.R.Masani, M.P.

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18-3-68

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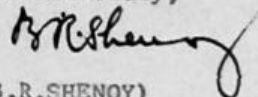
reasons, because Mr.Mahida, who is most certain to win if I do not contest, is not a member of the Swatantra Party.

3. I understand that the Congress has not made up its mind regarding its surplus votes. They may take a final decision only after the withdrawal date.

4. While the surplus votes of the Congress are, doubtless, of considerable value, given the second preference votes of Mr.Vaidya, I would have, in effect, the support of the entire voting strength of the Swatantra Party, which does not go over to Mr.Mahida. My success would depend almost entirely on this.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



(B.R.SHENOY)

Shri M.R.Masani, M.P.
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