

MAHARAJKUMAR SHIVBHADRASINHEJI, M.L.A.

TEL.3371

Bhav Villas,

Bhavnagar-3.

18th January 1968.

विधान सभा



गुजरात

4675

For Mr. Masani

Dear

Mr. Masani,

I enclose a copy of the letter I have addressed to Prof.N.G.Ranga. You have been the General Secretary; you know the background of this matter and I trust that you will take the necessary action that the principle of not accepting a nominee of the candidate adopted by the Central Parliamentary Board on the last occasion is firmly adhered to.

Yours sincerely,

Encl. One.

SRM
Maharajkumar Shivbhadrasinhji, M.L.A.

Shri M.R.Masani, M.P.,
Bombay-26.

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To,

Professor N.G.Ranga,
President,
All India Swatantra Party.

Dear Sir,

I have come to know that the Central Parliamentary Board is being approached by the Gujarat leaders to permit Shri Sumant Patel, a candidate selected in the past, to nominate another person instead of himself for the 1968 Raj Sabha elections.

To the best of my knowledge the same proposal had been mooted by the Gujarat Party in the past for the 1966 Raj Sabha elections but the Parliamentary Board had rejected the proposal of Shri Sumant Patel being allowed to nominate another candidate instead of himself.

I sincerely hope that such a practice of substitution by the selected candidate is not permitted. If such a facility is allowed to one candidate, the other candidate Shri Babubhai Vaidya who had helped the Party in the past may also claim a similar privilege. I do hope that the Central Parliamentary Board will make it clear once and for all that such absurd ideas will not be tolerated and such undemocratic practice shall cease forthwith. This will be good for the Party.

It is inconceivable that such proposals can even be thought of by our Gujarat Party leaders. I apprehend a really dim future for the Party if leaders attempt to further their own candidates in this manner without going into the merits of other individuals by Gujarat Parliamentary Board.

Accompts:- Notes.

Yours sincerely,

Maharajkumar Shivbhadrasinhji, M.L.A.

Inspite of the requirements of the General Secretary, Shri Dandekar's letter Nos. 165, dated the 4th December '67, name of a very highly suitable candidate is being completely withheld from the Central Parliamentary Board by various subterfuges.

I have been a member of the Gujarat Parliamentary Board and know that at no stage the Gujarat Board or the Gujarat Party agreed or even considered the question of permitting Shri Sumant Patel to suggest a "nominee". The Gujarat and Central Parliamentary Boards considered the question in May 1967 and again in August 1967. On both these occasions there was not even a mention of Shri Sumant Patel being allowed to suggest a nominee. Even in Gujarat Party's letter of 23rd. August 1967 to the Centre, giving the names of the Raj Sabha candidates, there is no mention of Shri Sumant Patel's nominee.

Only when Shri Dandekar's circular letter No. 165, dated the 4th December 1967, calling for four names in order of preference for the two Gujarat seats was received, it was allowed to transpire, as late as 24th December 1967, that Shri Sumant Patel could have a nominee. This is a complete surprise to the Party as a whole.

Shri U. N. Mahida is a very eminent engineer and a capable administrator and has been Chief Engineer, Joint Secretary to Government, Secretary to Government, Chairman of the State Electricity Board and President, Central Board of Irrigation and Power. Earlier he has been Vice-Chairman of the Bombay State Transport and in his younger days he has been the Secretary of the Irrigation and River Training Committee of the National Planning Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. He is a versatile gentleman and is an asset to our party. He is extremely popular in the party and is the President of the Bhavnagar District Swatantra Party. The latest device of nominee appears to be calculated to prevent the very consideration of Shri Mahida's claims.

विधान सभा



गुजरात

Copy

Bombay,
dated 19.1.68.

To

Shri H. Ranga,
President,
All India Swatantra Party.

(My dear Ranga)

I have come to know that the Central Parliamentary Board is being approached by the Gujarat leaders to permit Shri Sumant Patel, a candidate selected in the past, to nominate another person instead of himself for the 1968 Raj Sabha elections.

I sincerely hope that such a practice of substitution by the selected candidate is not permitted. I do hope that the Central Parliamentary Board will make it clear once and for all that such absurd things will not be tolerated and such undemocratic practice must be put down with a heavy hand. This will be good for the party.

Only when Shri Dandekar's Circular letter no. 165 dated 4th December 1967, calling for four names in order of preference for the two Gujarat seats which Swatantra party can get was received, it was suggested as late as 24th December 1967 that Shri Sumant Patel could have a nominee. This is a complete surprise to the party as a whole.

This is a sinister move calculated to exclude consideration of Mr. Mahida's claims. What is more, the Gujarat Parliamentary Board has all along been kept in the dark about this strange and new concession. The M.L.A.s and the party as a whole know nothing about it.

Shri U.N. Mahida is a very eminent engineer and a capable administrator and has been Chief Engineer, Joint Secretary to Govt, Secretary to Government, Chairman of the Bombay State Electricity Board and President, Central Board of Irrigation and Power. Earlier he has been Vice-chairman of the Bombay State Transport and in his younger days he has been the secretary of the Irrigation and ~~Kumar~~ River training Committee of the National Planning Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. He is a versatile gentleman. He is extremely popular in the party and is the president of the Bhavnagar District Swatantra Party. The latest device of permitting of nominee of Sumant Patel appears to be calculated to prevent the very consideration of Shri Mahida's claims. This is an effort not only to oust Mr. Mahida's claims but to smuggle in a man who may be currying favour with Gujarat Party leader.

If this is allowed I fear a breakdown of the party and the loss of faith by the general public in the party.

Yours Sincerely

Chandrasinhji

Dhrol D.D.

My dear Minors.

I send a copy ^{of} my letter to the Registrar. which
 I have been eagerly
 awaiting to meet you here

cordial regards to
 you & family

Chas
 - DHROL

(TRUE COPY)

H. M. PATEL

SWATANTRA PARTY
VALLABH VIDYANAGAR
DIST. KAIRA

January 12, 1968.

My dear Mahida,

Thank you for your letter dated the 9th January, 1968.

I am afraid you have not been correctly informed regarding the Party's commitment to Shri Sumant Patel. The National Executive of the Party took a decision at Bombay at its meeting in April-May 1967 to the effect that the Party stood committed to offer Shri Babubhai Vaidya the first Rajya Sabha vacancy, and the next "to Shri Sumant Patel, or his nominee". The additional words "or his nominee" were expressly included and a letter was addressed after the meeting to Shri Sumant Patel to this effect.

Whether it was advisable to give a commitment in this form or not is a totally different matter. This is the factual position regarding our commitment. What the situation may be when the time comes to nominate our candidates, I cannot say, nor is it necessary for us to speculate in advance. Within the next few weeks the position will be known and I shall keep you informed.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

H. M. Patel

Shri U. N. Mahida,
Bhavnagar.