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22nd September, 1964

My dear Rajaji,

I leave for Delhi tomorrow morning but will be back in Bombay by the weekend during which I shall be in Rajkot. From the afternoon of Monday 23rd I shall be in Bombay till I leave for Europe at 7 p.m. on the evening of 1st October. I thought I would give you a brief impression of my visit to Patna.

Both Bahyabhai and I came away from Patna feeling much better and greatly reassured about the long term future of the Party. Not only were we received warmly and enthusiastically by those not following us out of the Party but we got an impression that all kinds of new people who hitherto were keeping away from the Party were getting interested, including senior lawyers and other professional people.

Quite apart from the vacuum that has been created and which may be expected to attract new elements, even from our existing apparatus we have not lost very much except at the legislative level. As far as we can make out, the majority of district presidents and Secretaries will stand by the Party. What has broadly happened is that the rank and file is with us but the pocket borough state leadership has deserted. This missing link between the Central Party and the rank and file has to be restored at constituency and district level. It would undoubtedly take some time but it is not too late for the 1967 elections.

In our effort to build up a sounder and more effective unit, one of our problems is going to be not to succumb to pressures by way of giving positions in a hurry to those who may not be worthy of them and who may not bring the right image to the people of Bihar. Bahyabhai and I certainly managed tactfully and sweetly to ward off various hints from various aspirants. Luckily, they all cancelled one another out because we were warned repeatedly against making so and so or this or that person President or General Secretary!

I do not think we should be preoccupied with the three or four senior colleagues we have left over from the past. While keeping their goodwill as far as possible, we should strike out for newer and more dynamic elements who have not yet been with us. In other words, this should predominantly be a new Party in as far as Bihar is concerned.

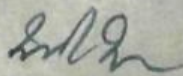
Enclosed you will find the recommendations that Bahyabhai and I are making to the C.C. in our report. I am forwarding you this advance copy so that you may give a little thought to the matter before you arrive in Bombay. I shall see you on the evening of the 29th and we shall discuss these matters.

Hope that the Trichi conference will be a success and looking forward to seeing you before long,

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,  
Madras.

- c.c. 1. Prof. Ranga, B.P., New Delhi  
2. Mr. K.R. Munshi, Bombay.

Yours as ever,

  
( M. R. Narayani )