

# Swatantra Party

## Procedure for Party Elections

The General Council at its meeting in Bombay on June 30, 1964 accepted unanimously an amendment to clause 12(a) recommended by the Constitution Amendments Sub-Committee appointed by the Third National Convention at Bangalore and a consequential amendment to clause 12(b).

2. The amendment to clause 12(a) sets the end of 1964 as the period before which elections to Party committees must be held. And the consequential amendment to clause 12(b) sets the last date for enrolment of Workers/Life Workers for purposes of Party elections as July 31, 1964. Life members enrolled under the old rule will be recognised provided such enrolment was on or before December 31, 1963. This was in keeping with the Council's earlier decision in Bangalore on January 31, 1964. A copy of the Constitution as amended by the General Council in Bombay on June 30 is attached.

3. In the context of these amendments, the following timetable for Party elections approved by the Central Organising Committee on June 29, 1964 is prescribed:

|                                                                                                                    |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Last date for enrolment of Workers and Life Workers for purposes of Party elections                                | July 31, 1964  |
| Last date for receipt of Register Entries and Centre's quota of subscription by the Central Office                 | Aug. 15, 1964  |
| Conclusion of scrutiny by the Central Office of Workers/Life Workers/Life Members registers and their verification | Sept. 15, 1964 |
| Completion of elections at the primary (Constituency) level                                                        | Oct. 15, 1964  |

|                                                   |               |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Completion of elections at District level         | Oct. 31, 1964 |
| Completion of elections to State Committees       | Nov. 15, 1964 |
| Completion of elections to General Council        | Nov. 30, 1964 |
| Election of National Executive by General Council | Dec. 31, 1964 |
| Assumption of office by new National Executive    | Jan. 1, 1965  |

The Committees at the Constituency, District and State levels will assume office immediately on their respective elections.

4. The dates fixed in the above schedule cannot for any reason be altered.

5. In this connection it must be emphasised that enrolment of Members/Workers/Life Workers *should not cease* on July 31, 1964. Enrolment of Workers and members of the Party is a continuous process. It only means that only those who have been enrolled as Workers/Life Workers by July 31, 1964 will be eligible to participate and stand for office in elections to Party committees *this year*.

6. Life Members enrolled on or before December 31, 1963, who

(a) have converted the fee of Rs. 10/- into subscription as Workers for three and 1/3 years,

or (b) have paid an additional amount of Rs. 90/- and converted their Life Membership to that of Life Worker,

or (c) who have given an undertaking to do one or more kinds of work listed in clause 4(b) of the Constitution

will have the right to vote and stand for office.

7. Those who prefer to retain their Life Membership but have not opted for any one of the items mentioned above will, in accordance with clause 5(a), have the right to vote but not the right to stand for office.

8. From August 15, 1964, which is the last date for the receipt of Register entries and the Centre's quota of subscrip-

tion by the Central Office in Bombay, the Central Office will arrange for the inspection and checking at each State or Regional Office of Registers and books of account of subscriptions collected in order to verify the lists of Workers/Life Workers/Life Members. Once the Central Office has certified the Registers and books of account to be in order, the elections in that State can then proceed.

9. A meeting of Secretaries of State Units held on July 1, 1964 considered in detail a draft procedure for Party elections placed before them by the Central Office. After incorporating several changes suggested by the meeting, the scheme was then circulated to members of the Party's Organisation Sub-Committee. The following procedure for Party elections has been finalised in the manner approved by the Sub-Committee and with its authority.

### **The Primary Unit**

10. Since the primary unit is the base of the Party's organisational pyramid, great care should be taken in regard to elections at this level.

11. The Constitution prescribes in clause 6(a) that a primary unit will consist of a "Legislative Assembly Constituency." There is, however, a proviso that "for more convenient discharge of the Party's work", a State or Regional Committee may "authorise the formation of a Committee for any area comprising more than one constituency or for any area smaller than one constituency." In some cases, Talukas or Tehsils have been accepted as areas for primary units.

12. In this connection the General Council decided that, for the purpose of these elections, no notice need be taken of any delimitation of Constituencies that may be decided upon by the Government Delimitation Commission which is now engaged in its work.

13. Each such primary unit should have enrolled a minimum of 20 Workers (which includes Workers/Life Workers and Life

Members enrolled under the old provision who have converted their Life Membership into that of a Worker or Life Worker) to be eligible to hold elections in accordance with clause 6(b) of the Constitution. As explained in paragraph eleven, the primary unit is generally a Legislative Assembly constituency unless extended or divided under the proviso therein referred to.

14. The State or Regional Committee should prepare its roll of Workers/Life Workers enrolled by July 31, 1964, and Life Members enrolled on or before December 31, 1963, in terms of the primary unit it has decided upon.

15. The State or Regional Committee should appoint Returning Officers at the District level to supervise the conduct of elections in their area. Every such Returning Officer (who will not be a candidate for election in the District under his supervision) should be supplied by the State Unit with the names and addresses of Workers/Life Workers enrolled by July 31, 1964 and Life Members enrolled by December 31, 1963 along with details of cards held by them, viz. date of enrolment, card number etc. in the District assigned to him.

16. Such Returning Officers will be empowered to appoint non-contesting Party Workers/Life Workers or Life Members to supervise elections at the primary level in their districts. In the alternative a Returning Officer could so fix his programme of elections in his district as personally to supervise elections to primary bodies in the different areas within the district assigned to him.

17. The State or Regional Committee should fix the last date for receipt of nomination papers by Returning Officers and the date by which polling should be completed at the primary level in each district.

18. Nominations should be invited for a Committee the size of which should be decided by the State or Regional Committee. It is suggested that the strength of a Committee including office-bearers at the primary unit level should be a minimum of five and a maximum of eleven.

19. The Returning Officer, to whom the State or Regional Office provides the list of eligible voters in his area with addresses will directly or through his nominees communicate the date, time and place of a meeting where the election will take place, as well as the list of candidates to the voters.

20. The Returning Officer or his nominee will preside over such a meeting convened for conducting the election. Voting will be by secret ballot. Every eligible voter, whose entry into the meeting will be permitted after he has submitted his Worker/Life Worker Card or Life Membership counterfoil to be scrutinised or identified himself to the satisfaction of the Returning Officer or his nominee will then mark his preference against the names of candidates and drop it in the box.

21. After all those present have voted, the Returning Officer or his nominee will open the box in front of those present, count the votes and declare the result.

22. The meeting will then terminate but those elected will stay on to elect their office bearers for the primary unit. It is suggested that the following office bearers be included in the Committee:

President  
Vice President  
General Secretary  
Joint Secretary  
Treasurer.

23. The Returning Officer or his nominee will also preside over the first meeting of the newly-elected Committee. He will call for nominations for these offices which will have to be proposed and seconded by those present. Where there is more than one candidate for the same office, voting should be by a show of hands or ballot as may be then and there decided by the Returning Officer or his nominee.

24. After the Committee has concluded its business the Returning Officer or his nominee should prepare his report and forward it to the State or Regional Office (in the case of a

nominee through the District Returning Officer). It is desirable that such a report is countersigned by the President and the General Secretary of the new Committee.

#### **District Unit**

25. The Constitution vide Clause 7(a) has given State or Regional Committees the right to prescribe the number of members on District Committees. Since the Constitution also prescribes that a District Committee will be elected on the basis of proportional representation, the State or Regional Committee will have to decide on the proportion of representatives from a primary unit on the District Committee on the basis of Workers/Life Workers enrolled by July 31, 1964 and Life Members enrolled by December 31, 1963. It is recommended that such representation of primary units on the District Committee should be subject to a minimum of one and a maximum of three.

26. For example, if in a primary unit there are 50 Workers and Life Workers and 10 Life Members making a total of 60, the State or Regional Committee can prescribe the representation of this Unit on the District Committee on the basis of one representative for the first twenty Workers/Life Workers or Life Members and additional representatives up to a maximum of three for every ten additional Workers/Life Workers/Life Members. Thus a primary unit with 20 Workers can have one representative, another with 30 Workers will be entitled to have two representatives and a unit with 40 or more Workers will be entitled to have the maximum of three representatives on the District Committee.

27. The State or Regional Committee will arrange for the convening of a meeting of the elected representatives of the primary units. Sufficient notice should be given to primary units to elect their representatives and enable the latter to be present at such a meeting.

28. The elected representatives from the primary units will then proceed to elect their office bearers in accordance with

clause 7(c) of the Constitution, viz. a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries and one or more Treasurers.

29. Such a meeting will be presided over by the Returning Officer appointed by the State or Regional Committee to supervise elections in the district. Such a Returning Officer should not be a candidate for office or membership of a primary or of the District Committee in question. The Returning Officer will call for nominations for the offices mentioned above. These should be duly proposed and seconded by those present. The number of Joint Secretaries and Treasurers in the District Committee should be decided upon by the State or Regional Committee.

30. As soon as elections are over, the Returning Officer will submit a report to the State Office. Such a report should be countersigned by the newly elected President and General Secretary of the District Committee. In the event of there being more than one candidate for the same office, voting should be by a show of hands or ballot as may be then and there decided by the Returning Officer.

31. In respect of cases where the minimum enrolment of 20 Workers at the primary level has not taken place, the individual Workers/Life Workers/Life Members in such areas will be lumped together into one group which shall form a separate constituency electing its proportionate number of representatives on the District Committee subject to a minimum of one and a maximum of three.

32. The Returning Officer shall call for a meeting of such Workers/Life Workers/Life Members from unrepresented areas. At such a meeting the Returning Officer, after determining the strength of the number of Workers/Life Workers and Life Members of such a special unit, will call for nominations of representatives on the District Unit. These should be duly proposed and seconded by those present. Voting should be by a show of hands or by secret ballot as may be then and there

decided by the Returning Officer. Those elected will participate in the meeting for electing the District Office-bearers mentioned above.

### **State or Regional Councils**

33. The number of members on the State or Regional Council is to be prescribed by the National Executive (for purposes of this election the Central Organising Committee which is empowered to make transitional arrangements under clause 17 of the Constitution) as laid down by clause 8(b) of the Constitution.

34. The elected members of the District Committee will elect representatives on the State or Regional Council in proportion to the number of Workers/Life Workers/Life Members in the District. For instance, if there is a total number of 200 Workers/Life Workers/Life Members in a district, the representation of this district on the State or Regional Council may be on the basis of 2 representatives for the first 50 Workers/Life Workers/Life Members and one representative for every additional 20 Workers/Life Workers/Life Members. Thus a district with 200 Workers/Life Workers/Life Members will have a representation of nine on the State or Regional Council. Representation on the State or Regional Council will, however, be subject to a minimum of one and a maximum of 10.

35. In regard to Districts where it has not been found possible to have elected Committees the Workers/Life Workers/Life Members in such District should be lumped together in a special constituency so that they may be able to elect a proportionate number of representatives on the State Council, subject to a minimum of one and maximum of ten.

36. Since calling a meeting of Workers/Life Workers/Life Members of such a special Constituency may be inconvenient, the State or Regional Committee could authorise a postal ballot. This must however be preceded by the State or Regional Committee forwarding to every member of such a unit a list of Workers/Life Workers/Life Members comprising such

a unit. The State or Regional Committee should also, after determining the number of representatives this special unit is entitled to have on the State or Regional Council in proportion to their strength (subject to the maximum and minimum), inform every member of the number of representatives the special constituency can have on the State or Regional Council. Nominations should be invited and ballot papers distributed to members of such a constituency containing the list of candidates. The State or Regional Committee should prescribe a last date for the receipt of ballot papers. The result of such an election should be declared sufficiently in advance and communicated to those elected to enable them to participate in the meeting of representatives of District Committees convened to elect office-bearers of the State or Regional Executive Committee. All such communications between the State or Regional Committee and the voter in the special constituency and vice-versa should be under "Certificate of Posting." The State or Regional Committee may, if it so desires, publicise the membership of such a special constituency in any manner it considers necessary to ensure that members know that they belong to such a special constituency for the purpose of electing their representatives on the District Committee.

37. The State or Regional Council will elect an Executive Committee for the State or Region consisting of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, one or more Joint Secretaries and not less than 10 and not more than 20 members, as prescribed in clause 8(c) of the Constitution.

38. The State or Regional Committee will arrange a meeting of representatives elected to the State or Regional Council at the State Capital, giving due notice of the date, time and place of the meeting to the elected representatives of the District Committee.

39. The Central Organising Committee will nominate a person to preside over such a meeting of the State or Regional Council. Such a nominee will not be a candidate for office or membership of the State or Regional Executive. The Chairman of such a meeting will call on those present to propose and second names for the various offices and membership of the

State or Regional Executive Committee. Voting will be by a show of hands or by ballot if demanded. The number of Vice-Presidents, Joint Secretaries and Treasurers may be decided by the State or Regional Council.

40. After the meeting has concluded its business, the Chairman of the meeting will submit a report to the Central Organising Committee on the election of new office-bearers and members of the State or Regional Executive Committee. This report will be countersigned by the President and General Secretary of the newly elected State or Regional Executive Committee.

### **General Council**

41. The State or Regional Council will also elect its representatives on the General Council of the Party in proportion to the number of Workers/Life Workers/Life Members enrolled in the State, subject to a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 20 as prescribed in clause 9(b) of the Constitution. In any case, the total strength of the General Council shall not exceed 250 members as stipulated in clause 9(a).

42. The Central Organising Committee will determine the representation of States or Regions on the General Council in proportion to the number of Workers/Life Workers/Life Members in the State or Region.

### **National Executive**

43. The Central Organising Committee will convene a meeting of the representatives elected by the State or Regional Councils to serve on the General Council after giving sufficient notice of this to members so elected, of the date, time and place of a meeting of the General Council to elect the National Executive.

44. The composition of the National Executive and the question of cooptions are prescribed in clauses 10 and 11 of the Constitution.