

4828

File

Draft Minutes of the Second Meeting of the General Council of the Swatantra Party held on Saturday, 6th November, 1971, in the auditorium of the Federation of Gujarat Mills & Industries, Federation Building, Baroda

Present:

Mr. H.M. Patel -- in the chair

Bombay

Mr. Lalchand Hirachand
Mr. Madhu N. Mehta
Mr. M. H. Musafir

Delhi

Mr. Mohan Lal Jatav
Mr. M.R. Arya
Col. H.R. Pasricha

Gujarat

Mr. Manubhai Amersey
Mr. Narendra Vyas
Mr. Anandbhai Amin
Mr. Dadubhai Amin
Mr. R.B. Gupta
Mr. Chimanbhai Desai
Dr. Mahendra C. Shah
Mr. Shankarbhai Rawal
Dr. Janakrai Mankad
Mr. Navinbhai Patel
Mr. Vithalbhai Amin
Mr. Jayantibhai Ravjibhai Patel
Mr. Vinodbhai Bhagvandas Sheth
Mr. Chimanbhai Kanji Patel

Himachal Pradesh

Mr. Budhi Prakash
Major Murehi Ram

Maharashtra

Mr. A.R. Deshpande
Mr. Sumatilal P. Shah

Mysore

Mr. N.K. Ganapaiah
Mr. K.N.V. Rao

Orissa

Mr. Banabihari Pati

Punjab

Sardar Bhupinder Singh Mann

Rajasthan

Maharawal Laxmansingh of Dungarpur, MLA
Mr. Kalyansingh Kalvi

Tamil Nadu

Mr. P. Sundaresan
Mr. J. Ramabhadran
Mr. K. Sundaram, M.P.
Mr. S. Venkatrao
Mr. N. Mohd. Hussain
Mr. A. Adiseshan

Tamil Nadu (Contd.)

Mr. N. Sankaranam

Uttar Pradesh

Mr. Hari Shanker Vimal
Mr. Puttan Lal Pandey
Mr. Guru Prasad Srivastava
Mr. Vijaipal Singh Saxena

Mr. M.R. Masani --past President

Invitees

Mr. P.C. Hathi
Mr. G.B. Sukhee
Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel
Mr. Nanubhai Amin
Mr. Yashwant Kumar Choudhary
Mr. P.K. Deo

Mr. Tej Narayan Yadav

The President, Mr. H. M. Patel, welcomed members and invitees to Baroda and hoped that their stay would be comfortable.

He referred to a message received from Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel (who was present at the meeting) complaining of his exclusion from the National Executive of the Party though he had, before going abroad, posted a letter to the National Headquarters conveying his willingness to offer himself as a candidate in the election of the Office Bearers and members of the National Executive held at the last meeting of the General Council on September 17 and 18.

Mr. H.M. Patel clarified that the rule regarding the need for letters of consent from candidates not present at the meeting was strictly enforced by the Returning Officer. The letter written by Mr. Dahyabhai Patel was not only received by the National Headquarters much after the General Council meeting in Bangalore but also the fact that the letter was actually forwarded to the National Headquarters by the Dead Letter Office. Mr. Patel added that as a senior member of the Party, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel would be invited to meetings of the National Executive.

1. Condolence Resolution on Rao Bahadur Patil

The Council condoled the death of Rao Bahadur B.L.Patil who was the President of the Mysore Unit of the Party from its inception upto 1964. After Mr. N.K.Ganapiah had eulogised the services of Mr. Patil to the Party, the Council adopted the following Resolution and observed a Minute's silence in honour of his memory :

"This meeting of the General Council of the Swatantra Party mourns the passing away of Rao Bahadur B.L.Patil, founder - President of the Mysore Unit of the Swatantra Party. Rao Bhadur Patil's stewardship of the Mysore State Unit in its formative years helped in no little measure to the present position of the Party in that State."

The General Council conveys its deep sense of sorrow and grief to the family of the bereaved."

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting of the General Council held in Bangalore on September 17 and 18, 1971, were confirmed.

3. Ratification of Decision Taken by Circular Reducing Membership Subscription from Rs 3/- to Re. 1/- per Calendar Year :

The General Secretary sought the Council's ratification of a majority decision taken by Circular (vide General Council Circular No.41 of July 7, 1971) reducing the entrance fee-cum-subscription in respect of all workers from Rs 3 to Re. 1/- per calendar year. The renewal fee would also be Re. 1/-.

In the discussion that followed, members pointed out a Circular (General Secretary's Letter No. 271) issued to State Units had stated that the entrance fee-cum-subscription and renewal fee had been fixed at a uniform rate of Re. 1/-. This meant that the renewal fee of members belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes and other Backward Classes had been increased from 50 P as at present to Re. 1/-.

The President clarified that the Circular in question was ambiguous and said that the Circular decision reducing membership subscription had no intention of raising the renewal fee of those belonging to

Scheduled Castes & Tribes and other Backward Classes. After some discussion, the following decisions were taken, ~~nam qaz~~ :

- (a) the decision to reduce Membership fee for all workers from Rs 3 and Rs 1.50 (in the case of Scheduled Castes and Tribes and other Backward Classes) to Re. 1/- is ratified.
- (b) the renewal fee will be Re. 1/- for all workers other than those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes.
- (c) the renewal subscription in respect of Scheduled Castes and Tribes will continue to be 50 Paisa.

While the above decisions would take place with immediate effect appropriate amendments to Clause 5 (a) of the Party's Constitution should be made at the next National Convention.

4. Cooptions to the General Council :

On the recommendation of the National Executive, the Council coopted the following members :

1. Mr. D. N. Patodia
2. Dr. M. Santosham
3. Mr. G. B. Sukhee
4. Mr. J. Mohammad Imam

all the above Members of the National Executive

Others

5. Dr. M. Mathias
6. Mr. T.M. Tirupathi
7. Mr. N. K. Somani
8. Mr. Jacob Cherian
9. Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel

Under Clause (11A) of the Party's Constitution, one-tenth of the total strength of the General Council could be coopted. The General Council's present strength being 187, it could coopt 18 members. After the cooption of the above nine members, the General Council decided to delegate to the National Executive, the authority to coopt the remaining nine members on its behalf and adopted the following Resolution in this regard :

"RESOLVED that the authority to coopt to the General Council additional members not exceeding nine be and is hereby delegated to the National Executive".

5. Formation of Telengana Regional Unit

The Council then took up for consideration the National Executive's recommendation that for more effective functioning as a political unit, the Andhra State Unit should be bifurcated into the Andhra Regional Unit and the Telengana Regional Unit. The Council was informed that the State Council of Andhra Pradesh had itself recommended the formation of a separate Telengana Regional Unit.

After discussion, the General Council decided to accept the recommendation of the National Executive and bifurcated the Present Andhra

State Unit into the Andhra Regional Unit comprising the following districts :

Telangana Regional Unit

Hyderabad
Nizamabad
Warangal
Nalgonda
Adilabad
Khammam
Karimnagar
Mahbubnagar

Andhra Regional Unit

Anantapur
Chittoor
Cuddapah
East Godavari
Guntur
Krishna
Kurnool
Nellore
Srikakulam
Vishakapatnam
West Godavari
Ongole

6. Assam Regional Unit

The Council also accepted the National Executive's recommendation that in view of the bifurcation of Assam into Assam and Meghalay, an Assam Regional Unit be set up consisting of the following districts :

Lakhimpur District
Dibrugarh
Sibsagar
Darrang
Nowgong
Kamrup
Gholpara
Kachar

7. Matters relating to Party Organisation

The President informed the meeting that no written suggestions in regard to specific matters relating to organisation had been received from members as called for in Item 5 of the Agenda issued to Members. However, a note had been received from Mr. Ganapalaiah calling for the formation of an All-India Farmers' Union. He invited members to discuss Mr. Ganapalaiah's Note.

In the discussion that followed several members welcomed the idea while some others related their experience of such farmers' organisations being taken over by communists. The following members participated in the discussion : Mr. N.K. Ganapalaiah, Mr. K.H.V. Rao, Sardar Bhupinder Singh Mann, Mr. K. Sunderam, Major Munshi Ram, Mr. Deshpande, Mr. Y.K. Choudhary, Mr. G.B. Sukhee, Mr. Mohammad Hussain, Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur and Mr. Mohanlal Jatav.

The General Council took note of the various points made by the speakers and decided to refer Mr. Ganapalaiah's note to the National Executive for its consideration and appropriate action.

8. RESOLUTIONS

The General Council then took up for consideration the following Resolutions and after discussion, adopted all of them unanimously in the form attached (Enclosure A)

(i) Orissa Cyclone

The Resolution was moved by Mr. P.K. Deo and seconded by Mr. Y.K. Choudhary.

(ii) Sufferings of People In Border Districts

The Resolution was moved by Mr. Bhupinder Singh Mann and seconded by Col. H. R. Pasricha.

(iii) Admission of Communist China to the United Nations

The Resolution was moved by Mr. M. R. Masani and seconded by Mr. K.N.V.Rao.

(iv) Government By Ordinance

The Resolution was moved from the Chair

(v) Management of Sikh Gurudwaras

The Resolution was moved from the Chair

(vi) Bangla Desh

The Resolution was moved by Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel and seconded by Mr. Yashwant Kumar Choudhary.

Mr. A. R. Deshpande desired to move a Resolution condemning "Mercedes Socialism". The President, Mr. Patel, sought the sense of the House in regard to the admission of this Resolution. As the consensus was against its admission, the President disallowed the Resolution.

9. Draft Election Manifesto

The Draft Election Manifesto as settled by the National Executive was then taken up for consideration. The discussion was initiated by Mr. Masani. Among those who participated were : Mr. N.K.Ganapaisah, Mr. Vinod Sheth, Mr. Deshpande, Mr. G.B.Sukhee, Mr.K.N.V.Rao, Mr. Mohammad Hussain, Mr. S.P.Shah, Mr. Y.K.Choudhary, and Mr. M.A.Venkata Rao.

An Amendment suggested by Col. Pasricha to Para 19 of the Manifesto was accepted unanimously. Similarly, a suggestion by Mr. S.P.Shah that the paragraphs in the Manifesto should bear sub-titles was also accepted unanimously. Mr. H.M.Patel replied to the Debate. On a motion by Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur, the Election Manifesto was approved in the form attached (Annexure B).

10. Statement on the Current Situation

The Council then took up for consideration a draft resolution by the General Secretary, Mr. Madhu Mehta (as revised by a Sub-Committee appointed the previous day by the National Executive.)

The Draft was moved by Mr. Madhu Mehta and seconded by Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur. Among those who participated in the discussions were Mr. N.K.Ganapaisah, Mr. G.B.Sukhee and Sardar Bhupinder Singh Mann.

A point made by some members that the resolution was more in the nature of a statement and should be described as such was accepted by the mover. The Statement was adopted unanimously in the form attached (Annexure C)

On behalf of the members of the General Council, Mr. N.K.Ganapaisah conveyed his grateful thanks to the Baroda City and District Units and the Gujarat State Unit for hosting the Council in Baroda and for the courtesies extended by them.

The meeting then terminated.