

4843

Draft Minutes of the First Meeting of the Newly Elected National Executive Held at 2:30 PM at Kalki Buildings, Dr. G. Mudaliar Road, Chetput, Madras 31, on Sunday, December 28, 1969.

Present :

Mr. M. R. Masani - in the Chair

1. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
2. Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy
3. Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel
4. Mr. G. Latchanna
5. Sardar Basant Singh
6. Mr. J. M. Lobo Prabhu
7. Mr. H. M. Patel
8. Mr. G. K. Sunderam
9. Mr. S. S. Mariswamy
10. Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
11. Miss Kusum Kumari Joshi
12. Mr. Johnson J. Vallikkappen
13. Mr. Budhi Prakash
14. Mr. Tribikram Tripathy
15. Mr. N. K. Ganapaiah
16. Mr. D. N. Patodia
17. Dr. H. R. Pasricha
18. Mr. Piloo H. Mody
19. Mr. Harihar Patel
20. Dr. H. V. Hande
21. Prof. R. K. Amin
22. Mr. Madhu Mehta
23. Mr. N. K. Somani
24. Dr. R. C. Cooper

The President, Mr. M. R. Masani, made some introductory remarks and welcomed the newly elected office bearers and members of the Executive.

Rajaji congratulated the newly elected members. He felt that the Vice-Presidents and Joint Secretaries of the Party, should, before making statements in the Press, particularly in regard to matters of policy or issues of national importance, get them cleared with the President and/or the General Secretary. The Executive unanimously agreed with the suggestion made and decided accordingly.

The Executive unanimously constituted the following Central Parliamentary Board :

Ex-Officio Members

Mr. M. R. Masani,	President
Dr. R. C. Cooper,	General Secretary

Members

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Prof. N. G. Ranga
Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel
Mr. R. N. Singh Deo

-- Leader of the Party in the Lok Sabha
-- Leader of the Party in the Rajya Sabha
-- Leader of the Party in the Orissa State Assembly

Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur	.. Leader of the Party in the Rajasthan State Assembly
Mr. Jaideepsinh of Baria	.. Leader of the Party in the Gujarat State Assembly
Mr. G. Latchanna	.. Leader of the Party in the Andhra State Assembly.

Functions of the Central Parliamentary Board

In reply to a query from Mr. J. M. Lobo Prabhu regarding the functions of the Central Parliamentary Board, the General Secretary drew attention of the Executive to the recommendation made in this regard by the Central Parliamentary Board at its meeting on August 29, 1969. The Central Parliamentary Board had recommended inter alia that among the principal functions of the CPB were ..

- " (a) to guide the attitude of the Party's Group in Parliament regarding legislative and policy matters and similarly in the State Legislatures, especially in regard to matters having all-India repercussions;
- (b) to select candidates for election to Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha)
- (c) to approve candidates for election to State Legislatures. "

In this connection, Mr. Lobo Prabhu felt that there was need to draw up criteria for the selection of Party candidates in General Elections, Mini-General Elections and by-elections. On the request of the Executive, Mr. Lobo Prabhu agreed to draft a detailed note on this point for circulation to the members of the National Executive.

The Party's Political Attitude

Arising out of the Mid-Term Report which the General Council adopted at its meeting in New Delhi on November 15 and 16, there was a general feeling that the National Executive should spell out in greater detail the Party's attitude to the current political situation and in particular to other political Parties. Since this was a matter that required some thought and time, it was decided that such a statement of policy should be brought up for discussion and adopted at the next meeting of the Executive and that in advance of that meeting a draft statement should be prepared by the National Headquarters and circulated to members of the Executive.

Rising Sun - Election Symbol

Mr. Lobo Prabhu drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the Symbol of the Rising Sun (which though a Reserved Symbol in Tamilnad, was on the free list of Symbols elsewhere in the country) was being confused with the STAR and suggested that the General Secretary should write to the Election Commission asking that the Rising Sun be removed from the free list of Symbols in all states except Tamilnad where it was the reserved symbol of the DMK. The General Secretary said he would pursue the matter with the Election Commission.

Gujarat

Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of the National Executive on 12th November in Bombay, the President reported on subsequent developments in Gujarat. He mentioned that he proposed to meet the Gujarat State Executive and the Legislature Party in Ahmedabad on February 1

and would report to the proposed meeting of the National Executive on February 12 and 13 when considered decisions regarding the attitude to be adopted towards the Government in Gujarat and other State Governments could be taken. Meanwhile, however, there might be a special session of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly in January to consider the Constitution (Amendment) Bill extending the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

The National Executive unanimously decided to reiterate its decision of 12th November, 1969, that no action in the nature of initiating or supporting any move to bring down the Gujarat Government should be taken without the previous approval of the Central Parliamentary Board and decided that, if any special session of the Gujarat Assembly was called in January, it should not be utilised for such a purpose.

The President was requested to convey this decision to the Leader of the Party in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly.

Next Meeting of the National Executive

It was decided that the next meeting of the Executive should be held in Bombay on Thursday and Friday, February 12 and 13, 1970.

Research

Mr. N. K. Somani, felt that there was need for the National Headquarters to prepare well documented position papers on subjects like --

Transport and Communication,
Food and Agriculture,
Unemployment, and
Housing.

It was decided to request the following to undertake or arrange for the preparation of Draft Papers which could be discussed and settled at future meetings of the National Executive :

Transport & Communication	.. Mr. N. K. Somani
Unemployment	.. Mr. & Mrs. Lobo Prabhu
Food and Agriculture	.. Mr. N. K. Ganapiah & Mr. B.P. Singh
Irrigation and Rural Electrification	.. Mr. H. M. Patel
Housing	.. Mr. D. N. Patodia

There was a brief discussion on the need for developing the Party organisation in areas where the Party organisation was either weak or non-existent. The General Secretary assured the Executive that the newly-elected Joint Secretaries would be entrusted with the task of developing the Party organisation in such areas.

The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
