

4858

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ORGANISATION

SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1964.

AT 9 A.M. AT MADRAS

Present: Prof. N. G. Ranga (in the chair)
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy
Mr. M. R. Masani

The minutes of the last meetings held on June 28 and 29, 1964, in Bombay were approved and confirmed.

2. Arising out of the minutes, the position in Kerala was discussed and it was decided that Rajaji should send a telegram to Mr. Raghava Menon and that the General Secretary should write to Mr. A. Madhava Warriar with a view to expediting relevant decisions.

3. The General Secretary reported on the issue of a Procedure for the holding of Party elections as approved by the Organisation Sub-Committee by circular and the action taken was noted.

4. The Report submitted by Mr. K. M. Munshi, Vice-President of the Party, in regard to the affairs of the Bihar Unit, which had already been circulated, was then taken up for consideration. The Committee also had before it a letter dated August 3, 1964 received by the General Secretary from the President of the Bihar Unit, a letter dated August 1, 1964 received by the Central Office from Mr. Jaleshwar Prasad, and a telegram dated August 7, 1964 received from the Central Office. The Committee also had before it press reports of a discussion in the Bihar State Assembly on a motion of no-confidence in the Ministry moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

Having considered Mr. K. M. Munshi's report, the Organisation Sub-Committee unanimously decided that it saw no reason to differ from Mr. Munshi's recommendations and therefore resolved as follows:

"In the light of the special circumstances referred to in Mr. Munshi's Report,

(1) The Bihar Organisation of the Party is hereby dissolved. No further work (including enrolment of members) by or on behalf of the dissolved Unit shall proceed.

(2) The State Committee appointed by the Organisation Sub-Committee on 28th March 1964 is hereby dissolved in view of continued failure to function.

(3) Notwithstanding the above, the Swatantra Party Group of elected members in both Houses of the State legislature shall continue to function as at present under the general control and supervision of the Central Parliamentary Board of the Party. In view of the dissolution of the State Unit and obvious disaffection in the Party's ranks which has led to the reported defection of a number of members of the Legislature, the Group will forthwith meet and elect a leader and other office-bearers of their choice.

(4) The Central Office is directed and authorised to take charge forthwith of all papers, accounts and assets of the dissolved Unit from those hitherto in charge of its affairs.

(5) The Organisation Sub-Committee will in due course consider steps to be taken to reorganise the Party in Bihar."

It was suggested to the General Secretary that Mr. S. V. Raju of the Central Office might be sent to Bihar to take possession of the papers of the defunct Unit.

5. The suggestion that a meeting of the Parliamentary Board of the Party should be convened to go into the business coming before the forthcoming Session of Parliament commencing on September 7, 1964, was then considered. It was decided that a meeting of the Parliamentary Board should be called in Delhi on Sunday, September 6, at 11 a.m. at the residence of the General Secretary at 57, Lodi Estate.

6. It was further decided that the President should convene a meeting of the Parliamentary Group to elect office-bearers for the Group in both Houses on Tuesday, September 8, 1964, at 6 p.m. at 44, Western Court. An ordinary meeting of the Party's members in Parliament might also be called on Sunday, September 6, 1964, at 5 p.m. at 44, Western Court to consider the business coming before the Session. Members of the Parliamentary Board should be invited to be present at both these meetings.

7. Arising out of a Press Report from Srinagar, it was decided that for the time being no encouragement should be given to anyone in Kashmir to form a Unit of the Swatantra Party.

8. The General Secretary reported on plans for holding a training course for Party organisers in Bombay from August 15 to August 23, 1964, and the proposal was approved.

9. The General Secretary further reported on efforts being made by the President and himself to develop the work of the Party in Madhya Pradesh and Bengal and it was decided that the Central Office should continue with its efforts on the lines already laid down by the Organisation Sub-Committee.

10. Prof. Ranga reported to the Sub-Committee his acceptance of an invitation from the Speaker of the Lok Sabha to participate in the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Conference in Copenhagen some time in the second half of August.

11. The meeting then terminated.