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SWATANTRA PARTY

Report of the Organisation Sub-Committee

An Appeal has been presented to the General Council of the Party by certain members claiming to represent the Bihar Unit of the Party from the decision of the Organising Sub-Committee and the Parliamentary Board of the Party held on 22nd July 1962 at a meeting held in Madras.

2. In view of certain differences within the Bihar Unit, the Central Organising Committee on the 8th October 1961 accepted and confirmed the Award given by Shri K.M. Munshi, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Party. Relevant facts in connection with the Award (referred to in the Appeal as the Munshi Award) are stated in the General Secretary's Comments on the Appeal which have been circulated.

3. The differences had been referred to Shri Munshi with the comment of the disputants, viz., the President of the Bihar Unit, Shri Kamakhya Narayan Singh and its General Secretary, Shri Janki Nandan Singh, for a solution of the impasse. Shri Munshi, after discussion with the parties, accepted the basis suggested by the State President that, for the purposes of the General Elections, Bihar should be divided into two parts. The Award was then made separating some Districts of the Tirhut Division from the rest of Bihar.

4. As this Award was not duly implemented and charges and counter-charges were made by the disputants in regard to the manner in which it was sought to be implemented, the Parliamentary Sub-Committee at its meeting held in Bangalore on 31st October, 1961, after having heard the representatives of the disputants and with their concurrence gave certain directions to facilitate the implementation of the Award.

5. As difficulties were being placed in carrying out even the Bangalore decision, the Parliamentary Sub-Committee, which met in Agra on November 23, in pursuance of that decision, authorised the General Secretary to deal direct with the District Presidents of some Districts of Tirhut in regard to matters relating to the General Elections. The General Secretary scrupulously adhered to the authority so given and his decisions were therefore in no wise wrong as alleged in the Appeal.

6. After the General Elections were over, the Parliamentary Sub-Committee and the Organisation Sub-Committee, at their meeting held in Bombay on 14th March, 1962, terminated the Award, which was only a temporary measure required for the period of the Elections and, in the hope that the President of the Unit in future would see that all the parties worked in harmony, authorised him to nominate the Working Committee afresh and to reconstitute the District Working Committees wherever necessary.

7. After the said meeting in Bombay dispersed, the State President handed his Report on the Bihar Elections to the Central Office of the Party.

8. As this Report of the State President was full of mis-statements and framed in language calculated to undermine the national democratic character of the Party and its discipline, the General Secretary circulated it on 12th July, 1962, along with a statement correctly setting out the facts.

9. On July 22, a Joint meeting of the Organisation Sub-Committee and the Parliamentary Board held in Madras considered the Report of the President of the State Unit, as well as the composition of the Committee which he had formed by virtue of the authority given to him. The Joint meeting came to the conclusion that, in the light of the attitude taken up by the Bihar President in the Report and in view of the composition of the Committee constituted by him, it would be detrimental to the interests of the Party to allow the Working Committee set up by him to function till normal elections were held under the constitution. The Joint meeting therefore, as an emergent measure, revoked the authority given to the State President on March 14, 1962, and decided that the Working Committee appointed under that authority should stand dissolved. In constituting a fresh interim Committee of seven, the Joint Meeting took care to include in it, besides the State President and Dr. B.N. Singh, M.P., two other members of the dissolved Committee. The decision was not a judgement given by Shri Munshi as alleged in the Appeal, but a decision of the Joint Meeting arrived at unanimously after full and anxious consideration of the situation.

10. The Organisation Sub-Committee draws the attention of the C.O.C. to the fact that the decisions of the Organisation Sub-Committee and the Parliamentary Board have not been implemented by the Acting President of the State Unit, nor has the Committee appointed thereby been allowed to function.

11. All these matters were to be considered by the Organisation Sub-Committee and the Parliamentary Board of the Party at its meeting held in Madras on 12th and 13th January. In view, however, of the absence of the State President as well as on account of the Appeal circulated to the members of the General Council, it was decided to refer the matter to the General Council.

12. It may be added that the Appeal was got printed and copies were widely circulated in Bihar before it could be considered by the Organisation Sub-Committee, the Central Organising Committee or the General Council, thus converting a domestic matter into public propaganda against the Party organs.

13. The Organisation Sub-Committee is of the view that the statements made in the Appeal carry implications which would seriously affect the Party's position in the country inasmuch as:

- (a) it is in the nature of a motion of no-confidence in the Central Organising Committee, the Organisation Sub-Committee and the Parliamentary Board;
- (b) it seeks to challenge the bona fides of the members of the Central Organising Committee, the Organisation Sub-Committee, and the Parliamentary Board;
- (c) it makes grave and unwarranted imputations amounting to mala fides against one of the Vice-Presidents, Shri K.M. Munshi, and the General Secretary.