

4897

Draft Minutes of the Parliamentary Board
meeting on Saturday January 12, 1963 at
2-30 p.m. in Madras.

A meeting of the Parliamentary Board of the Swatantra Party was held at the office of KALKI in Madras on Saturday the 12th January 1963 at 2-30 p.m.

Present :

Prof. N.G. Ranga, M.P. (in the chair)
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Mr. K.M. Munshi
Mr. S.K.D. Paliwal
Mr. Bhailalbhair Patel, MLA.
Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, M.P.
Mr. M.R. Masani.

Mr. P.K. Deo, M.P.)
Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy, M.P.) By special invitation.

The minutes of the last meeting on November 6 and 7 in Delhi were confirmed.

The Board reviewed developments in connection with the Chinese Offensive, the Cease-fire and the National Emergency. After considerable discussion, a draft statement in regard to the present situation emerged. It was decided that this draft should be considered at an adjourned meeting on the following day.

Arising out of the discussion of certain topics, it was decided that three draft resolutions should be placed before the meeting on the following day, one on the misuse of Emergency powers, another on the constitutional amendment regarding the Attorney General, and the third on the Gold Control Order.

There was a general discussion about the functioning of the Swatantra Party in Parliament, in the course of which several issues were raised and clarified. Among these was the possibility of legislation being introduced which would make it an offence to speak or write in support of the secession of some part of the territory of the Indian Union. It was agreed that members of the Swatantra Party in both Houses of Parliament should abstain from participation in the debate and voting on this subject.

On an enquiry made by the President in regard to the possibility of some members of Parliament joining the group as Associate Members, it was decided that the President be authorised to recommend to the Parliamentary Group the admission as Associate Members of such M.P.s as he was satisfied were in agreement with the principles, policy and manifesto of the Party and agree to abide by its discipline in so far as their activities in Parliament were concerned.

The meeting then adjourned.

The adjourned meeting of the Parliamentary Board met at 11 a.m. on Sunday, 13th January, 1963.

Present:

Prof. N.G. Ranga, M.P. (in the chair)
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Mr. K.M. Munshi
Mr. S.K.D. Paliwal
Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel, MLA.
Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, M.P.
Mr. M.R. Masani

Mr. P.K. Deo, M.P.)
Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy, M.P.) By special invitation.

Referring to a telegram received from Mr. Kamakhya Narayan Singh of Ramgarh to the effect that as no intimation had been received by him from the Central Office about this meeting he had refrained from proceeding to Madras, the General Secretary reported that on December 24, 1962, he had written to the Raja of Ramgarh, as desired by the Organisation Sub-Committee in Delhi, saying that, as soon as he acknowledged receipt of the letter, a meeting of the Organisation Sub-Committee would be called at Madras to review the developments in Bihar. On December 28, 1962, the Raja of Ramgarh had acknowledged that letter. Two sets of notices in regard to the meetings of the Parliamentary Board and the Organisation Sub-Committee had been despatched to the Raja of Ramgarh by the Central Office by ordinary post to the State Party Office and by Express Delivery to his residence. The Supplementary Agenda of the Organisation Sub-Committee had been despatched to him by Express Delivery at his residence.

The Board was informed that meetings of the Central Organising Committee and the General Council of the Party were being convened in Bombay on February 9 and 10 respectively.

Resolutions were also discussed and adopted on the Emergency Powers, the Constitutional Amendment regarding the Attorney General, and the Gold Control Order.

Arising out of the minutes of the previous meeting of November 6 and 7, the General Secretary reported on correspondence that had taken place with Mr. Dharam Singh Rathi in regard to the return of the Party's jeep, which was in the possession of himself or Chaudhry Vijay Singh. The Board noted with regret that Mr. Dharam Singh Rathi and Mr. Vijay Singh had failed to comply with its decision. The General Secretary was asked to make further efforts to recover the jeep or to arrange for its sale in conditions in which the proceeds could come to the Party funds.

The General Secretary reported on further progress made with the settlement of the accounts of Central contributions towards Election funds. The accounts in respect of Western U.P. had now been sorted out and the funds remitted had been accounted for. The Board approved of the settlement of this account. The General Secretary further reported that the settlement of the accounts in respect of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh was still pending.

The President reported on his visit to Jaipur in connection with Raja Man Singh's resignation as Deputy Leader of the State Assembly. It was decided that no further action was called for at this stage on the part of the Parliamentary Board and that the matter could be left to the President of the State Party.

The election of Office-bearers of the Group in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, following on the decision of the Board at its previous meeting, was reported to the Board. Certain incidents in connection with these elections as also speeches made by certain members of the Party in Parliament were discussed. Mr. Dahyabhai Patel desired that his strong feeling in regard to the manner in which certain acts of indiscipline which had taken place and the serious consequences for the Party that would follow if serious note was not taken of them should be recorded. The Board decided that it should be left to the President to deal suitably with these matters as Leader of the Parliamentary Group.

The General Secretary reported on the correspondence that had taken place with Mr. R. Agnibhoj, a member of the Central Organising Committee, following the decision of the Parliamentary Board at its meeting last July. It was decided, the General Secretary dissenting, that as a special case Mr. Agnibhoj should be allowed to function as an Independent member of the State Assembly, provided that his activities both in the Assembly and outside were not inconsistent with his obligations to the Party.

The Parliamentary Board further requested the Treasurer that, as a special case, second class railway fare to and from the place of Central Organising Committee meetings should be paid to Mr. Agnibhoj for attending further meetings of the Central Organising Committee.

In view of the unsatisfactory financial position of the Parliamentary Group as a result of several members of Parliament not paying their dues to the Group, it was decided that the salary of Mr. A.P. Jain, Office Secretary of the Group, should be paid by the Treasurer as from 1st January 1963 in furtherance of the resolution of the Board at its meeting on July 21 and 22, and that Mr. Jain should be designated as Information Assistant.

At the instance of the General Secretary, the Board placed on record its appreciation of the manner in which Prof. Ranga, the Leader of the Party in Parliament, and his colleagues in both Houses of Parliament had given expression to the views and policies of the Party in connection with the Chinese Offensive, Cease-fire and the National Emergency.

The meeting then terminated.
