

15 (4903)
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
BOARD HELD ON APRIL 7 & 8, 1962, AT SIR H.P.MODY'S
RESIDENCE AND MR. K.M.MUNSHI'S RESIDENCE IN BOMBAY
RESPECTIVELY AT 11 A.M. AND 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT: Prof. N.G.Ranga in the Chair
Mr. C.Rajagopalachari
Mr. K.M.Munshi
Sir Homi Mody
Maharawal Laxman Singh of Bungarpur
Raja Raghavendra Pratap Singh of Mankapur
Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel
Mr. M.R.Masani

The question of the work of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Groups of the Party and the nomination of their office bearers was considered.

Having considered the position arising out of the fact that neither Prof. Ranga nor Mr. M.R.Masani, the former Leader and Deputy Leader are present in the new Lok Sabha, at least to start with, and also as the new members are not known to one another, and having heard the leaders of the State Assembly parties in Rajasthan, Gujarat and U.P., it was decided that, in so far as the Lok Sabha was concerned, the following should be the Office-bearers of the Party for the duration of the first Session commencing on April 16.

Leader	Rao Krishna Pal Singh
Deputy Leader	Mr. P.K.Deo of Kalahandi
Secretary	Dr. B.N.Singh
Whip	Mr. Narendras-ingh Mahida

It was further agreed that one more secretary and one more Whip might be appointed in the light of developments. It was decided that in the Rajya Sabha the Swatantra Party should function under its own name and not as part of the Democratic Party.

In so far as the Rajya Sabha is concerned, it was similarly agreed that Mr. Dahyabhai Patel should continue as the Leader of the Party in the Rajya Sabha for the first session of the new Rajya Sabha. The other Office-Bearers for the first session of the Rajya Sabha Group should be nominated by the President of the Party in consultation with Mr. Dahyabhai Patel.

The forthcoming election of the president of the Union was considered and it was decided that no encouragement should be given to Mr. Hari Ram who had solicited the Party's support. In the interests of making the election of the President as far as possible a unanimous one, the Parliamentary Board recommended to all members of the Party in Parliament and the State Assemblies all over the country to support the candidature of Dr. S.Radha-krishnan

It was further decided to recommend that the election of Sardar Hukum Singh as Speaker of the Lok Sabha should be supported by Swatantra Party members of the Lok Sabha.

In so far as the Vice-President was concerned, in view of the nebulous position it was decided that the President of the Party should be authorised to issue a similar recommendation to members of the Parliament and State Assemblies at the appropriate time.

After discussion, it was agreed that members of Parliament should be asked to contribute Rs.40/- per month as their contribution towards the upkeep and maintenance of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Party. It was recommended that members of the State Assemblies should be expected to pay a contribution on similar lines and that rule in regard to this matter should be made by each State Party concerned.

The Parliamentary Board decided that in the bye-election to the Lok Sabha arising out of the resignation of Shri Anantha Sayanam Ayyar in Chithoor, Prof. Ranga should be nominated as the Party's candidate.

It was ascertained that a sum of about Rs.30,000/- would be raised by the Party Unit in Andhra for its own needs and the Treasurer agreed that Rs.50,000/- would be found by the Party at the Centre for the Party's expenditure during this election.

The attention of the Parliamentary Board was drawn to two cases of breach of discipline by members of the Party, one by Mr. Ramgopal Gupta, Member of the Rajya Sabha, and the other by Sardar Ram Singh, both of Kanpur. While the reply from Sardar Ram Singh to the enquiry made of him by the U.P. State Party was awaited, it was reported that Mr. Ramgopal Gupta had not given any satisfactory explanation of his conduct within the time prescribed. In view of the nature of the indiscipline, it was decided that he should be asked within 15 days to show cause why he should not be expelled from the Party. His reply would be placed before the next meeting of the Parliamentary Board.

The meeting then adjourned.

The adjourned meeting of the Parliamentary Board met at the residence of Mr. K.M. Munshi at 9-30 a.m. on Sunday the 8th April 1962 :

Present : Prof. N.G. Ranga (in the Chair)
 Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
 Mr. K.M. Munshi
 Sir Homi Mody
 Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur
 Raja Raghavendra Pratap Singh of Mankapur
 Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel
 Mr. R.N. Singh Deo of Patna
 Mr. M.R. Masani

By invitation :

Mr. N. Dandekar

A pledge Form drafted overnight was discussed and the text of it was finalised. It was decided that it should be signed by all attending the Candidate's Convention and thereafter signatures should be obtained from all Members of Parliament and of State Assemblies throughout the country.

The question of the Party's attitude towards contesting Panchayat and other local elections, which had been raised by members of the Party at the meeting of Presidents and Secretaries on the previous day, was also considered. It was decided that the matter should be held over for further thought and that meanwhile the views of whoever might be invited to represent the Swatantra Party at the meeting which it was understood the All-India Sarva Seva Sangh might convene in this connection should be available to the Parliamentary Board before any decision modifying the Party's position of abstaining from contesting such elections as a Party was considered.

The arrangements in regard to the Party affairs in Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, which were tentatively discussed yesterday, were reviewed and it was finally decided that, so far as Rajya Sabha was concerned, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel should continue to act as the Leader of the Party for the first session of the Rajya Sabha. The other Office-Bearers should be nominated by the President of the Party in consultation with Shri Dahyabhai Patel.

In so far as the Lok Sabha is concerned, it was decided that the following Office-Bearers should be nominated for the duration of the first session of the new Lok Sabha :

Acting Leader	...	Shri P.K. Deo
Secretary	...	Mr. N. Mahida and Dr. B.N. Singh
Whip	...	Sardar Kapur Singh

It was further decided that, if it is found ~~un~~necessary, Mr. Mahida might become a Whip and another Secretary might be appointed in his place by the President. The point would be finalised by the time Lok Sabha members meet in Delhi on the afternoon of the 15th.

Members of the Party in both Houses of Parliament should also meet collectively for certain purposes. They would have one Secretariat. When they meet jointly, the President of the Party should function as the Chairman of the entire Parliamentary Group.

The report presented by Messrs. Munshi, Mody and Masani in regard to the establishment of a Research Bureau in Delhi and the budget prepared by them was discussed and it was decided that progress should be made with the collection of funds and the establishment of the Bureau on the lines outlined in the Report.

The discussion on the previous day in regard to possible disciplinary action to be taken against Mr. Ram Gopal Gupta and Sardar Ram Singh of the U.P. Party was discussed and letters received from both these persons were presented by the General Secretary to the meeting. After discussion, it was decided that the U.P. Party should be asked to report and to make recommendations in regard to the case of Sardar Ram Singh. In so far as Mr. Ram Gopal Gupta's case was concerned, Mr. K.M. Munshi and Sir Homi Mody were appointed as a Committee of Enquiry to go into the matter, to obtain the necessary statements from other persons concerned and to make their recommendations in regard to the necessity of disciplinary action to be taken at the next meeting of the Parliamentary Board.

The meeting then concluded.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON APRIL 7, 1962, AT SIR H.P.
MODY'S RESIDENCE IN BOMBAY AT 9.30 A.M.

Present: Prof. N.G.Ranga (in the Chair)
Mr. C.Rajagopalachari
Mr. K.M.Munshi
Mr. M.R.Masani

By invitation: Sir Homi Mody
Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur,
Raja Raghavendra Pratap Singh of Mankapur
Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel

The Minutes of the last meeting held in Bombay on March 14 were confirmed.

It was decided that the three members of the Forward Bloc elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly, who had applied for Associate membership of the Party, were admitted.

The programme of work of the Candidate's Convention commencing that afternoon was adopted.

It was agreed that if a suitable pledge could be evolved, it can be taken by all present at the Candidates' Convention at the afternoon session tomorrow.

It was agreed that this Convention should be followed by similar Conventions of candidates at the State level.

It was decided that a small Sub-Committee, with Mr. K.M.Munshi as Convenor, should be set up to consider, in the light of the experience of the recent General Elections, modifications in the electoral processes and procedures that were called for in order to ensure free and fair elections. Mr. Munshi was asked to constitute the Group which might include one or two individuals who may not be members of the Party.

A move that Master Tara Singh was likely to initiate to call a Conference of representatives of political parties to consider irregularities and the misuse of administrative facilities during the General Elections was considered. It was felt that such a Conference that Master Tara Singh might call would be appropriate at the Punjab State level. At the national level the Sub-Committee to be set up with Mr. Munshi as Convenor would attend to the problem and Master Tara Singh might be informed accordingly. It should be left, however, to those invited to consider whether or not to attend the Conference in the light of the decision of other political parties.
