

Swatantra Party Parliamentary Office

53 North Avenue,
New Delhi.

August 9, 1967.

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A meeting of the General Body of the Party in Parliament was held at 10.00 A.M. on Monday, August 7, 1967 in Room No. 50, 1st floor, Parliament House, New Delhi. The following Members were present;

1. Mr. M.R. Masani
2. Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu
3. Mr. Mahendra Majhi
4. Mr. Z. Xavier.
5. Dr. B.N. Antani
6. Mr. S.S. Mariswamy
7. Raja Venkatappa Naik
8. Mr. M.K. Nanja Gowder
9. Mr. Y.G. Gowd
10. Mr. Dahyabhai Patel
11. Mr. Loknath Misra
12. Mr. D.N. Patodia
13. Mr. K.M. Kaushik
14. Mr. F.K. Deo
15. Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy
16. Mr. N.K. Somani
17. Mr. Piloo Mody
18. Maharaja Sriraj Dhrangadhra
19. Mr. J. Mohd. Imam

The list of arrears of contribution was read out by Mr. Masani and Members were requested to clear off their arrears at the earliest. Dr. Antani agreed to pay the outstanding amount of Rs. 640 at the earliest. Mr. Xavier also agreed to fill in the bank order form.

Constitution Amendment Bill dealing with the Fundamental Rights earlier tabled by Shri Meghrajji was discussed. Mr. Masani explained the gist of the amended bill which calls for the approval of a resolution by the Lok Sabha and then the same being circulated for eliciting public opinion. Thus, before the Fundamental Rights can be amended, the people's opinion will have to be taken into account. The amended bill will be put up before the Central Parliamentary Board for its approval.

Members were informed that the Government had not yet agreed to the suggestion made by the leaders of the Opposition parties regarding consultative committees. They were therefore requested as earlier decided not to attend the meeting of the consultative Committees till an agreement between the parties concerned was arrived at. Railway zonal committees did not come within the purview of the consultative committees and hence members were free to attend meetings of such committees. In place of Mr. C.C. Desai Mr. Masani was requested to speak on the Unlawful Activities Prevention Bill. He said as per the recent resolution of the Central Parliamentary Board, the Party was in favour of the banning of the Left Communist Parties. This bill according to him sought to restrict the activities of left Communist parties. In any case, the Party was opposed to such blanket powers being given to the Executive. If such a bill was passed, then the activities of Nagas, Mizos, Kashmiris, etc. would also come within the purview of this bill, but he was not opposed to the demands for autonomy by Nagas, Mizos or Kashmiris. Therefore, Mr. Masani opposed the bill but would suggest that if a specific bill suggesting banning of the left communist parties was brought forward, we would support such a legislation.

Minute of dissent appended to the Education Commission by Mr. Dahyabhai Patel and Prof. Amin was discussed. It was decided that we should table amendments on behalf of the Party on the basis principally of the autonomy of the universities, which had opposed the change in the medium of instruction. Mr. P.K. Deo suggested that our spokesman on the Education Commission report should lay stress on educationally backward areas like Kalahandi.

The following members were requested to speak on the items indicated against each of their names:

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| 1. Motion regarding food situation in the country | Mr. K.M. Kaushik |
| 2. The Public Wakfs (Extension of Limitation) Bill | Mr. J. Mohd. Imam |
| 3. The Indian Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill | Shri P.K. Deo |
| 4. Education Commission Report | Shri N. Dandekar
Shri J. Mohd. Imam
Prof. R.K. Amin. |
| 5. Gajendra Gadkar Commission's Report | Mr. N. Dandekar |
| 6. Working of the Sugar Industry | Mr. D.N. Patodia |

The following study team was appointed to examine the question of electoral reforms and report to the party at the beginning of the next session:

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| 1. Mr. Piloo Mody | Convenor |
| 2. Mr. Viren J. Shah | |
| 3. Mr. N.K. Somani | |

As for the suggestion by some of the members to replace the parliamentary form of government by the presidential form of government, Mr. Masani said that the Central Parliamentary Board will have to take a decision in this regard.

Sd. J.M. LoboPrabhu
Secretary