

R. PRASAD

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Camp: Delhi.

9th November 1975.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi,
Prime Minister,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Madam,

You are aware that I am the brother of Shri Jayaprakash Narayan.

I have been meeting him every month since July 1975 in Chandigarh.

In July and August I found him in dubious but not serious ill health. He was suffering from low blood pressure, low blood sugar and feelings of nausea.

In September I found that he had lost his appetite and was not able to eat or relish any food. He had become very weak.

In October when I met him on the 5th, he told me that he had had severe pains in the stomach. A few days before I met him the acuteness of the pain had subsided, but the pain was persisting, and investigations and examinations were going on by the doctors to find out the cause. At that time he was in the hospital cottage. His condition had deteriorated. He was very weak and had no appetite.

Subsequently, in the later weeks of October our other relations met him. They found he had been transferred to the Hospital ward for better medical care and attendance. They found him completely bed-ridden and on a liquid diet.

I met him again on the 7th of November. He was now able to move about in the room but he had to be supported during his movement, such is his weakness. He was still on a liquid diet. And what is most alarming is that even after such a long period and in spite of several so-called thorough examinations and investigations, the disease has not been identified. He is not even told what medicines are being administered to him.

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His general condition has gravely deteriorated during these three months. Swelling in the legs is still there. The toes are bent. He has sore trouble in his eyes, apart from the fact that there are huge swellings below both the eyes, as big as hanging pouches.

I have very serious apprehensions that if his condition continues like this he might not survive for more than two months. This is causing us the greatest anguish. I have not discussed my anxiety with JP nor mentioned that I would be writing to you, but I feel I must apprise you about his condition so that you can make your own assessment. Apart from the great personal tragedy that his loss would mean to our family, it is for you to decide whether it would be in the best interest of the Government if JP dies in jail.

Yours faithfully,

(R. PRASAD)