

Swatantra Party

CENTRAL OFFICE

PHONE: 29687

GRAMS: SURAJYAM

When replying, please quote our Reference No.

SPC-UP-1



5361

SASSOON BUILDING,
143, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,
BOMBAY 1.

18th June 1968.

My dear Bhanu Bhaiya,

This is in reply to your letters of 20th May and 8th June.

1. Touring:

(a) I agree you should tour some of the Districts of Eastern U.P. and Giriraj Saran Singh, M.P. should tour some of the Districts of Western U.P. You should start as soon as you can; and he will start in August or September.

(b) But it should not be aimless touring in search of candidates. Our first objective should be to select constituencies. For this, your Executive Committee has already approved

- 12 constituencies where we won in the 1967 Election; and
- 26 constituencies where our candidates came second, or secured either 7500 votes or more than 50% of the votes secured by the winning candidates.

It seems to me that this goes down low enough in the scale of "chances for winning".

(c) We should not therefore go any lower, in our choice of constituencies save in exceptional cases; for example:-

- (i) constituencies where the person who last won the election is willing to join our Party and stand as our candidate; and
- (ii) constituencies comprised within any Parliamentary constituency which we won, (e.g. Giriraj Saran Singh's constituency).

(d) Having agreed upon the choice of constituencies, we have to select candidates. Here, I want to minimise the number of "outsiders" who may want to "muscle in", as they did in 1967. Indeed, categories (i) and (ii) would seem to be the only cases in which we should accept outsiders; the rest must be all well tried, loyal Party workers who may have stood by us over the years.

(e) I am enclosing a draft for Rs.1000/- for your tour

expenses. And I am instructing Raju to send you a similar sum in the first week of every month commencing from July. I am sorry I cannot send more just at present.

2. Electoral Alliances:

(a) I agree all parties to the "left" of P.S.P. should be ruled out. That means S.S.P. must be excluded.

(b) Similarly, I agree we should rule out all Communal Parties including Jana Sangh, because I don't think they will accept our condition not to contest against "our best" 25 or 30. They are most unreliable; where they agree not to contest, their local organisations go out of control and support "independents".

(c) As regards BKD, now that Ajay Mukerjee is out and it is plain that they will have no truck with the "United Front" in West Bengal, we should certainly strive our utmost to come to a very close understanding with BKD, especially in U.P. where Ch. Charan Singh is their leader. In order to indicate to you the extent to which we are prepared to go in this direction I enclose a copy of a Confidential note which I recorded after Prof. Ranga and I had a long discussion with Ch. Charan Singh on 15th June at Delhi as he could not go down to Madras. You will note from this that

- (i) We have for the present ruled out his proposal to merge the Swatantra, BKD, PSP and other parties to form a new Party;
- (ii) He has for the present ruled out our proposal that BKD should merge into the Swatantra Party;
- (iii) We are all impressed by the possibility of working together in close alliance (as in the case of the Swatantra and Jana Congress alliance in Orissa).

So, that is where the matter stands for the present. And you are free to pursue the matter further along the lines indicated in (iii) above.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh,
17, Gokhale Marg,
LUCKNOW.

(N. Dandekar.)

- P.S.
- 1. The Districts which Giriraj Saran Singh intends to tour are Agra, Mathura, Bulandshah, Aligarh and Meerut.
 - 2. The five Assembly Constituencies included within his (Mathura) Parliamentary Constituency are Mathura, Mat, Chatta, Govardhan (R) and Gokul.

Copy to: Mr. Ram Singh,
Kanpur.
" " : Mr. S.V. Raju,
SPC, Bombay.