

Swatantra Party

PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE

PHONE : 31688

5385



53, North Avenue,
NEW DELHI-1.

June 6, 1968

My dear Mr. Masani,

Handwritten: anxiously
Thank you for your letter of the 4th June, 1968. I have been following with ~~interest~~ proceedings of our recent meetings at Madras. Press reports in the national dailies but for your press conference were very sketchy. It is obvious that the stalemate still continues as the National executive thought it fit ^{not} to alter its stand about the Gujarat affair which it took during its earlier meetings in Delhi.

I am enclosing herewith for your information a copy of the Prime Minister's reply to our letter regarding the draft Approach to the Fourth Plan. As you must have known, after a detailed discussion, the Party decided to boycott the meeting the Prime Minister had called to discuss the draft Fourth Plan. A copy of the letter written by Prof. Ranga on behalf of the Party is also enclosed herewith for your information.

Handwritten: proposed
I am told by Lala Jagat Narain, former Member of the Rajya Sabha, that Bhanu Pratap Singh attended the meeting of the BKD executive on the 4th. Amongst other things, he said that Rajaji is in favour of merger of BKD with the Swatantra Party. The members of the BKD executive discussed this matter in detail amongst themselves for over two hours and finally decided to send Shri Charan Singh, former Chief Minister of U.P., to Madras to meet Rajajee and have a detailed discussion with a view to assess the implications of such an initiative on our party. I don't know to what extent Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh was authorised by Rajaji to convey such an initiative of ours to the BKD executive. In any case, he must have got something from Rajaji, in the absence of which he would not have taken such a step on his own. In this ^{new} alliance they are understood to have included the PSP also.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of A.P. Jain
(A.P. Jain)

Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P.
148 Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay.