

Swatantra Party

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

PHONE 251424

GRAMS: SURAJYAM



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

When replying, please quote our Ref. No. _____

General Secretary's Letter No. 223

February 23, 1970

Dear Friend,

Sub : Proposed Abolition of Fundamental Rights to Property
Guaranteed by the Constitution.

General Secretary's Letter No. 215 of November 27, 1969, had given detailed instructions on the steps to be taken by the Party's Units at the various levels to combat the proposal of the ruling Congress Party to water down the Fundamental Right relating to property guaranteed in our Constitution.

Since then, the Ruling Party has intensified its efforts in this direction and in the context of the Supreme Court's Judgement on Bank Nationalisation, is now trying to steamroller, during the current Budget Session of Parliament, Mr. Nath Pai's ill-advised bill to restore to Parliament the right to amend any part of the Constitution including the chapter on Fundamental Rights.

This makes it doubly urgent for our Party to intensify its efforts in educating the people particularly the villagers in the rural areas and industrial workers in the urban areas on the implications of the above proposals. The time available is very short and our Units at the State, District and Primary levels must take this on hand immediately and organise protest in the various ways outlined in General Secretary's Letter No. 215.

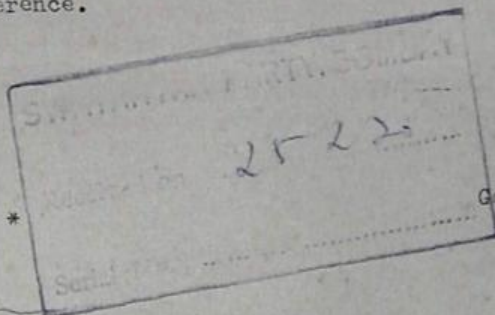
In addition to the talking points mentioned in that Circular, one point that should be added is the fact that it is the Swatantra Party alone that has come out openly and unequivocally in defence of the rights of the common man at a time when the ruling party, in collusion with the communist parties and the unwitting cooperation of other misguided democratic Opposition Parties, is trying to do its best to destroy the rights of our people and our country's hard won freedom.

* An extra copy of General Secretary's Letter No. 215 and a Press
* Statement that has just been issued are enclosed herewith for your ready reference.

Yours sincerely,

R. C. Cooper
(R. C. Cooper)
General Secretary

Encl : * *



November 27, 1969

Sub: Abolition of Property Rights under the
Constitution - effect on small farmers
and shop-keepers in rural areas.

Dear Friend,

The newly formed Congress Party (Marxist) of Smt. Indira Gandhi has started a very dangerous move for amendment of the Indian Constitution to remove the fundamental right to property. Already 50 members of her Party have tabled a resolution calling for abolition of the fundamental right to property at the forthcoming Congress (Marxist) Plenary session in Bombay.

Smt. Indira Gandhi's newly formed Congress Party (Marxist) is clearly communist-dominated and controlled. Even its new Working Committee consists of members who were till recently members of the Communist Party.

What Does Abolition of Right to Property Mean?

The proposed amendment of the Constitution to abolish fundamental rights to property will have the very serious effect of depriving the small farmer of his land and the small shopkeeper of his business without payment of adequate (if any) compensation. It will mean that the small farmer will be deprived of his land and become a landless labourer. The small shopkeeper in the village will be deprived of his shop which would then belong to the Government and he will become an employee. In both cases the Government will not be liable to pay adequate compensation.

What Can Swatantra Party Do In This Matter?

It is the duty of every member and worker of the Swatantra Party to immediately start educating people in rural areas against this most dangerous move on the part of the followers of Smt. Indira Gandhi to deprive the poor farmers and small shopkeepers, in millions of India's villages, of their small but hard earned lands and properties. It is the duty of every State, District and Primary Unit of the Swatantra Party to organise the members and the workers of the Party to start the process of education of India's crores of villagers and rural folk.

How Can Swatantra Party Start Implementing This?

The task of educating crores of Indian villagers is formidable. It is the duty of every State, District and Primary Unit of the Swatantra Party to organise the members and workers of the Party to start the process of education of India's crores of villagers and rural folk.

It is suggested that following steps should be taken immediately:

1. State and District Units should immediately translate this Circular in their own regional language.
2. Cyclostyled or printed copies, in the regional languages, should be distributed in sufficient quantities to primary units in every rural area of your State.
3. Primary Units, Members of Swatantra Party and workers in rural areas should be instructed to use these regional language circulars as speaking points in the process of educating the small farmer and the small shopkeeper in the village.

4. A series of public meetings, small group discussions and individual dialogue should be started with self-employed farmers, shopkeepers, etc., in rural areas, to awaken them to the threat posed by Smt. Indira Gandhi's (Marxist) Congress Party and other Communist Parties and mobilise their support to build up a movement to prevent such an amendment to the Constitution which will permanently and finally destroy the last vestige of democracy in this country.
5. Kisan Morchas should be organised throughout the countryside.
6. Millions of villagers should be asked to write calling up their local MPs and legislators to oppose such a move, at the same time, a signature campaign should be organised addressed to the President of India.

How to Finance This Scheme?

It is suggested that funds should be locally collected in each area for financing this scheme. If Party Workers were to approach individual farmers and shopkeepers in villages, they will readily donate small sums of money to safeguard their own rights. The larger farmers and more well-to-do in the villages should be persuaded to donate larger amounts of money.

This self-financing process for Party work will have the following advantages :

1. The individual farmers and villagers will realise that the Party has their interest at heart and is working for it.
2. It will develop closer contact between the members of the Swatantra Party and the public in rural areas.

What are the main speaking points to be used for this process of education?

1. The newly formed political party of Smt. Indira Gandhi is admittedly a Marxist Congress Party.
2. It is Communist-controlled and Communist-dominated.
3. It is calculated to bring communism into the country through the back door.
4. The leaders of this new Party have alliances with the various Communist Parties who are out to destroy Indian democracy.
5. Members of the Working Committee of the new Congress Party consist of people who, till recently, were members of Communist Party. These people have joined the new Congress (Marxist) Party as infiltrators to destroy democracy.
6. Immediately on its formation the new Congress (Marxist) Party of Smt. Indira Gandhi has started the move for abolition of fundamental rights to property which means :
 - a) depriving the small farmer of his land,
 - b) depriving the small village shop-keeper of his business,
 - c) making the small shop-keeper a government employee,
 - d) denying the farmer adequate compensation for his land when taken away by the government, and
 - e) denying the small village shop-keeper of adequate compensation for the business when taken away by the Government.

7. Do not support or vote for a Party which wants to take away your lands, shops and businesses.
8. It should be made absolutely clear in every single case that the Swatantra Party does not stand for promoting big business and making the rich richer. On the other hand, it is the Congress Party which has by its policies of permit-license promoted big business and enabled the rich to become richer.
9. The Swatantra Party believes fundamentally in "Social Justice" which means
 - (a) protection of the small farmer and the small village shop-keeper,
 - (b) improving the standard of living of the downtrodden and the weak,
 - (c) protecting Indian democracy and
 - (d) fighting any attempt on the part of the Communist and other like-minded people to destroy democracy in India and to make every Indian a servant of the State.

Report to the National Headquarters :

The National Headquarters is certain that every State, Regional, District and Primary Unit of the Party, as well as every member of the Swatantra Party and every Worker, will respond to this formidable challenge and start working immediately.

It is suggested that reports be sent by the State Units of the action taken in this matter and the extent to which it is implemented at every level within the State.

If any further guidance or assistance is required in this matter, the State Unit is requested to contact immediately the National Headquarters.

"PROTECT THE SMALL FARMER & SMALL SHOPKEEPER DAY"

Organise a "Protect the Small Farmer and Small Shop Keeper Day". Among other things, your State Unit is requested to select a suitable date on which public meetings and processions should be organised by various units throughout your State to agitate this matter and oppose the move to amend the Constitution to abolish the fundamental right to property. On that day a tremendous effort should be made throughout the State to focus attention on this most dangerous move on the part of the followers of Smt. Indira Gandhi to bring in the Communist era in India.

Yours truly,

(R. C. Cooper)
Acting General Secretary

Swatantra Party

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

PHONE 251424

GRAMS: SURAJYAM



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

When replying, please quote our Ref. No. _____

For Favour of Publication

Bombay, February 23, 1970

Dr. R. C. Cooper, General Secretary, Swatantra Party, has issued the following statement to the Press :

TWIN BOGEYS REVIVED

" With the commencement of the Budget Session of Parliament, the Ruling Congress has revived the twin bogeys viz.,

- (a) Mr. Nath Pai's Bill seeking to restore to Parliament the right to amend any part of the Constitution, including Fundamental Rights; and
- (b) removal of the Fundamental Right to Property.

There appears to be a widespread misconception that the term "Property" refers only to the wealth or landed properties of the rich or the Privy Purses of the Princes. The term "Property" includes the small farm of the poor cultivator, the small village shop, the tenancy rights of the ryot, the provident fund of the peon, the life insurance policy however small in value of an individual, and the personal utensils of the poorest family.

The common man has much more to lose if his Fundamental Right to Property is taken away than the Big Industrialist or the wealthy person.

In many communist countries, in the absence of the Fundamental Right to Property, small men, like individual taxi-owners have been deprived of their cars and rikshawallas of their rikshaws and have ended up as slaves of a totalitarian regime.

It is significant that except for the Swatantra Party, which is championing the cause of the preservation of Fundamental Right guaranteed under the Constitution, no other democratic Opposition party has taken a categorical stand on this important issue affecting the entire population, nor do they appear to have realised the danger to the democratic way of life inherent in the proposal to destroy this fundamental right. "

Not To Be Published :

(S. V. Raju)
Executive Secretary