

Swatantra Party

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS (Southern Region)

Dr. H. V. Hande, M. L. A.,
ALL INDIA JOINT SECRETARY

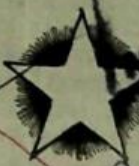
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15 APR 1971

Phone: 41553

B. NATHAN MINDA 100 STREET

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12.4.1971.

Dear Sri. Masani,

Amidst the needless gloom pervading the ranks of the opposition, the only pleasant news I can give you from this end is the fact that I have been returned to the Assembly from my old Constituency with a much more comfortable margin than last time. Five more members of our party have also been returned to the State Assembly and I am heading this six member Swatantra group. We have already begun to give a fairly good account of ourselves and we have also planned to organise into a well knit unit on scientific lines.

I was shocked like many of my friends to hear about your resignation from the presidency of the party. I am still hopeful that you may withdraw your resignation because I feel that you could do much better organisational work now than ever before especially because you are no longer burdened with parliamentary work. Your main disability all these days lay in the fact that you were never able to go to the various districts and move closely with the rank and file of the party. Invariably you used to meet a few of them from a distance either in the General Council or in a Conference. I feel that you can make amends now, because you can fully concentrate on the organisation. Slowly and steadily "Indira Glamour" is bound to wear off just as the "Nehru glamour" disappeared within a decade from 1952. Almost all the opposition parties have also been practically decimated from the Indian scene; the only silver lining is the Swatantra Party. We are still existing though in an attenuated shape. I am sure we will be able to encash the disillusionment of the people in the years to come. Therefore any talk that we should wind up, is in my view a disservice to the country, especially in the context of our not seeing any bright future for Cong-O either. All that we need do right now is to give a new orientation to our party - say a labour slant by beginning to talk for a change about labour and the have nots, instead of constantly harping on Privy purse, Bank nationalisation and Fundamental rights. A hungry unemployed man without a shelter would never be interested in these things. It would also be easier for a Swatantra candidate to get votes if he is to go to the people without the millstone of--Richman's party--Princes' spokesman--representative of capitalists--around his neck. Don't you think the party is entitled to remove these heavy weights off his head and give him a fair chance to compete with a rival

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who has a number of advantages to his credit without even deserving them. Unless a Swatantra candidate is "Cleansed" of the various mud slinging which has unfortunately stuck, he has very little chance in the future elections. I am confident that if a massive and positive effort is made in this direction there is a very bright chance of giving a new look and life to the party ^{and} it may become the main opposition to new congress within another five years. This new look may also help the party's candidates in the '72 Assembly poll in many States. You know very well that I have always been saying these things, but I am saying the same thing now with greater conviction and also probably with greater clarity. I hope you will give serious conversation to my suggestions.

I am attending the National executive and General Council meetings starting from 16th morning. I am arriving by the Madras-Bombay Mail train on 16th morning.

Dear Dr. Cooper, This is the copy of my letter to Mr. M.R. Masani our President. I shall be thankful if you also read this carefully.

Yours sincerely,

J.V. Hande
(H.V. HANDE).

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Swatantra Party Address

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