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SRI GHASIRAM MAJHI
GENERAL SECRETARY
SWATANTRA PARTY

(ORISSA UNIT)

No. 45.11.10.4



934

BHUBANESWAR-1

Date... 7th April '74

Respected Masani Jee,

You must have been aware of our party's d
debacle in the last mid-term election to Orissa Assembly.
Even our sure seats have been lost to Congress-R .

I was also over confident of my success in the election
from the Nawapara Constituency ; but unfortunately I
was defeated by 1600 votes. The reasons for the debacle
are as follows :-

1. Distribution of huge amount of money, clothes, liquor, rice vanaspati, amul and other essential commodities by Congress-R even by central Ministers to purchase votes.
2. Land allurement propaganda among the Adivasis and Harijana.
3. Threat, intimidation, resorting to violence by Congress goondas with lathi, Arms, ammunitions, hand bombs etc.
4. Advancing and deferring the date of poll by two days than fixed date of poll i.e. 24th Feb. '74.
5. Plying of large number of vehicles for carrying voters to the polling stations.
6. Frequent visit of Prime Minister, Central Ministers and other State Ministers and holding out threat of stoppage of development aid to state from the Centre if Congress was not returned to power.

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7. Spurious votings through the polling and presiding officers and thus misuse of administrative machinery.

The Above are the reasons for congress victory and our defeat.

The democracy has become a monkery. Free and fair election has become meaningless . On the 1st April, the Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi while addressing the Congress M.L.As. and M.Ps. in the Raj Bhavan , Bhubaneswar, said- "I am prepared to face thousand and one elections. From all these , it is quite clear , what her intention is ; it is a fact that , We in the opposition cannot successfully fight the election in future, nor can compete with Congress-R, in money, vehicles and goondaism. Neither can we give false promises to the people like congress-R . In the circumstances , what should we do ? and how to survive is a big question before us. Sometimes I think , we ~~we~~ should remain aloof from elections and allow the Congress-R to have their one party rule since I see no possibility in the near future, of all the opposition parties getting together and give a successful challenge to Congress-R. Being frustrated , we have been demoralised .

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Therefore, will you kindly advise as to what should we do at the present juncture. If you won't come forward, I apprehend, the party will not survive.

Anxiously waiting for your reply.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

G.R. Majhi
7.4.74

(G.R. Majhi)
GENERAL SECRETARY

Mr. M. R. Masani,