

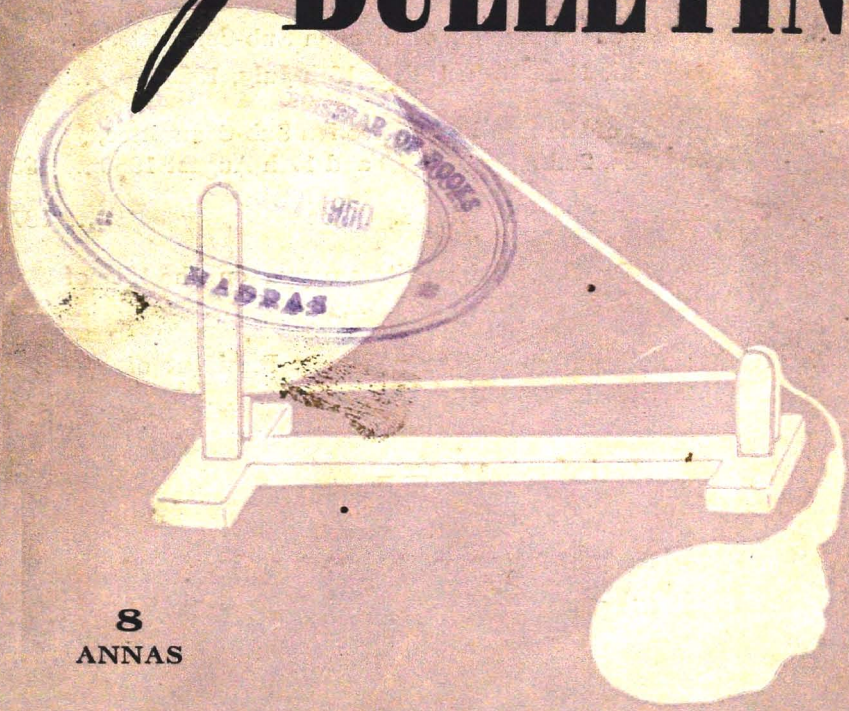
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Congress BULLETIN



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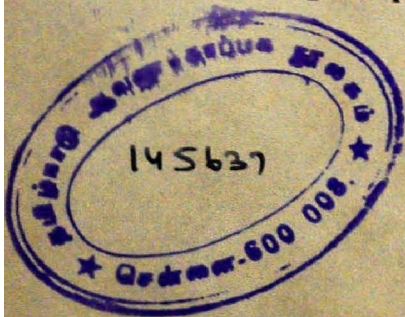
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CONGRESS BULLETIN



No. 5]

1950

[JULY-AUG.

Proceedings of the Meeting of WORKING COMMITTEE

New Delhi—12th and 13th July, 1950.

The Working Committee met at Maulana Azad's residence at 8-30 a.m. on 12th July 1950. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya presided. The following members were present:

1. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya,
 2. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru,
 3. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
 4. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad,
 5. Dr. P. C. Ghosh,
 6. Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai,
 7. Sardar Pratap Singh,
 8. Shri Debeshwar Sharmah,
 9. Prof. N. G. Ranga,
 10. Shri Ram Sahay,
 11. Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt,
 12. Shri Kamaraj Nadar,
 13. Shri S. K. Patil,
 14. Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant,
 15. Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani,
 16. Shri Shankarrao Deo,
- and 17. Shri Kala Venkata Rao.



Shri Hare Krishna Mehtab was present by special invitation.

Proceedings of the last meeting were confirmed.

The Working Committee decided that the election of the Congress President be held on 26th August 1950. 12th and 13th September were fixed as the dates for the 56th Session of the Indian National Congress at Nasik.

The Working Committee adopted the following resolution:

Any member of the Congress seeking redress in law courts in matters relating to elections within the Congress Organisation, shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Congress.

In regard to proceedings already started, Congressmen who have filed such suits or petitions are given one week from the date hereof within which to withdraw them. The above rule will take effect in their cases also after the week has lapsed.

The Working Committee resolved that in the case of Bengal, Andhra and Rajasthan, re-election of primary panchayats as well as delegates should be held, provided the representative or representatives sent in this behalf by the Working Committee held that such re-elections should be held.

In the case of Mahakoshal the Election Sub-Committee was authorised to deal with the disputes on these lines.

The following representatives of the Working Committee would be in exclusive charge of this task:

1. Shri Bishwanath Das, Prof. Asrani (Banaras Hindu University), and Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt—Bengal
2. Shri S. K. Patil—Andhra
3. Sardar Pratap Singh—Rajasthan
- and 4. Shri Ram Sahay—Mahakoshal.

The representatives shall have the right, wherever necessary, to re-open the decisions of the tribunals (district and provincial).

The auditor's report for the year ending 30th September 1950, was approved. (It has to be circulated to A.I.C.C.)

The A.I.V.I.A., A.I.S.A. and the Talimi Sangh were created autonomous bodies by the resolutions of the Congress Working Committee under Gandhiji's leadership and their programmes formed an essential part of the freedom movement under the auspices of the Congress. In the changed circumstances, it is necessary to review the policies and programmes of these institutions in order to define clearly their place in the programme of economic reconstruction of the Congress. The Working Committee, therefore, appointed a Sub-Committee of (1) Shri

Shankarrao Deo, (2) Dr. P. C. Ghosh and (3) Shri Hare Krishna Mehtab, to get in touch with these institutions and report to the Working Committee.*

The Committee decided (a) that ex-presidents of the Mysore State Congress, before Mysore was given affiliation with the status of a P.C.C., cannot be *ex-officio* delegates in terms of the Congress Constitution, and (b) that ex-presidents of the Provincial Congress Committees affected by partition can become *ex-officio* delegates in that province in which they reside now.

The Committee considered the Karnatak P.C.C.'s request regarding enrolment of effective members at this stage, and decided that they could be enrolled but should not partake in the present series of Congress elections.

Regarding Bihar P.C.C.'s representation about socialists who have re-joined the Congress, it was decided that they might be allowed to stand as candidates in Congress bye-elections.

The Committee noted the Karnatak P.C.C.'s resolution regarding Mysore.

It was decided that the Reception Committee of the Jaipur session should be asked to submit accounts at an early date.

The Committee requested the President to decide on the disciplinary action against Shri Durga Prasad Choudhuri of Ajmer, and decided that the Kerala P.C.C. might take action, if it liked, against Shri Kelappan.

Permits and Licences* by Congressmen came for discussion. The position taken in the resolution of Presidents and Secretaries Conference was accepted.

The Working Committee met again at Maulana Azad's residence on 13th July, 1950, at 8-30 a.m. All those members who were present on the previous day attended the meeting.

The Committee considered Shri Prajapati Misra's letter regarding the restoration of Sathi Lands and the fact that Shri Prajapati Misra spent some money on the land, it felt

*This is in clarification of the decision taken at the meeting. This was circulated by the A. I. C. C. office on 19th July, 1950.

that Shri Misra must surrender the whole land to the State and that the State should make arrangements to recompense, in cash or in kind, an equivalent of the money spent by Shri Prajapati Misra in improving the land etc. assigned to him.

The Committee decided that appeals pending in the Calcutta High Court might be continued if the original suits were not withdrawn. Wherever the General Secretary was impleaded as a defendant, he could depute someone and contest the suits if they were not withdrawn.

The Committee decided to send Shri Shankarrao Deo's note on the working of the Delhi Pact on refugee rehabilitation and to refer Shri Debeshwar Sharmah's note to the Central Cabinet.

The Committee discussed the international situation with particular reference to Korea.

The Committee considered Shri Bishwanath Das's letter expressing his inability to proceed to Bengal, and authorised the Election Sub-Committee to find a substitute.

The Working Committee also decided that expenses in connection with the visit of the special representatives and also expenses for conduct of elections according to their direction should be borne by the concerned Provinces.

The general organisational position of the Congress was also discussed. It was decided that it might be gone into in detail by the new Working Committee.

Proceedings of the Meeting of WORKING COMMITTEE

New Delhi—16th August 1950.

The Working Committee met on Wednesday, the 16th August, 1950 at 4 p.m. at Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's residence. The following members were present:

1. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
2. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
3. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
4. Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai
5. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
6. Shri Jagjiwan Ram
7. Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani
8. Shri S. K. Patil
9. Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt
- and 10. Shri Kala Venkata Rao.

1. (a) The Committee considered the letter from the Reception Committee, Nasik, regarding the dates for the ensuing Congress Session. The following dates were finally fixed.

16th and 17th September—Working Committee

18th and 19th September—Subjects Committee

20th and 21st September—Open Session.

(b) The Committee also considered a request from Seth Govind Das regarding the date of the Congress Presidential election and decided that the election should be held on 29th August, 1950, instead of 27th August, 1950, in view of *Raksha Bandhan*.

2. The Committee approved of Circular No. 54 regarding the election of the President.

3. The Committee decided that the election of provincial presidents should be held in those provinces where more than $\frac{2}{3}$ (two-third) of the total number of delegates have been elected.

4. The Committee decided that the number of A.I.C.C. members to be elected should be according to clause 10 (a) of the Congress Constitution i.e. $\frac{1}{8}$ (one-eighth) of the number of dele-

gates declared elected in the province by 29th August, 1950. However, in those provinces whose total number of delegates to be returned is less than 40, they will be entitled to elect 5 A.I.C.C. members.

5. The Committee reviewed the progress of elections in Andhra, Bengal, Rajasthan, Vidarbha and Uttar Pradesh. The Committee decided to draw the attention of all whom it may concern to article 9 (i) of the Congress Constitution which reads as follows:

"The province which has not completed the election of delegates on or before the date appointed by the Working Committee, may at the discretion of the Working Committee be disentitled to be represented at the Congress Session."

6. The Committee fixed the following affiliation fees:

Karnatak P.C.C.—Rs. 1,000/-

Mysore State Congress—Rs. 1,000/-

The Committee then adjourned *sine die*.

Proceedings of the Meeting of ELECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

New Delhi—18th and 19th June, 1950

The Election Sub-Committee met on the 18th and 19th June, 1950. The following were present:

1. Shri Shankarrao Deo
2. Shri Kala Venkata Rao
- and 3. Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt—by special invitation.

Andhra

The Committee considered the stay orders given by the Congress President in the 16 places in Andhra Desha. The Committee requested Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt to consider the complaints received from these places and review his earlier decisions wherever necessary.

Allahabad

The Committee heard the deputation from Allahabad. It was brought to the notice of the Committee that U.P. Provincial Congress Committee had appointed Shri Gopinath Dixit of Etawah to go into certain complaints regarding Primary Congress Panchayat elections at Allahabad. It was decided that the P.C.C. might be requested to include the complaints submitted by the deputationists in the scope of enquiry of Shri Dixit. The deputationists further said that elections in certain panchayats were not over. There were complaints against the returning officer also. The Committee decided to refer all these points to U.P.P.C.C. and stay the delegate elections.

Shaharanpur

In their reply to the enquiry report of Shri P. R. Chakraverti, the P.C.C. had written that the matter was before the Tribunal. It was decided to postpone the delegate elections in Shaharanpur, till the decision was given by the Tribunal on the complaints already filed.

Wardha

The Committee decided that elections in Hamdapur Tehsil of Wardha should be declared invalid as the polling had been incomplete and improper.

Himachal

The Committee considered the representation of Shri Satyadev regarding elections in Himachal and decided not to entertain the complaints, as no specific cases were mentioned in the representation.

Bilaspur

The Committee considered the representation from Shri Y. P. Srivastava regarding change in the personnel of District Tribunal of Bilaspur, and decided to refer the matter to Mahakoshal P.C.C. and to stay the delegate election meanwhile.

Uttar Pradesh

Returning Officers for delegate elections in U.P.—Lists approved.

The Committee rejected Shri Satya Charan's appeal for being allowed to be enrolled as Congress member now.

Coorg

The Committee decided to refer the representation from Coorg to the local Tribunal.

Madhya Bharat

The Committee decided that Shri Gopi Krishna Vijayavargiya and Shri Kanahiyalal Khadiwala would be ex-officio delegates in Madhya Bharat P.C.C., as they fulfilled the conditions laid down in the Congress Constitution.

Vidarbha

It was resolved that Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt who had already been deputed as A.I.C.C. observer to Vidarbha, be authorised with full powers of the Election Sub-Committee to deal with items one to five (1 to 5) in the proceedings of the Election Sub-Committee dated 13th June, 1950 and further to appoint returning officers for the conduct of delegate elections and to discharge any other function related to this. The Committee

learned that at the time of the first visit of Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt, conciliation machinery consisting of Shri Wamanrao Joshi and Shri Brij Lal Biyani was created to go into any points of difference that might have arisen in the conduct of Primary Panchayat elections. If any cases of disputes were not referred to or settled by Shri Wamanrao Joshi and Shri Brij Lal Biyani, such matters should be gone into by Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt with final powers of settlement.

Rajasthan

The Committee considered the report of Shri R. C. Pande. It was decided that a representative of the A.I.C.C. be sent to Rajasthan to enquire into the election complaints with full authority to decide them. The A.I.C.C. representative should also go into the cases of Khetri Tehsil and Jhunjhunu District.

It was decided that permission for delegate election should be given only to those districts where lists of effective members and lists of panchayatdars were ready. At least five days' time should lapse between the finalisation of the above lists and the delegate elections. This point and the dates for delegate elections should be finalised by A.I.C.C. representative. He would also appoint the returning officers for delegate elections.

As any effective member could stand for delegate election from anywhere in the province, it was decided that people desiring to stand from other districts than their own should be given certificates that they were enrolled at such and such a district and no bar should be placed in this matter.

Hazaribagh

Delegate elections to be stopped till orders were issued by Sri Kala Venkata Rao.

Pepsu

It was decided to refer Pepsu's complaints to Shri Ram Sahay for final disposal at Delhi or, if he thought necessary, at Patiala.

General

Except in the case of Guntur District, where exceptional circumstances prevailed, no returning officer should be permitted to stand as a candidate for delegate election in any province.

Proceedings of the Meeting of ELECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

New Delhi—11th July, 1950

The Election Sub-Committee met at Shri Shankarrao Deo's residence on Tuesday, the 11th July at 9 a.m. The following were present:

1. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
2. Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani
3. Shri Shankarrao Deo
4. Shri Kala Venkata Rao
5. Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt } (by invitation)
- and 6. Shri Ram Sahay }

The Committee reviewed the conduct of Primary Congress Panchayats and Delegate elections all over India.

The Election Committee recommended to the Working Committee that in the case of Bengal, Andhra and Rajasthan, re-election of Primary Panchayats as well as delegates, should be held provided the representative or representatives to be sent in this behalf by the Working Committee held that such elections should be held.

In the case of Mahakoshal, the Sub-Committee decided that representatives of the Provincial Congress Committee might be sent for and heard along with the complaints.

The Committee considered a representation from Saharanpur and decided to stay the delegates election to be held there on 12th July, 1950.



A meeting of the Election Sub-Committee was held at the A.I.C.C. Office at 5 p.m. on the 13th July 1950. Those present were:

1. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
2. Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani
3. Shri Shankarrao Deo

4. Shri Kala Venkata Rao
 5. Shri S. K. Patil
 6. Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt
 7. Shri Ram Sahay
 and 8. Shri Pratap Singh
- } (by invitation)

The Committee considered the Working Committee resolution regarding Bengal, Andhra and Rajasthan. The following decisions were taken:

(a) All the previous decisions of the Election Sub-Committee should be honoured by the special representatives.

(b) All elections including delegate elections in these provinces should be completed before the 18th of August 1950, so that these delegates who would be elected, could partake the Congress President's election on 26th August, 1950.

(c) Primary and Delegate constituencies as approved by the A.I.C.C. should not be disturbed. Regarding membership disputes, the decision of the Sub-Committee on 29th March, 1950 stood.

(d) The special representatives were empowered to remove any returning officer if he misbehaves or had misbehaved in the opinion of the special representative or did not carry out the orders of the special representatives.

(e) Wherever there was or had been agreement between different Congress Committees (P.C.C., D.C.C., T.C.C.) regarding membership lists, primary Congress constituencies, appointment of returning officers and polling officers, the agreements might be honoured. Else, the decision of the special representative was final.

(f) Wherever re-election was ordered it would mean that fresh nominations were to be invited and polling held, if necessary.

(g) Since these representatives have been put in exclusive charge of election work in the concerned provinces, the P.C.C. should not interfere in the work. The P.C.C. should not postpone or stay elections or otherwise interfere with any election or appoint any returning officer or polling officers by themselves except under the orders of the special representatives.

All challenged votes cast at the time of polling have to be counted.

The Committee decided to refer to the Provincial Election Tribunal complaints regarding the bifurcation of plural delegate constituencies in Andhra and the decision of the Tribunal be final. In other cases 1946 constituencies only stood and should not be disturbed.

On the request of Sardar Pratap Singh, Shri Ram Sahay was requested to review his decisions regarding PEPSU.

The Committee heard representatives of the P.C.C. from Mahakoshal and the complaints from Hoshangabad, Narsingpur, Chhindwara, Raipur and Raigarh districts and decided to depute Shri Ram Sahay to Mahakoshal as a special representative.

The following further decisions regarding Mahakoshal were taken:

Hoshangabad

Complaints were received that number of panchayatdars elected from Hoshangabad district was in excess of the number to which such panchayat was entitled to in terms of the rules framed by the A.I.C.C. The Election Sub-Committee directed that the number of panchayatdars to each panchayat constituency should be in conformity with the rules. As such the elections held to such panchayats where the allocated number of seats was according to rules were deemed to be valid. As for the others, opportunity should be given for withdrawals by those who were elected in excess of requirements. Where the number of panchayatdars elected even then remained in excess of requirements re-elections should be held in these places immediately. Shri Ram Sahay should supervise such elections and could change or appoint returning officers and polling officers.

Bilaspur

It was alleged that the District Tribunal of Bilaspur was arbitrarily changed by the P.C.C. and a new tribunal had been appointed and that the new Tribunal had set aside certain elections to panchayats. If this was proved a fact, then all orders given by the newly constituted tribunal of the P.C.C. would be held invalid. If Shri Ram Sahay found that there was no proper tribunal, the D.C.C. should be asked to suggest a panel according to the Constitution. However the further stages of election should be completed.

Narsingpur

The candidature of Shri Niranjan Singh was held valid. The Election Sub-Committee disapproved of the action of the Mahakoshal P.C.C. in having framed new rules in addition to

those framed by the A.I.C.C. without getting their previous sanction. The present returning officer at Narsingpur might be replaced if Shri Ram Sahay so felt.

Chhindwara

The P.C.C. admitted that in two places the returning officers of the same area were appointed and had functioned. The appointment of these returning officers was against the rules and if Shri Ram Sahayji felt it necessary he might order their removal and appoint new returning officers and conduct fresh elections. There were other complaints also from this district which Shri Ram Sahayji should go into in detail and give suitable decisions.

Besides the districts mentioned above, complaints had been brought to the notice of the A.I.C.C. from Dongargarh, Raigarh and Raipur Districts. Shri Ram Sahayji was authorised to go into these complaints and do the needful.

A meeting of the Election Sub-Committee was held in the A.I.C.C. office on 14th July 1950 at 11 a.m. The following members were present:

1. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
2. Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani
- and 3. Shri Kala Venkata Rao.

The Committee considered the representation of Raja of Ramgarh and the report of Shri Bhag Ram Sharma who was deputed to go to Hazaribagh to implement the findings of Shri Kala Venkata Rao. The Committee decided that re-elections should be held in the thanas of Badkegaon and Jori where the returning officers, Shri Ranbijoy Singh and Shri Ranbir Singh, were arbitrarily changed by the Hazaribagh D.C.C. In addition to this, re-polling should be held in those primary panchayats where it may be necessitated due to the restoration of 23 nomination forms by Shri Bhag Ram Sharma. Shri Ram Charan Pande was appointed to supervise all these elections in Hazaribagh.

The Committee met the complainants from Nagpur, Wardha, Gondia, Hinganghat Tehsils under the Nagpur P.C.C. The following decisions were taken:

Nagpur and Wardha— In these two places delegate elections to be supervised by Shriman Narain Agarwal, of Wardha and the elections should be held at once.

Gondia— Re-elections should be held in two delegate constituencies—Amgaon and Kati Kamtha. A member of the Tribunal, Shri Sohanlal Misra, who, even if he had resigned should not stand as a delegate.

Hinganghat— It was represented that the votes in this constituency were counted within the ballot box and that the returning officer had written two letters admitting this fact. The above facts were to be ascertained from the Nagpur P.C.C. and if they were true, re-election had to be held.

The Committee met complainants from Etah, and decided that Prof. Asrani's report should be immediately called for from the P.C.C.

The Committee considered the representation from Bulandshahr and decided that the U.P.P.C.C. should be asked to explain in detail their orders regarding Bulandshahr.

The Committee heard Shri Babu Dayal Sharma of Gurgaon regarding non-acceptance of membership forms by the D.C.C. The Committee decided that it was not possible to interfere at this stage and that Shri Babu Dayal should seek redress from the Punjab Provincial Election Tribunal.

The Committee considered Shri Adityan's representation and decided that a report should be called from the Provincial Election Tribunal.

The Committee decided that the members of Election Tribunals and Credentials Committees, even if they resigned now or earlier, should not stand for elections in the present stage and that if anybody had stood so and was declared elected, his seat should be declared vacant and a bye-election should be held.

No nomination of any candidate should be rejected simply on the ground that a notice of disciplinary action was served upon him. To disqualify any candidate, there should be actual disciplinary action against him which was not set aside in appeal. If any P.C.C. took disciplinary action against any person or persons and the party appealed to the A.I.C.C. according to the disciplinary action rules and if the A.I.C.C. granted stay, in those cases such persons were entitled to stand as candidates till such time as their appeals were disallowed. If the period of disciplinary action against any person had lapsed he could also contest any Congress election.

The P.C.Cs might be informed that all the qualified membership forms, lists, and the fees collected therefor should be immediately handed over to the respective District Congress Committees, if they had not done so already.

The Election Sub-Committee met in the A.I.C.C. office on 15th July, 1950 at 8-30 a.m. The following members were present:

1. Dr. B. Pattābhi Sitaramayya
 2. Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani
- and 3. Shri Kala Venkata Rao.

The Committee considered various complaints from U.P. The Committee decided that Dr. S. Kitchlew or, if he could not accept, Shri Mahamaya Prasad might be requested to visit the following places (1) Etah, (2) Saharanpur, (3) Kanpur, (4) Allahabad, (5) Fatehpur. In the case of Etah, Saharanpur and Fatehpur, the representative would go into the complaints and order re-elections, wherever he deemed necessary according to the rules of the Election Sub-Committee. Regarding Kanpur

and Allahabad, he would enquire into the complaints and send his report to the Election Sub-Committee.

There were several representations from Vindhya Pradesh. The Committee considered the report of Shri P. R. Chakraverti and accepted the same. Shri Chakraverti stated in his report that he found no irregularity as far as Primary Congress Panchayat elections were concerned. Regarding the delegate elections, two of the complaints were under enquiry and if on receiving the report it was found that there were irregularities, action would be taken. If the P.C.C. Tribunal was not properly functioning, a fresh Tribunal might be appointed by the President.

Proceedings of the Meeting of ELECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

New Delhi—2nd August, 1950

The Election Sub-Committee met at Shri Jagjiwan Ram's residence on Wednesday, the 2nd August, 1950 at 7 p.m. The following members were present:

1. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
 2. Shri Jagjiwan Ram
 3. Shri Shankarrao Deo
 4. Shri Kala Venkata Rao
- and 5. Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani.

Regarding *Hinghghat*, the reply of Nagpur Provincial Congress Committee and the letter of the returning officer were read out. The Committee decided that the matter should be referred to Shri Shriman Narain Agarwal for enquiry, and authorised him to order re-election if he thought it necessary after enquiring into the matter. Shri S. N. Agarwal might be requested to complete the election if ordered before 18th August, 1950.

The Committee rejected Shri Sohanlal Misra's representation that he be allowed to remain as a delegate since he had resigned from the Nagpur Provincial Election Tribunal in May. The Committee, however, decided that those people who had been elected to election tribunals and credentials committees but refused to serve on these bodies could stand for election.

The Committee considered Shri S. B. Adityan's representation and felt that the district tribunal should count the challenged votes and declare the results at once. It was hoped that the district tribunal would give its decision on the 10th August, failing which the matter might be taken to the provincial tribunal and if there was any difficulty in their taking cognizance of the matter, then it should be brought to the notice of the Congress President for decision.

The Committee considered the representations received from Agra, Gorakhpur and Meerut districts of Uttar Pradesh. It was decided to refer these matters also to Shri Mahamaya

Prasad. In the case of Agra, the Election Committee thought that *prima facie* it was wrong to change the returning officer and the district tribunal in the middle of the conduct of election.

The Committee considered the request of U.P. Provincial Congress Committee for holding elections to all subordinate Committees then itself, and decided that exception could not be made in the case of U.P. and all these elections should be conducted by the new P.C.C. when formed.

The Committee decided that the sitting presidents of the P.C.Cs, who had been presidents for 365 days or more, were eligible to be ex-officio delegates in terms of clause 9 (f) of the Congress Constitution.

The representation of Shri Velayuthan Chettiar was considered and he was advised to file a petition before the Tamilnad Provincial Election Tribunal.

The Committee considered the representation of Bhandara and advised him to file a petition before the Nagpur Provincial Election Tribunal.

Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt, as A.I.C.C. representative in Vidarbha, was requested not to set aside the decisions of tribunals in future. It should be open to parties in this province to approach the tribunals according to the Constitution.

The A.I.C.C. representatives were requested to finish the delegate elections before 18th August, 1950.

A question was raised as to how many A.I.C.C. members were to be elected if the total number of delegates in a province was less than the sanctioned strength. The Committee decided that the number of A.I.C.C. members to be elected should be according to Clause 10 (a) of the Congress Constitution, i.e., one-eighth of the number of delegates declared elected in the province by 26th August, 1950. However, provinces whose total number of delegates returned was less than 40 were entitled to elect 5 A.I.C.C. members.

The Committee decided that the telegram from Shri Niranjan Singh, and other connected matters in Mahakoshal—be referred to Shri Ram Sahay for disposal. The Committee

also considered Shri Ajit Prasad Jain's letter regarding appeal against the decision of a returning officer and decided that appeals could be filed before Congress Tribunals after the result of election was declared.

The Committee decided that no further complaints regarding election disputes should be entertained by the Election Sub-Committee.

The Committee then adjourned.

The Election Sub-Committee met at Shri Jagjiwan Ram's residence on Thursday, the 17th August, 1950, at 6 p.m. The following members were present:

1. Dr. Pattabhi Sifaramayya
 2. Shri Jagjiwan Ram
 3. Shri Kala Venkata Rao
- and 4. Mrs. Kripalani.

1. The Committee considered the enquiry reports on Kanpur, Allahabad and Agra, sent by Shri Mahamaya Prasad and arrived at the following decisions:

| | |
|------------|--|
| Kanpur: | No interference. |
| Allahabad: | Facts about delegate election in which Shri K. D. Malviya and Shri Ganesh Prasad Jaiswal were the candidates, have to be ascertained from the P.C.C. |
| Agra: | Enquiry to be made from the P.C.C. whether some panchayats had been changed during the course of election. |

2. The Committee did not accept the request of Shri Mahamaya Prasad and Shri S. B. Adityan to send observers for P.C.C. Presidential election in Bihar and Tamilnad.

3. Appeal of Shri Vir Lakshmidhand Gupta—Irregularities of the stay order given by the Provincial Tribunal to be brought to their notice.

4. Shri L. N. Kaushik is deputed to supervise the opening of Ballot-Boxes and counting of votes in Saharanpur delegate election.

The Committee then adjourned.

KALA VENKATA RAO,
General Secretary.

19th August 1950.

Circulars Issued from A.I.C.C. Office

Circular No. 51

No. P-24/6378

17th July 1950

To

All Provincial Congress Committees

Dear Friend,

The Congress Working Committee at its last meeting has fixed the 26th August, 1950 as the date for the election of the Congress President. In this connection the following programme has been drawn up:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Nominations | | 8-8-1950 up to 5 p.m. |
| Withdrawals | | 18-8-1950 " " |
| Date of elections | | 26-8-1950 |
| Intimation of results by P.C.Cs | | 27-8-1950 |
| Counting and declaration of results | | 28-8-1950 |

The Working Committee has also fixed 12th and 13th September 1950 as the dates for the 56th Session of the Indian National Congress, at Nasik. The programme would be as follows:

- (i) Meeting of the Working Committee 8th and 9th September.
- (ii) Meeting of the Subjects Committee 10th and 11th September.
- (iii) Open Session of the Congress on 12th and 13th September.

Yours sincerely,
KALA VENKATA RAO,
General Secretary.

*Circular No. 52**P-24/6497**19th July 1950*

To

All Provincial Congress Committees

Dear Friend,

In view of the fact that the Annual Session of the Indian National Congress will be held at Nasik, on 12th September, 1950, election of the President of the Congress will be held according to the following programme:

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Date of nomination | 8-8-1950 before 5 p.m. |
| Date of withdrawal | 18-8-1950 before 5 p.m. |
| Date of election (if there are more than one nomination) | 26-8-1950 |
| Date of intimation of votes by various P.C.C's to the A.I.C.C. | 27-8-1950 |
| Publication of result | 28-8-1950 |

In this connection I wish to invite the attention of the delegates to Article XVI of the Congress Constitution. Delegates who wish to nominate any person can do so according to the terms of Clause (a) of Article XVI which is as follows:

Any ten delegates may jointly send the name of any delegate or ex-President of the Congress duly qualified under Article XI whom they propose to be elected as President of the next Congress Session, so as to reach the General Secretary of the A.I.C.C. on or before a date fixed by the Working Committee.

There is no prescribed form of nomination. Each proposal must be signed by not less than ten delegates. Such a form can be delivered in person, or through messenger or post so as to reach the General Secretary before 5 p.m. on 8th August, 1950. Any number of nomination forms can be filed on behalf of any candidate.

Yours sincerely,
KALA VENKATA RAO,
General Secretary.

*Circular No. 53**P-24/7160**8th August 1950*

The following resolution passed by the Working Committee last year was circulated to all Provincial Congress Committees.

OBSERVATION OF AUGUST 15, 1950

To

All Provincial Congress Committees

"August 15th, the third anniversary of India's attainment of Independence, should be observed with solemn thanksgiving and in a spirit of service to the nation. Provincial Congress Committees should draw up suitable programmes for the day which should be simple and productive of goodwill and co-operation. In particular, this should be a day devoted to the most urgent need of the hour, that is the campaign for increasing food production. Every citizen should do his little bit to this end on that day by—

(1) bringing as much uncultivated land as possible under cultivation,

(2) growing vegetables and other foodstuffs on available land,

and (3) planting fruit trees wherever possible.

The day should be marked by a determination to co-operate together not only for members of the Congress but for all citizens in the great task that confront the nation."

8th August 1950

To

All Provincial Congress Committees

Dear Friend,

Under instructions from the Congress President we are forwarding to you copy of a letter from the Tuberculosis Association of India for your information and necessary action.

Yours sincerely,
M. P. BHARGAVA,
Permanent Secretary

THE TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

20, Talkatora Road,
New Delhi, 1st August 1950

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya,
President,
Indian National Congress,
7, Jantar Mantar Road,
NEW DELHI.

Respected Sir,

You are aware, as an esteemed member of the Central Committee of this Association, that we have decided to organise a Tuberculosis Seals Sale Campaign throughout the Indian Union from October, 1950, upto the end of January, 1951, with a view to collect funds for anti-tuberculosis work and to educate the people that tuberculosis is preventable and that, if necessary precautions are taken, it can be controlled and finally eradicated. The campaign is proposed to be an annual feature of the Association's activities.

The Tuberculosis problem in India today is a major and increasing public health problem. Though reliable statistics regarding morbidity and mortality from tuberculosis are not available, analysis of sample surveys conducted in urban and rural areas by experts show that, on a conservative estimate, over five lakhs of people die every year in India from Tuberculosis and that about 25 lakhs of people are suffering from this disease at any one time. Investigations have also shown that in small mofussil towns the infection rate is nearly as high as in the larger cities, and that though it is less in the villages, it is nevertheless considerable and tending to increase.

This being briefly the size of the problem, we have to concert measures to face it squarely and successfully. Public Health and Tuberculosis Workers all over the world are generally agreed that the raising of the standard of housing conditions, nutrition and personal cleanliness and sanitary practices, together with the raising of the standard of education and general social security, have all contributed a great deal

to the decline in Tuberculosis. The Tuberculosis Association of India as the National Organisation has, during the last decade of its existence, endeavoured, in co-operation with its affiliated associations, to assist in the development of anti-tuberculosis campaign in this country, but its activities could not be enlarged to the extent it was necessary for want of funds. An adequate anti-tuberculosis policy for India should include measures of community welfare, case detection, isolation and treatment of open cases, rehabilitation of patients, and health education and propaganda. The Association, however, has the responsibility to stimulate activities relating, particularly, to research in Tuberculosis, rehabilitation of patients, health education and propaganda.

The Seals Sale Campaign will help the Association to raise money for the Central and the State Tuberculosis Associations and to enlist the support of the people to anti-tuberculosis measures undertaken by these organisations. The Central and State Tuberculosis Associations expect to sell the Seals to as many people in the towns and villages as can be approached.

As the President of the Indian National Congress, you hold the highest office in this country as its most deserving son who had worked, suffered, and sacrificed for the nation. Your prestige and status and your personal influence will contribute tremendously in a campaign like this which has a nation-wide interest. We shall feel highly grateful to you if you will send out instructions to all the Provincial Congress Committees in India to enlist their cooperation in selling Tuberculosis Seals to as large a number of people as can be contacted through the esteemed Congress Workers. Our affiliated associations in States will contact the Provincial Congress Committees for their support.

We trust, we have your blessings in our endeavour to do our mite towards the eradication of this terrific scourge in this country.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) T. S. NAYAR,
Officer on Special Duty.

Circular No. 54

No. P-24/7188

9th August 1950

To

The Presidents of all Provincial Congress Committees

Dear Friend,

I am sending herewith a copy of the Press Note which I issued last night regarding the nomination of candidates who have been duly proposed for the Presidentship of the Indian National Congress. The last date and time for withdrawal will be 18th of August, 1950 5 p.m. After we receive the withdrawals the list of valid nominations will be published in the press and communicated to you. The date for the election of the Congress President in case there is to be a contest will be Sunday the 27th of August, 1950.

I wish to invite your attention to Article XVI of the Congress Constitution. Article XVI (d) reads as follows:

- On the voting paper, which shall include the names of all candidates, the delegates shall show at least three preferences if there are three or more candidates, by writing the figures 1, 2, 3 etc., against the names of the candidates voted for. Delegates may give more than three preferences if they wish to do so. Any voting paper showing less than 3 preferences will be regarded as invalid.

The ballot papers shall have to be printed by the P.C.C., (after the list of valid nomination is published on 18-8-1950) in English or Hindi and the local language in addition, if you so prefer. The form of the ballot paper is attached herewith. The President of the P.C.C. should be the returning officer for the purpose of conducting the election of the President. Voting must be through secret ballot. Necessary arrangements will have to be made to ensure secrecy of voting. The instructions will have to be fully explained to the delegates, when they assemble to give votes.

In case there are more than two candidates, then all the ballot papers should be sealed in one packet before those present in the meeting and should be sent to this office either by Registered Air Mail or through a special messenger so as to reach us at the latest by the 30th of August 1950. They

should not be counted in any way or any indication published. A cloth cover should be used to seal the papers.

If there are only two validly nominated candidates, the ballot papers need not be sent here. Soon after the polling closes the box should be opened in the presence of the delegates and the votes counted by the returning officer and announced. The information as to which candidate secured how many votes should be sent by express telegram to the A.I.C.C. (Tel. address "Congress" New Delhi) and confirmed by an air mail letter at once. The period during which polling should take place should in no case be less than three hours.

Every returning officer should have a list of the delegates of the province typed in English or Hindi and he should also initial against the name of each delegate who has voted. That marked list should be sent to the A.I.C.C. immediately after the polling closes.

The time, date and place of the meeting should be published in the press by the P.C.C. and communicated to each delegate at least a week in advance. If any delegate will be elected in between the date of the issue of notice and the date of election he cannot claim the full notice. If he presents himself at the meeting he can partake in the election.

Yours sincerely,
KALA VENKATA RAO,
General Secretary.

Shri Kala Venkata Rao, the General Secretary of the A.I.C.C. has issued the following Press Note:

The following names have been received duly proposed by the requisite number of delegates for the Presidentship of the next Session of the Indian National Congress:

1. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
2. Acharya J. B. Kripalani
3. Shri Purushottamdas Tandon
4. Shri Shankarrao Deo

5. Shri S. K. Patil
 6. Seth Govind Das
 and 7. Prof. N. G. Ranga.

The last date for receiving withdrawal of names at the A.I.C.C. office is the 18th August, 1950 before 5 p.m.

Dated: 8th August 1950.

.....P.C.C.

Serial No.

ALL-INDIA CONGRESS PRESIDENT'S ELECTION
 (27th August 1950)

BALLOT-PAPER

| S. No. | Name of the Candidates | Order of preferences |
|--------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | | |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| 4. | | |
| 5. | | |
| 6. | | |
| 7. | | |

Note.—On the ballot-paper, the delegates are requested to show in the last column on the order of preferences, at least three preferences (if there are three or more candidates) by writing figures 1, 2, 3, etc. against the names of the candidates they desire to vote for. Delegates may give more than three preferences if they wish to do so, but any voting paper showing less than three preferences will be regarded as invalid.

Circular No. 55

Ref. No. P-24/7273

12th August 1950

To

All the Presidents of the Provincial Congress Committees

Dear Friend,

The Congress delegates, newly elected, will meet on Sunday, the 27th August, 1950. In this connection, I have to invite your attention to Article X of the Congress Constitution which reads as follows:

- (a) The delegates in every province shall assemble in meeting to elect from among themselves one-eighth of their number, as representatives of the province on the A.I.C.C. provided that no province shall have less than 5 representatives on the A.I.C.C.
- (b) The election, mentioned in clause (a), shall be by proportional representation by single transferable vote.
- (c) The Secretaries of the respective P.C.C.'s shall issue certificates of membership of the A.I.C.C. to the persons elected to it."

Please arrange to hold the A.I.C.C. elections in your province as provided for under the above article.

I would also like to invite your attention to the fact that each delegate has to pay a fee of Rs. 10 to the A.I.C.C. and Rs. 5 to P.C.C. This means that a sum of Rs. 15 has to be realised from each delegate. This sum should be realised from every delegate before he is allowed to participate in the meeting of 27th. The A.I.C.C.'s share of Rs. 10 per delegate should be sent to us before the end of this month. This alone will facilitate the admission of the delegates to the Nasik Session. I would also request you to issue a certificate to every delegate stating that he is a duly elected delegate from your province.

In addition to the above fees, a sum of Rs. 10 each has also to be paid by those, who will be elected as A.I.C.C. members, at the time of the Nasik Congress.

Yours sincerely,
KALA VENKATA RAO,
General Secretary.

PRESS NOTE

Enquiries are being received by the All-India Congress Committee as to whether there is any prescribed form of application to stand as a candidate for election as member of the All-India Congress Committee. It is now published for the information of those concerned that there is no such form. Those who intend to stand as a candidate for election as member of the A.I.C.C. should write to their respective P.C.C.s, within the time prescribed by the P.C.C., informing them of their intention to stand for election as A.I.C.C. member. The P.C.C.s are requested to take these applications and hold the elections on the basis of single transferable vote when the committees will meet on the 27th.

New Delhi,
16th August, 1950.

KALA VENKATA RAO,
General Secretary,
All-India Congress Committee.

Circular No. 56.
No. P-24/7370.

17th August, 1950.

To

All the P.C.C.s

Dear Friend,

Please find enclosed the proceedings of the Working Committee dated 16th August, 1950. As you will observe from Item No. 1 (b), the date for the Congress Presidential election has been changed from 27th to 29th August, 1950.

The dates of the Session have also been changed and the final dates fixed will be as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Working Committee meeting | 16th & 17th Sept. 1950. |
| Subjects Committee meeting | 18th & 19th Sept. 1950. |
| Open Session | 20th & 21st Sept. 1950. |

Your attention is also invited to items Nos. 3 and 4 of the proceedings.

Yours sincerely,
KALA VENKATA RAO,
General Secretary.

Rules for the Election of Congress President.

Article XVI of the Congress Constitution deals with the election of the Congress President which is as follows:

- (a) Any ten delegates may jointly send the name of any delegate or ex-President of the Congress, duly qualified under Article XI, whom they propose to be elected as President of the next Congress session, so as to reach the General Secretary of the A.I.C.C. on or before a date fixed by the Working Committee.
- (b) The General Secretary shall publish the names of all persons so proposed and it shall be open to any person whose name has been so proposed to withdraw his candidature within ten days of the publication of the proposed name by writing to the General Secretary to that effect.
- (c) After eliminating the names of those who have withdrawn, the General Secretary shall immediately publish the names of the remaining candidates and circulate them to the Provincial Congress Committees. If after elimination there remains only one candidate, he shall be declared duly elected as President of next Congress session.
- (d) On a date fixed by the Working Committee, which shall not ordinarily be less than seven days after the final publication of the names of contesting candidates, each delegate shall be entitled to record for the selection of a President, his vote in the following manner:

On the voting paper, which shall include the names of all candidates, the delegates shall show at least three preferences if there are three or more candidates, by writing the figures 1, 2, 3 etc. against the

names of the candidates voted for. Delegates may give more than three preferences if they wish to do so. Any voting paper showing less than three preferences will be regarded as invalid.

- (e) The Provincial Congress Committee shall report immediately to the A.I.C.C. office the number and class of preference recorded in favour of each candidate.
- (f) As soon as may be after the receipt of such reports, the General Secretary shall, by the process of eliminating those candidates who secure the smallest number of votes, announce as President-elect the name of candidate who has secured more than 50 per cent. of the votes polled.
- (g) In case there are only two candidates, the General Secretary shall announce as President-elect the name of the candidate obtaining the majority of votes.
- (h) In the event of any emergency arising by reason of any cause, such as death or resignation of the President elected as above, the General Secretary shall forthwith fix a date for a fresh election by the delegates as prescribed above. In case such procedure is not found possible, the A.I.C.C. shall elect the President.

Seven candidates were validly nominated for Presidentship. To-day, there are still three nominations on behalf of the following gentlemen, the others having withdrawn within the time fixed for the purpose.

1. Acharya J. B. Kripalani,
2. Shri Purushottamdas Tandon,
3. Shri Shankarrao Deo.

Now that there are three candidates clauses (d), (e) and (f) of Article XVI will come into force. As can be seen from clause (e), the P.C.C. has to report to the A.I.C.C., the number and class of preferences recorded in favour of each candidate. But the article does not provide for the elimination of the

invalid votes, if any. If all the 24 Presiding officers in 24 provinces deal with the question of invalid votes according to their light it may result in injustice to one candidate or another and there will be no possibility of a common check up.

The Congress Working Committee has considered all the aspects of the question and has fixed the following procedure.

1. The President of a P.C.C. or the person presiding over the meeting of the delegates on 29-8-1950, will be the presiding officer for conducting the election of the Congress President.

2. The ballot-paper shall be printed in the form attached hereto and the names of candidates thereon shall be printed in English or Hindi and in addition in the language of the province concerned.

3. The ballot-papers should be numbered serially. The presiding officer when he issues the paper should initial on the back of the paper. The want of an initial may invalidate the paper.

4. Every presiding officer shall have a list of the delegates typed in English or Hindi and when he issues a ballot-paper, he should initial against each name of the delegate to whom a ballot-paper will be issued.

5. The list referred to in rule 4, along with a statement showing the total number of delegates in each province and the total number of delegates who have voted shall be posted to the A.I.C.C. in a separate communication by Registered Air Mail apart from the packet of ballot-papers.

6. Voting shall be by secret ballot and necessary arrangements for ensuring secrecy of voting should be made. There shall be a separate place for marking the votes and it shall be so arranged that no other person can see the marking. The voter on receiving the ballot-paper shall proceed to that place, mark it, fold it and bring it and put it into a ballot-box, placed in front of the presiding officer.

7. The period of polling should be prescribed and widely advertised. It should in no case be less than four hours.

8. If the identity of any delegate is challenged, the presiding officer shall take his signature on a paper and warn him that he will be prosecuted for false personation. Even then if he agrees he shall be given the ballot-paper and be allowed to place it in the ballot-box. A report regarding the number of challenged votes and other details, shall be sent to the A.I.C.C. in the packet referred to in rule 5, with the serial number of the ballot in report against the name.

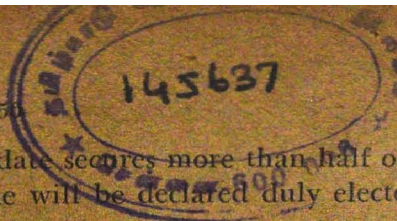
9. If after a person has voted and if another person claiming to be the person of the same name on the list turns up, he may after recording his statement be given a ballot-paper, but this paper must be sealed in a separate cover and be sent in the packet to the A.I.C.C., separately sealed and marked 'Tendered votes'.

10. At the close of the poll, the presiding officer shall carefully seal the ballot-box before all those present. Any candidate or his agent can put his own seal also.

11. The ballot-box should be properly packed and along with the other packets, shall be sent to Shri Kala Venkata Rao, General Secretary, A.I.C.C., New Delhi, by Registered or Insured Post or through a special messenger by the first available air mail or train, so as to reach by the 31st of August, 1950. The presiding officer will be personally responsible for the proper custody till he hands over the box and packets to the post office. If the packet has to be sent through a special messenger he shall be a person in whom the presiding officer has personal confidence and must hold himself responsible for the conduct of the special messenger.

12. The counting will take place on 1-9-1950 at 11 a.m. or on such other date or time fixed by the General Secretary with telegraphic notice given to the candidates. Candidates can nominate agents for purposes of observation on their behalf if they so choose.

13. After verifying the contents of the packets, the General Secretary, with the help of any assistants, will mix all the ballot-papers after noting the total number of votes polled. Then he will separate the papers into three bundles according to the first votes cast on the papers.



If any candidate secures more than half of the total number of votes polled he will be declared duly elected.

In the event of no candidate securing more than half the number of the total votes polled, the candidate, who secures the lowest number of first votes, will be eliminated and his first votes added to the two other candidates according to the second votes secured by either of them, as marked on the ballot-papers. For example:

| | First votes. |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| A. | 600 |
| B. | 700 |
| C. | 800 |
| | ----- |
| | 2,100 |
| | ----- |

As no one has secured more than 1,050 votes needed to be declared elected, A, with the smallest number of first votes will be eliminated. Then the second count begins.

| | First votes | Second votes |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| A. | 600 | . |
| For B. | . | 410 |
| For C. | . | 190 |
| Then B. gets | 700 + 410 | = 1,110 |
| C. gets | 800 + 190 | = 990 |

As B. has got more than the required number of 1,050 votes, he will be declared elected.

14. The presiding officer shall explain to the delegates clearly that unless each voter marks on the ballot-paper 1, 2, 3 against whomsoever he likes, the paper will be invalid. No. X should be placed. If any one marks 1, 2 and does not mark 3 or marks only 1, the paper will be invalid. The marking of the three votes 1, 2, 3 is compulsory. More than one preference cannot be given to one candidate.

15. In case two candidates get an equal number of votes after the final count, lots will be drawn.

KALA VENKATA RAO,
General Secretary.

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PROVINCIAL CONGRESS COMMITTEE

Serial No.

ALL-INDIA CONGRESS PRESIDENT'S ELECTION

(29th August 1950)

| S. No. | Name of the Candidate | Order of Preferences |
|--------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | | |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |

Note:—On the ballot-paper, the delegates are requested to show in the last column the order of preferences by writing figures 1, 2, 3 against the names of the candidates they desire to vote for. Any voting paper showing less than three preferences will be regarded as invalid.


Shri. M. P. Bhargava, Permanent Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee has issued the following Press Note:

Provincial Congress Committees and members of the All-India Congress Committee can send resolutions for the consideration of the Subjects Committee of the Indian National Congress Session to be held on 18th and 19th September, 1950 at Nasik. These resolutions must reach the A.I.C.C. office, 7, Jantar Mantar Road, New Delhi, latest by the 5th September '50.

Dated 24th August, 1950.

Copy to:

All Provincial Congress Committees.




Following is the message of Dr. B. Pattabhi
Sitaramayya, Congress President on the
15th of August 1950

Once again the cyclical turns of the wheel of time bring to us the 15th of August—and now for the third time—to remind us of the great day on which the country was relieved of the incubus of British Rule. Our path to Independence, however, lay across unsuspected dangers and we had to wade through canals of blood for months on end. Even as we were thinking that we had some respite in the North-Western frontier, the North-East brought its own tale of woe and wickedness. Evil, however, cannot endure for ever, and though we cannot say all is well on the Eastern front, still the Delhi Pact that was recently concluded between Pakistan and India has shown the way to understanding and a chance of some earnest approach towards peace. Let us hope that the ideology will not merely take firm hold on the people's minds but get a real good grip of their affections and pave the way for the lasting happiness of the minorities in the two countries, and thus the prosperity of the two divisions of the country.

While thus the border relations between India and Pakistan have begun to improve, and Hyderabad has sent its contingent of sixteen representatives to Parliament, the Kashmir problem still hangs fire and does not show any indication of an early settlement. Let us hope that in the fourth year of our Independence, we shall be able to tide over these frontier and territorial difficulties and make a further effort to solve the economic and food problems of the country. These problems cannot be solved by any Government in the world, however resourceful and however devoted to national interests—without the cooperation of the people. Honesty and rectitude on the part of the average citizen are the need of the hour and are more potent in bearing good results, than all the laws and ordinances of Government. This can only be achieved by the active cooperation of the public who must help in the production and surrender of ghost cards which amount to thrice as much as overall estimated deficit of food in the country. If in Delhi alone $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of fraudulent ration cards are detected,

it is clear that the feeder of the black-market is the spurious cards and Government are thus unwittingly reduced to a position of providers of its supplies to-day. The bread rationing system must be completely overhauled. Rationing may be necessary but it implies the functioning of a nation with a sense of duty and a live consciousness of civic responsibilities. And again for rationing to be successful, it must be comprehensive,—not an easy matter to organize in our country. However this be, knowing all this, our Government made up their mind not to import food beyond 1951 and it must be the pious duty of every citizen to cooperate with the Government in the realization of this objective. A country that is unable to find its own food cannot aspire to a front rank amongst the nations of the world.



Address delivered to Parliament by the President of India

On July 31st, 1950.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT,

We have met here today earlier than was intended when the last session of Parliament was adjourned, because of the great emergency that has suddenly arisen to confront the world. The shadow of war has descended again upon this earth, and though fighting is still restricted in its scope, fear of its extension to wider areas grips the world.

Since the last session of Parliament, my Government has been reconstituted in accordance with the procedure laid down in our Constitution. On May 5th, 1950, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, resigned his office so that I might take action to appoint a Council of Ministers under the new Constitution. I accepted his resignation and called on him to accept responsibility again as Prime Minister and advise me in regard to the appointment of other Ministers. He agreed to do so and, in accordance with his advice, I have appointed, under Article 75, a Council of Ministers to advise me in the exercise of my functions and be responsible to this House for the good government of India. Most of these Ministers are members of the old Council of Ministers.

My Government are deeply concerned over the present conflict in Korea. India supported the first two resolutions of the Security Council on this subject since, apart from border incidents, the aggression of North Korea had been established by the weight and proven preparedness of its onslaught. The course of events has confirmed this conclusion. It has been India's policy not to submit to aggression, for submission to aggression, in any part of the world, is to invite its repetition in other parts and thus to imperil peace and freedom. While India supported the first two resolutions of the Security Council in regard to the conflict in Korea, she made it clear that she would continue to pursue an independent policy based on the promotion of world peace and determined by her ideals and objectives.

My Government have been conscious of the threat to world peace inherent in a continuation of this conflict because of the possibility of its extension. It was for this reason that my Prime Minister appealed to Premier Stalin and to the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Mr. Dean Acheson, that the authority and power of these two great countries should be exerted to localise the armed struggle in Korea, and to break the deadlock in the Security Council of the United Nations over the admission of the People's Republic of China, so that the present international tension might be eased and the way opened to a solution of the Korean problem by discussion in the Security Council. This suggestion was not intended to condone aggression or to weaken the authority of the United Nations; it was meant to add to the strength and moral force of the organisation and to facilitate the early termination of a dangerous situation. Had it been acceptable to all concerned, my Government would have actively co-operated in bringing about a settlement through the agency of the United Nations and on the basis of the two resolutions of the Security Council that it has supported.

It is my earnest hope that the Korean conflict will soon be ended and world peace assured through the unremitting efforts of all peace-loving nations. Peace remains the paramount need of mankind and its one hope of survival.

My Prime Minister recently paid visits to the United States of Indonesia, to Malaya and to the Union of Burma. His visit has strengthened the close and friendly relations which existed between our country and these countries of South-East Asia. The conflict in Korea has made it even more necessary than before that there should be co-operation among the independent countries of Asia for the maintenance of peace and the preservation of their own freedom. I rejoice that the Government and people of Indonesia are strengthening the foundations of their newly-acquired freedom, and that Burma, after long travail and suffering, is overcoming her difficulties.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan was recently in Delhi as our guest. My Prime Minister and he discussed the Kashmir issue with the U.N. Representative, Sir Owen Dixon. These conversations, which lasted five days, enabled the parties to examine fully the principles that ought to govern the arrange-

ment for ascertaining the will of the people of Kashmir and a practical problem of applying these principles. It was vital that, in the course of this examination, new points of view should come to light. These also are being examined and it is proposed that the two Prime Ministers should again meet in Karachi with the U.N. Representative to continue exploration of ways and means to find a just, peaceful and lasting solution of the Kashmir problem.

A previous meeting of the two Prime Ministers in Delhi in April last had led to an agreement, which eased a dangerous situation and brought relief to minority communities. While this Agreement brought about a significant change for the better in the situation and created a more friendly atmosphere, many difficulties persisted and migrations of large numbers of people continued. The two Prime Ministers, during their recent meeting, examined the working of this Agreement with a view to overcoming the difficulties that impede the return of normal conditions and of a sense of security among the minorities. My Government are fully conscious of the need for improvement and of the sad plight of large numbers of people, whom the compulsion of events has forced to migrate from their homes. The Central Ministers of India and Pakistan, responsible for the implementation of the Agreement of April last, will confer with my Prime Minister and later with the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The Chairmen of the Minority Commissions of East Bengal and West Bengal will also be invited to Delhi and Karachi respectively to meet my Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Another problem of far-reaching importance, both to India and Pakistan, is that of evacuee properties. Progress has thus far been slow, but the approach of both Governments to this problem, as recent conversations have indicated, is inspired by a desire to find an early solution.

Honourable Members will recall that, last February, an agreement was reached between the Governments of India, Pakistan and the Union of South Africa to hold, at a later date in the course of this year, a conference for the discussion of the Indian problem in South Africa. This agreement presupposed that nothing would occur between the preliminary conference held in February and the main conference to vitiate

the atmosphere for a friendly adjustment. Unfortunately, this expectation has not been fulfilled. The administration of the existing oppressive laws, applicable to the Indian community in South Africa, has been tightened and the enactment of the Group Areas Law has reaffirmed and extended the application of the Union Government's policy of segregation, to which the Government of India have consistently and firmly objected over a period of nearly seventy years. My Government, therefore, decided that no useful purpose would be served by their participation in the conference which the Union Government had proposed should be held early this autumn. They feel that the subject must again be raised in the United Nations and have asked for its inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly of the Organisation, which is due to meet in New York in September.

Honourable Members are aware that the economic situation in the country has been a matter of constant concern to my Government. With a view to formulating a plan for the balanced development of the productive resources of the country and thus ensuring the maximum possible social and economic progress, a Planning Commission has been established, which is applying itself with ability and earnestness to its work. The prevailing crises and complexities in international affairs add greatly to the difficulties of the economic situation. The new threat to world peace, which affects every country, has potentialities of grave import to our economy. The situation calls for constant vigilance and examination of measures likely to assist in holding the price level. The greatest economy has to be practised in all Departments of Governments and restraint in spending exercised by the public.

The food situation continues to be given the highest priority by my Government. The over-all position in regard to it shows considerable improvement. There has been record procurement of wheat in the rabi areas. This, coupled with imports, for which arrangements have already been made, will place an adequate quantity of wheat at our disposal. As regards rice, however, the procurement in certain areas has not been satisfactory. In some States, notably Madras, West Bengal and Bihar, difficulties have arisen and these have been added to by natural disasters and by the influx of large numbers

of migrants. Government are taking every step to prevent the development of any serious situation, partly by supplying wheat and millets and partly by importing rice. My Government are determined to overcome all these difficulties and are confident of the success of the programme that has been laid down to make India self-sufficient in regard to food by the end of 1951.

Considerable progress has been made in the rehabilitation of displaced persons. But a great deal remains to be done and large numbers of these refugees are undergoing privation and suffering. As the problem was being brought under control in the North, a large and continuing influx of migrants in Bengal, Assam and Tripura upset previous calculations and added greatly to its complexity and magnitude. This problem can only be handled effectively on an all-India basis and with the co-operation of all States.

The commerce of India, during the past year, gives us a better picture than that of the previous year. As a result of the measures taken to increase India's exports and to regulate imports, with due regard to the availability of foreign exchange, the year ending 30th June 1950 closed with a credit balance in regard to foreign exchange. This is a welcome and striking contrast to the position for the previous year; which closed with a deficit of 247 crores. Our exports during this year have been double those of the corresponding period in the previous year.

Though the main purpose of this session of Parliament is to consider the international situation, Government will place before the House such other matters as is convenient for Honourable Members to consider during its brief duration. A Supplementary statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India will be laid before you for your approval. Some ordinances, which have been issued since Parliament adjourned, will be placed before you in the shape of new Bills. There are other legislative measures and important motions relating to matters of general public interest, which will be brought before you during the course of this session. Of these, the more important are: The Mines Bill, The Contingency Fund Bill, The Indian Finance (Amendment) Bill and the Electoral Bill.



CONGRESS PRESIDENT'S ELECTION

COUNTING OF VOTES

The counting of the votes for the President's election started at 11 a.m. on 1-9-1950. The Ballot Box from Karnataka did not come. In the other 23 boxes 2558 votes were found. Today the Karnataka Box has come and 60 votes were found in it. It makes the total of 2618 votes. Of this on a thorough scrutiny 18 votes were declared invalid with the consent of the agents of the candidates. On account of the first votes the following was the result :

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Acharya J. B. Kripalani | 1092 | First | Votes |
| Shri Purushottamdas Tandon | 1306 | .. | .. |
| Shri Shankarrao Deo | 202 | .. | .. |

As Shri Purushottamdas Tandon has secured more than half of the total valid votes polled in the election, I hereby declare Shri Purushottamdas Tandon as the validly elected President of the Indian National Congress.

(Sd.) KALA VENKATA RAO

*Returning Officer
and
General Secretary*

New Delhi,
The 2nd September, 1950

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