
MANIFESTO
and
CONSTITUTION

of the

Sri Lanka Freedom Party

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MANIFESTO

of the

SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY

PART I

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party was inaugurated on the 2nd September, 1951, at the Town Hall, Colombo. The vast and enthusiastic gathering that assembled on this occasion from all parts of the country representing all classes, races, religions and communities had a special significance.

In order to assess the true character of this response it is of some importance to understand the nature of what one may call the Freedom Movement. Under foreign rule, particularly in the Kandyan country, early in the last century people of all classes paid with their lives, their homes and everything else that was worth living for. It was not only the laity that paid the price.

To the eternal glory of the Sangha, they led where lay leadership faltered. For years and to this day the results of those years of British repression persist. If anything noble exists in recent national impulses, it is born of the blood of those martyrs.

The urge to freedom has not died with the ruthless suppression of rebellions, but for a long time the fear of British repressive policy retarded it.

In the reprisals after the riots of 1915, once again villagers paid their price in blood. It was only some who were arrested that with weeping and beseeching obtained their release, to live to tell the tale and to weep anew.

The reformist movement was born against this background and in time the National Congress was formed. In this Congress, the Tamils and the Sinhālese, the Moslems and the Burghers, and all religious communities were included.

Most of our Leaders were satisfied with the Legislative Council of 1924. Resolutions and Memoranda to Downing Street were the weapons that were preferred to the creation of a real Mass Movement. It is interesting to compare the manner in which the unjust Excise traffic of the British Government and the shootings of 1915 were utilised in Ceylon in the Fight for Freedom with the manner in which comparable happenings such as the unjust Salt Laws and the shootings of Jallianwallah Bagh were used by the Indian Leaders. In India they were utilised for the creation of a People's Campaign for Freedom, while here they only provided the opportunity for the efforts of a handful at the top.

The Donoughmore Commission marked the next step in Constitutional reform. The British were constrained by the liberalist opinion following the war of 1914 - 1919 to cast responsibility for internal policy on the representatives of the people. The Constitution recommended by this Commission was accepted by a majority of one in the Legislative Council.

At the end of the second world war the Indian struggle for freedom succeeded. England could no longer hold India and Pakistan. The freedom of Burma was won. In this context Ceylon had to be free, again under the pressure of world events. Yet this freedom was not willingly or wholly granted.

At our demand for freedom, the Soulbury Commission was sent out against the wishes of the large majority of the State Council. The Commission was boycotted by the Board of Ministers and a large section of the people, but a few Ministers secretly discussed the new Constitution with the Commission. The Soulbury Commission did not recommend freedom for Ceylon.

The Asian rebellion against the West came to our aid. With Indian and Burmese freedom and the agitation in Indonesia, some sort of freedom for Ceylon had to be recognized. In this setting, those in power in Ceylon negotiated secretly with the British Government for grant to Ceylon of

a constitutional status less than that of a Dominion conditioned on Ceylon agreeing to a military treaty with and subordinating her foreign policy to that of England.

It will be thus seen that unlike other countries such as India, Pakistan, Burma, Indonesia, Ireland, etc. which advanced to Freedom through the instrumentality of Mass Movements based on clear-cut principles and policies, our Freedom Movement was really one proceeding from the top and cut off to a great extent from the masses. The importance of this fact must be clearly understood. It has created a feeling in the minds of some people that our Freedom is not something that the people have obtained but one that a few individuals have succeeded in getting, and one therefore that is looked upon to a great extent as the private property of some individuals, the benefits of which should be chiefly enjoyed by them, and their prosperity

It is this psychology that is chiefly responsible for the nepotism and cliquism which are rampant today and for the reluctance to deal effectively with the many important and serious problems that face our free country particularly in the context of the present trend of world affairs.

Now however the mass urge to freedom has begun to assert itself. The Mooloya incident and the strike of 1947 in both of which shooting to kill were resorted to are examples of this new outlook and spirit in our national life. Where this struggle has been waged by all communities, the freedom of Ceylon is the inheritance of all communities irrespective of caste, class, colour or creed.

Constitutionally, as has been indicated earlier this Government has secured a Constitution that suited merely the purposes of a clique, rather than one which was in keeping with the aspirations and needs of a free, democratic people. Our foreign policy, as a result, has also been shaped in a manner more calculated to satisfy British and American Imperial interests than the true interests of our country.

Economically, poverty and unemployment are rampant and on the increase, although the Government gets a much greater revenue today than ever before in our country's history: over 1,000 million rupees for 1951-1952 as against 90 million twenty years ago. Indeed the high cost of living has made the standard of living of the poor and middle classes both urban and rural much worse than they were under Colonial Rule. No effort has been made seriously to increase our National Wealth agriculturally or industrially; indeed, even our existing agricultural assets have been diminishing both in extent as well as productivity, while most of the industrial ventures have proved a failure.

In 1931 our population was 5,325,354; in 1946 it was 6,695,000 and the estimate for 1950 is 7,550,000. The task of feeding this population must depend on our economic production. Food must either be produced or it must be bought; if there is a rise in the standard of living it must be registered, amongst a people whose standard of living is almost below normal subsistence levels and never very far from the margin of starvation, in an increase in food consumption.

The figures for internal production are these: in 1936 the acreage under paddy was according to the Director of Agriculture 800,000; according to the Government Agents 941,000; according to the Census of 1946 620,780 acres of a total estimated irrigable extent of 911,000 acres, was cultivated. To the end of 1947 the expenditure of major Irrigation Schemes alone is 23,000,000 rupees, up to September an additional 56,984,213 rupees has been spent: a total of Rs. 89,984,213; the acreages under economic products are as follows:-

	1929	1946
Cocoa ...	34,000	19,700
Coconuts ...	1,100,000	920,942
Paddy ...	800,000 (DA) 941,000 (GA)	cultivated 620,780
Rubber ...	605,152	655,225
Tea ...	557,739	561,431
Tobacco ...	14,000	9,545

It will be seen that we have neither increased our internal production of food, nor have we increased production of exportable crops to buy food. The figures of imports of rice and flour show no reduction, but a slight increase. In 1936 the figure was 11,713,850 cwts. and in 1950 with restrictions due to the world shortage of cereals 11,759,707 cwts. The low consumption rate of imported food continues: in 1936 it was 9.67 per head of population and in 1950 it was 9.39 per head of population. The slightly lower consumption rate undoubtedly helps the spreadover of the available resources over an increased population. The actual level of consumption must be much lower because internal production has apparently decreased.

In animal husbandry we seem no better off; in 1936 we imported 140,637 eggs; in 1950, 16,000,491. In 1936 we imported milk and milk foods 4,014,944 lbs; in 1950, 18,000,000 lbs. We have ceased to import goats.

Industrial expansion has been negligible; says the Census Report of 1946 "the proportion of the gainfully occupied (exclusive of the temporarily unemployed) to the total population of the Island in 1946 is seen to be 38.9 per cent. This suggests if the figure recorded at previous censuses are regarded as comparable, a decline in employment for the percentages at those censuses were as follows; 1901, 45.9 per cent; 1911, 43.0 per cent; 1921, 49.6 per cent." Thus though wages have increased fewer people are earning these wages; this must account for the low consumption levels of food. The figures of unemployed among the Sinhalese S. S. C. educated population alone is said to be 60,000 but 20,000 is admitted by the Ministry.

The incidence or distribution of poverty and wealth over the population can be controlled by legislation; and legislation should reflect the needs and demands of those who elect the legislators. But it is a fact that, through the direct help of legislation enacted by the present Government clique we have reached the position of having a mere 3,812 persons out of a 75 lakh population enjoying half the entire taxable income in Ceylon.

Legislation curtailing public rights and freedoms and expanding police powers are acts which even Colonial administrators would not have ventured to impose; and show the lengths to which this Government is prepared to go to subdue the people to its policies.

The Public Services are discontented from top to bottom, a discontent that is seriously impairing the efficiency of administration.

The question of the adoption of Sinhalese and Tamil as official Languages is further from solution than ever before, and the present educational policy is more calculated to retard their adoption even at a distant future date, than the reverse. The new Educational Policy has also whittled away the benefits of the principle of Free Education adopted by the State Council.

Particularly to an Eastern people like ourselves spiritual values are of great importance, whatever religion it may be. No effort is being made effectively to tackle the problem of fostering these values.

Indeed it may be said that in some ways we are worse off than we were before. In the time of the State Council for instance two valuable reports were adopted, those of the Social Service Commission and the Languages Committee. Far from doing new things, even these reports, that had been accepted have now been shelved. That is the measure of the miserable failure of this Government to make Freedom something worthwhile to the people of this country.

There has therefore arisen an urgent need and growing demand in the country for a party such as we have now formed.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party is a Social Democratic Party.

Economically, it believes that policy must be formed on the needs of the common man. In our country where the vast majority of the people are living in poverty, and problems of unemployment and serious under-employment are growing in gravity, the approach to these problems on socialist principles is the only effective method for their satisfactory solution.

Politically, it believes that the preservation and fostering of the democratic ideals and freedoms are essential for the true progress and happiness of our people, whose initiative and even self-respect have been undermined by many years of servitude.

In culture and religion, it believes that our people can achieve the stature of a truly free people only if the principles just mentioned go hand in hand with a revival of our cultures and the use of our National languages and the revival and stimulation of the spiritual values, so that religion once again attains its rightful place as a vital force in the lives of our people.

PART II

The aim of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party is to achieve a Social Democratic Society through a Government dependent on the widest possible participation of the people. Through such a Government, the Party will strive:

(a) to repair the material, moral and spiritual damage inflicted on the Nation through years of subjection,

(b) to secure amongst the citizens of the country a fair distribution of income and an equality of opportunity,

(c) to build the health of the Nation,

(d) to increase food production,

(e) to conserve the national resources of the country,

(f) to spread education amongst all the population through the medium of their own language,

(g) to develop democratic institutions and to resist reactions and autocracy,

(h) to ensure that the destiny of our people shall be in their own hands.

We declare that the Government of Ceylon must be a Free Republic Independent of the British Commonwealth and all external control.

Our immediate programme is as follows:-

1. Constitution:

We shall adopt a constitution which will define and guarantee:

(a) Equality before the law of all persons.

(b) The equal rights of all citizens to whatever caste community or religion they may belong.

(c) Freedom from speech and freedom from arrest without due process of law to all inhabitants in the country.

(d) Freedom of worship.

- (e) Freedom of forfeiture of political rights on account of imprisonment for political offences
- (f) Freedom from any and every form of agricultural and industrial and social serfdom.

2. Foreign Policy:

Our foreign policy must be governed by the paramount need in the interests of our people of preserving peace. The object is best achieved by our country steering clear of involvement with power blocs and by the establishment of friendly relations with all countries. Therefore no bases can be permitted in our country to any Foreign Power and all foreign troops must be immediately withdrawn from our country.

3. Domestic Policy:

(a) **Religion.** We realise the value, particularly today, of all religions to help mankind to deal satisfactorily with the manifold and fundamental problems that face him in the new age. In accordance with this view we are of opinion that all steps necessary both by the public and the Government be taken to revive and assist religion and make it a living force amongst our people.

(b) National Languages:

It is most essential that Sinhalese and Tamil be adopted as official languages immediately so that the people of this country may cease to be aliens in their own land; so that an end may be put to the iniquity of condemning those educated in Sinhalese and Tamil to occupy the lowliest walks of life; and above all that society may have the full benefit of the skill and talents of the people. The administration of Government must be carried on in Sinhalese and Tamil.

(c) Education and Culture:

- (i) The present education policy is neither calculated to give the people the full benefits of free education nor to assist in the early change-over to the national languages. These defects must be immediately rectified.

- (ii) More adequate and satisfactory provision for higher education, particularly University education as well as technical and vocational education, is vitally and urgently needed.
- (iii) A definite scheme for adult education to make the illiterate adults literate within a period of five years.
 - (a) Provision must also be made to enable working classes to follow courses of instructions outside working hours and attain the highest qualifications in every department of knowledge; and
 - (b) External examinations be provided for University Degrees.
- (iv) A separate department under the Ministry of Education should be set up to foster and encourage national art, music, dancing, literature, poetry and drama.
- (v) Both Sinhalese and Tamil should be taught in all schools.

(d) **Taxation:**

- (i) Elimination of indirect taxation of food and other necessities of the people, and,
- (ii) the imposition of supper-tax on incomes in excess of Rs. 50,000
- (iii) Steepening of Estate Duty so that excessive collections of capital may not go into the hands of persons who have done nothing to earn or accumulate same.

(e) **Unemployment and Wages:**

This Party aims at the elimination of unemployment and will strive with all the means at the disposal of the State to provide for the employment of the unemployed and to the guaranteeing of a substantial wage to the worker and peasant with a view to eliminating the sub-human standards in which the vast majority of the people of this country live. The question of the language shall not be permitted to remain a cause for discrimination for the award of unequal wages or for the excluding from employment of those qualified in national languages.

(f) Agriculture:

With a view to diversification of agriculture and the increase of the National Wealth thereby and provision for the needs of the landless peasants of the country the following steps should be taken:

1. The vast extent of uncultivated land owned by Government should be brought under suitable cultivation under a scheme of peasant and middle class settlement by a Five Year Plan to be prepared by a suitable Planning Commission within six months.
2. In addition to the utilisation of Government lands land must be acquired whether cultivated or otherwise to satisfy the land hunger of the peasantry and to be worked on a co-operative or collective basis.
3. In the dry zone particularly in the Northern, North Central and Eastern Provinces intensive mechanised cultivation of suitable crops *e. g.* sugarcane, cotton, jute, paddy, etc. should be undertaken to meet particularly the needs of the people of those areas.
4. The lack of sufficient attention hitherto paid to the cultivation in the wet zone be immediately remedied by the completion of all minor irrigation works and more intensive cultivation of lands already under cultivation and the bringing under cultivation of all cultivable but uncultivated land.

(g) Nationalization.

All essential industries including large plantations and transport, banking and Insurance be progressively nationalised. This is the necessary corollary of the policy of taking high incomes and the prevention of accumulation of capital without which Industry must collapse.

(h) Social Services.

As a beginning we ask for the immediate implementation of the recommendations of the Social Services Commission particularly the immediate introduction of health and unemployment insurance and old-age pensions.

(i) Labour.

- (a) Steps should be taken to provide full employment, satisfactory wages and proper conditions of service.
- (b) Legislation should be introduced to compel employers of industrial labour to provide their employees with housing.

(j) The Judiciary and Judicial Services Commission.

All necessary steps must be taken to secure the complete independence of the Judiciary and the Judicial Services Commission.

(k) Just implementation of the present provisions of law relating to citizenship.

(l) Public Services.

- (a) We are in favour of the immediate repeal of P. S. R. 208 B and other repressive and restrictive regulations, and the granting of full Trade Union Rights to all public servants.
- (b) A Commission should be appointed (apart from the Salaries Commission) to inquire into and report on the general discontent in the Public Services.
- (c) The composition of, as well as the method of appointment to the Public Services Commission, should be so amended as to secure both a more representative character (especially of the interests of the junior public servants) and the creation in the minds of the public of a greater confidence in its independence.
- (d) Those in employment outside Government Service should be assured of security and suitable conditions of service.
- (e) Differences of salaries on linguistic grounds should be immediately removed.
- (f) The rights of women to enter the public service without discrimination as to salary should be recognised.

- (g) Government should accept the principle that it is responsible for the housing of its employees and a scheme should be drawn up to achieve this object within five years.

The most important reform necessary and which we shall insure is that the administrative machinery of Govt: shall not be used for party purposes. We shall ask no political allegiance of Govt: Servants. We shall not repress free opinion; we shall repeal regulation 208 B. We shall only ask of Govt: servants efficiency and devotion to the country.

(m) Industries

A Plan should be forthwith prepared for the development of the industries of this country with a view to increase of our National Wealth, the elimination as far as possible of our dependence on foreign imports and the provision of suitable employment to the increasing number of the unemployed population of this country. Such plan should clearly indicate what industries should be run by the State, what industries by Corporations in which the State has a controlling voice and what industries should be left in the hands of private enterprise.

Industrial Development:

The development of industries of any kind whether in the villages or towns depends on the availability of power. What the hands were to industry before the invention of the steam engine, automotive power is to industry today. In Japan the story of the development of industry, is the story of the expansion of the sources of hydro-electric power. We shall obtain technical aid to spread industries and power into the villages, so that there is no seasonal unemployment in the rural areas and the amenities in them are increased. Our scheme of adult education and agricultural expansion will be closely related to the needs of this industrial development.

The present Government is closing down its industries; the small amount of power produced by Laksapana is scarcely used for production, that power is used for illumination whilst the unemployment figures keep rising.

We shall encourage and help our own citizens to embark on nationally useful industries and to give them reasonable protection and preference. We shall mobilize all resources to our aid.

We shall immediately give a first preference to industrial and agricultural developments over all Hydro-electric power in the country. Our agricultural production shall also be co-ordinated to meet the raw material needs of Local industries.

(u) The Cost of Living.

The rising cost of living today is alarming. It is generally beared the statistical basis upon which computations are made in this respect for the payment of dearness allowance by the governmental statistical branch bears us relation to the actual cost of commodities. We propose that a competent body chosen from Economists, administrative and social workers be appointed, with special instructions to need actual costs, to make a new survey of family expenditure, and to ascertain the real costs of living.

It must, however, be realized that the way to bring down the cost of food and to improve standards of living, is to increase production.

(o) Social Evils.

(a) As the present excise policy has not in any way satisfied those who are interested in total abstinence we are of opinion that the existing legislation be immediately revised and suitably amended.

(b) In view of the facilities available today for gambling at races to large numbers of those who can ill-afford to do so and the consequent financial difficulties caused particularly to the middle and working classes, we are of opinion that early and adequate steps should be taken to meet the situation.

(p) Repressive Legislation.

The repeal of the Public Security Ordinance, Police Amendment Act, Trade Union Amendment Act and similar restrictions and invasions of public and personal rights.

(q) **Ayurvedic & Indigenous Systems of Medicine.**

The Ayurvedic and Indigenous Systems of Medicine should be accorded their proper place by the establishment, among other necessary steps of research institutes, recognition of specialists, and the establishment of hospitals and dispensaries.

(r) **Health.**

In addition to the measures now being taken on the prevention and curative sides, special attention must be paid to nutrition including the supply of milk, mental hygiene, school health work and health education.

(s) **Housing.**

A Housing Board be immediately set up and not less than 150 million rupees be at once placed at its disposal to deal with the general housing problems of the country.

(t) **Local Government.**

- (1) Provincial Councils which are needed to complete the local government structure should be immediately established.
- (2) The Rural Development Movement should be placed under the control of the Ministry of Local Government.
- (3) The finances of local authorities should be put on a more satisfactory footing particularly by the full implementation of the proposals already made.
- (4) A separate Waterworks Department should be established under the Ministry of Health & Local Government for the efficient and early completion of the various waterworks required.

(u) **The Fishing Industry:**

The fisherman on the sea is the complement of the farmer on the land. They face dangers and death to find food for the nation. But nothing is done to insure them against their

perils except by the Church. We propose in co-operation with other authorities to introduce a state insurance scheme for all fishermen. If there is a Ministry of Agriculture, it appears equally sensible to have a Ministry of Fisheries, which will ensure that :

- (a) A better distribution system should be established.
 - (b) Assistance should be given to associations of fishermen as well as individuals by way of loans on easy terms to modernise their craft and equipment.
 - (c) Suitable housing schemes should be provided for fishermen.
 - (d) Land for cultivation and suitable cottage industries should be provided for the benefit of fishermen.
 - (e) A separate Ministry of Fisheries should be created.
- (v) **Bribery Commission.**

A permanent Bribery Commission both for the Public Services and Local Government Services should be forthwith established by legislation.

(w) **Trade.**

All necessary steps should be taken immediately to eliminate the control by non-Ceylonese of business and trade.

(x) **Honours.**

The conferment of honours, should be abolished.

RULES

of the

Sri Lanka Freedom Party

1. The Party shall be known as the "Sri Lanka Freedom Party" and shall ordinarily be called the "Freedom Party." The main objects of the Party shall be: to establish and to protect the political and economic freedom of Lanka and equality of status for her peoples with all others in the World; to guarantee to the nationals of Lanka the fullest opportunity for development and to secure to all who work the full fruits of their industry.

2. Membership of the Party shall be open to all Nationals of Lanka over 21 years of age. A Register of Members of the Party shall be maintained by the Secretary of the Party.

3. Every person becoming a member of the Party shall be bound to support and to further the objects and purposes adopted by the Party, and may not directly or indirectly engage in any activities that will undermine such objects or purposes

4. (a) All Members of the Party shall be direct members of the Freedom Party and subject to the rules and discipline applying to members of the Party.

(b) All members shall owe first loyalty to the Freedom Party.

5. All members of the Party shall be liable to pay to the Treasurer of the Party such annual subscription as shall from time to time be determined by the Working Committee of the Party.

6. There shall be established a Branch of the Party in every Electoral District or other Division of the Island

as the Working Committee shall think fit. Every member of the Party on the Electoral Register of such Constituency or Division shall be a primary member of such Branch.

7. Every Branch Association as mentioned in rule 6 shall be entitled to make such rules, to set up such an organization and to appoint such officers and to act as such Branch shall from time to time deem necessary for its particular purposes provided that nothing herein shall authorize such Branch to act or to do anything that is or will be contrary to the objects and policy of the Party or directives issued by the Working Committee.

Where however such a Branch shall deem it necessary in any way to collect money by way of subscriptions or otherwise, a Treasurer shall be appointed for the custody, receipt and expenditure thereof and complete and duly audited accounts of such monies shall be submitted to a meeting of such Branch held at least once a year for that purpose.

8. In all matters concerning any individual Electorate or Branch, the Working Committee shall give the most favourable consideration to the recommendations of the Branch Association of that Electorate or Branch.

9. The Working Committee may, where it considers it necessary, institute any inquiries into any matter relating to the conduct of business or other action of a Branch Association and such Branch shall carry out any consequential directives issued to the Branch by the Working Committee, provided that no such directives shall be issued except after a due enquiry into such matter. The Working Committee shall have all powers necessary for the due execution of its directives where these are not promptly executed by the Branch Associations.

10. (a) A Party Conference shall ordinarily be held once a year in the month of December at such time, date and place as the Working Committee shall decide.

(b) Every Branch Association including each Women's Association and Youth League may send at least one delegate

elected by itself from amongst its members to such Conference, and a further delegate for every twenty-five members in excess of the first twenty-five in such Branch Association or League.

In cases of doubt the Working Committee of the Party may decide the number of delegates a Branch is entitled to elect.

(c) Each Branch including each Women's Association and Youth League shall receive at least two months' notice of the date, time and place at which the Party Conference is to be held.

Each such Branch shall, at least two weeks before the date of the Conference, notify to the Secretary the names and addresses of the delegates elected by it to the Conference.

(d) No person who has not been a Member of the Party for at least six months prior to the date of the election of delegates by the Branch, may be elected as a delegate to the Conference.

(e) Every Office Bearer of the Party and every Member of the General Committee, every Party Member of Parliament and every person nominated for election shall, *ipso facto*, be members of the Party Conference.

11. (a) The quorum for a Party Conference shall be 200.

(b) The President or where the President is absent, a person selected by the Working Committee shall preside at the Conference and such selected person shall, for the purposes of conducting the Conference, have all the powers of the President.

12. The Party Conference may discuss any matter relating to the business of the Party provided notice thereof is given and reaches the Secretary two weeks prior to the date of the Conference.

Provided however that the Working Committee shall decide on the Agenda of business to be discussed at the meeting and shall send copies of such Agenda to the Branch Associations at least one week before the meeting.

13. The Party Conference shall decide the general policy of the Party.

The Secretary shall present an Annual Report of the work done by the Party in the year ending in September previous to the Conference and the Treasurer shall similarly present the accounts of that year duly audited.

13A. The General Committee shall each year appoint a duly qualified Auditor to audit the accounts of the Party.

14. (a) There shall be a General Committee of the Party to supervise and direct the executive work of the Party and to carry out the policy decided on by the Party Conference.

(b) Every Branch Association and Women's Association shall be entitled to elect representatives (*i. e.* two for each Branch and one for each Women's Association) of its members to the General Committee.

(c) Every Party Member of Parliament and every member of the Working Committee shall be *ex officio* members of the General Committee.

(d) Members of the General Committee shall hold office for one year and all past members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.

15. The General Committee shall meet once every four months and at such other times and at such times, dates and places as the Working Committee shall decide.

16. (a) The General Committee at a meeting held before the Party Conference shall elect a President, a Secretary, two Associate Secretaries, a Treasurer and a Working Committee consisting of the above mentioned officers and ten other members of the General Committee.

(b) The Working Committee shall be the Executive Authority of the Party, the President, Secretaries and Treasurer being its respective Executive Officers.

(c) The Working Committee shall meet as often as it deems necessary and shall control its own procedure.

17. The General Committee shall announce at the Party Conference the names of the persons elected as set out in the previous section.

18. (a) Notice of meetings of the General Committee shall be given to members at least six weeks before each meeting.

(b) The business to be transacted at such meeting shall be decided by the Working Committee and shall be included in an Agenda sent to members at least three days before the meeting at which such business is to be transacted.

(c) Where any member or Branch wishes any particular item of business to be included in the Agenda, a month's prior notice of such business should be sent to the Secretary who shall bring such matter to the notice of the Working Committee.

19. Where the Working Committee has rejected any matter duly suggested for inclusion in the Agenda, such matter may yet be discussed at the Meeting to which such agenda relates, on a motion of a member of the General Committee if permission thereto is granted by two-thirds of those present and voting at the meeting.

20. (i) The quorum for a meeting of the General Committee shall be 30 members.

(ii) The quorum for a meeting of the Working Committee shall be seven members.

21. (a) The Working Committee shall take such steps as it deems necessary to obtain a sufficient Party Fund to support its candidates at elections and to meet all other

expenses. At every Annual General Meeting the Working Committee shall present to the Delegates a Report of the work in the previous year, and the expenditure proposed to be incurred in the ensuing year; as well as an audited statement of accounts of the previous year for the acceptance of the meeting.

(b) All money in any way accruing or belonging to the Party shall be paid into an account maintained in the Party name at such Bank as the Working Committee shall decide and shall be operated on under the joint signatures of the Treasurer and the President or one of the Secretaries especially authorized thereto by the Working Committee.

(c) The Working Committee may incur any emergency expenditure not sanctioned as aforesaid provided such expenditure is considered necessary and urgent by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.

22. Candidates for Election: Whenever it becomes necessary in the opinion of the Working Committee to choose a candidate for election to a Constituency, the Working Committee or any members thereof especially appointed thereto by it shall in consultation with and with the approval of the Branch Associations choose a member of the Party to seek election for that Constituency or those Constituencies and shall publicly nominate such candidate as the candidate supported by the Party.

On such nomination all members of the Party, every Branch Association and the Party itself shall render all possible help both financial and otherwise at the election of such candidate to Parliament.

23. Instead of nominating one of its own members, the Working Committee may in agreement with the Branch Association decide to support the candidature of any person though he is not a Member of the Party. On such nomination the Party and its Members shall render all possible help to the election of such candidate to Parliament.

24. Any Member of the Party who shall support any candidate at an election against a candidate nominated by the Party shall be expelled by the Working Committee and shall cease to be a member of the Party. The reason for such expulsion shall be entered against the name of such member in the Register of Members.

25. All candidates seeking party nominations at any election shall before such nomination be required to declare that he will support the Party Members and policy in Parliament and will not so long as he is a Member of Parliament do anything directly or indirectly that will undermine or frustrate the execution of the policy of the Party, and that he will remain a Member of Parliament only so long as he retains the confidence of the Party.

26. **Associations:** The Working Committee may form or promote the formation of Associations of youths below the age of 21 for their education in furtherance of democratic practice and ideals.

The Working Committee may also form Associations of adults for the purposes of adult education and any other like purposes.

The Working Committee may use such funds as may be set aside especially for that purpose by the Annual General Meeting for the relief of particular and sudden distress in any part of the country,

27. Where any matter of procedure is not provided for in these rules or there is a doubt as to the interpretation of any particular provision in them, the Working Committee may or where there is insufficient time for the Working Committee to meet, the President may, decide such matter of procedure.



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