

From: Naresh Bhownick,
23/1, Kumartuly Street, Calcutta-5.

March 16, 1965.

Dr. Triguna Sen, Padma Bhushan,
Rector, Jadavpur University,
Calcutta-32.

Respected Dr. Sen,

Please excuse me for encroaching upon your valuable time, although, under compelling circumstances, I have been forced to write you this long letter in the hope that you would be kind enough to refrain yourself from damaging the political role so long played by you in the public life of the country.

It is an admitted fact that you have established your career as a veteran educationist in the life of the country today by virtue of your German Doctorate alone and thus lined up with the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and Kabiguru Rabindra Nath. But your sudden appearance in Calcutta Corporation politics without facing the peoples' verdict and placing yourself in the position of first citizen of Calcutta had amazed many of us. In the first term you had full support from the Congress but on the eve of your re-election for the 2nd term you were vehemently opposed by the Congress and it was the opposition (U.C.C. and some independents) who saved your position by bringing pressure on Congress to enlist its support for the 2nd term. This clearly shows you had no particular political philosophy but played Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in order to maintain your personal prestige.

During the language movement in Cachar, so far as I remember, you had made so many strong speeches against the ruling party and even had been to Delhi with the Cachar Language Delegation with a view to make them swallow the sugar-coated tablet of the Shastri Formula leaving the fate of Assam Valley Bengali in the lurch. You had thrown a challenge to Mr. B. P. Chaliha that you would set up an ass against him if he at all contested from Cachar. Although, Mr. Chaliha could not contest, his arch follower Mr. Mainul Haque Choudhury who practically acted as spokesman of Mr. Chaliha during language movement was returned to the Assam Assembly from Cachar without any opposition from your side. I had been in Cachar during the last general elections and opposed Mr. Haque along with Mr. Gulam Osmani, Bar-at-law. During the election campaign Mr. Haque's followers once attacked us with deadly weapons in broad day light and man-handled our men and also damaged our car. Where had you been at that time, when you had shown so much interest during the language movement? Have you any knowledge about the funds raised by the Ananda Bazar Patrika for erection of a memorial for language Sahids? I think no memorial has yet been erected. Where is the money and why you are silent over it.

During Save Pakistan Minorities movement last year, you made an inflammatory speech accusing left leaders at the University Institute Hall and thereby posed yourself as the only bonafide public man of Bengal. I had been to Bongaon when the movement was launched. I know the entire history of the movement and how the leaders were arrested and released as also how the movement was conducted. Where

had you hidden yourself during the movement? I could not even see your face at the Maidan meeting on the eve of the movement where Dr. Ramesh Chandra Majumdar was present. Deshbandhu C. R. Das and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and also other patriots of Bengal had played positive role in politics. They never wanted to be a leader without shou- dering any responsibility nor were they afraid to face risks. Mere sermons will not solve our problem and we need men of action. In a country where a lady of Miss Ava Maity's stature is considered to be a great thinker, there is certainly no dearth of intellectuals. Our society, therefore, needs men and women of action.

Most harmful is your role in respect of the ensuing Calcutta Corporation election. You want to send men to the Corporation who can rise above petty politics and party considerations. Then, why did you form the Progressive Citizens' Bloc in collaboration with Forward Bloc and SSP? What astonishes us, therefore, is your statement in the pres suggesting that the fittest candidates - who, by implication may be staunch congressman or retired government stooges as well - should be given votes in the Corporation election indicates opportunism and lack of principles. When you have no hand in the selection of candidates why was your name included in the manifesto of P.C.B.? You have no right to appeal to the voters without naming the right candidates. Who are the fittest candidates? Have you made any list to place before the people? If the candidates of P.C.B. do not have your blessings, why have you put your name in the P.C.B. manifesto?

It appears from your present game that you are not only damaging the prestige of P.C.B. candidates but also of the U.C.C. and are indirectly working for the old guard of the Congress party. Your decoration with Padma Bhushan by the Congress Raj reveals an inner loyalty to the congress party who know whom to exalt and whom to humiliate. As a matter of fact congress never glorify any persona non-grat. with such awards. Dr. Ramesh Chandra Majumdar is a glaring instance of congress narrow-mindedness.

I have every regard for you as an educationist but would request you not to turn your back at the eleventh hour thereby letting down the P.C.B. candidates.

Yours very truly,

Sd/- Naresh Bhownick

Copy to -

1. Dr. Ramesh Chandra Majumdar, President, P.C.
2. Shri Hemanta Kumar Basu, M.L.A., Secretary,
3. The Secretary, Forward Bloc, West Bengal,
4. The Secretary, SSP, West Bengal.

Jadavpur University.
Calcutta - 82.
March 19th., 1965.

Dear Mr.Bhowmik,

I have received your letter of the 16th.

It is not my intention to write to support or contradict your charge-sheet against my behaviour.

I understand from your letter that you are a political leader of our country, always participating in all the movements to help change the shape of things for us all, the common man. I am therefore agreeably surprised that you had been taking so much interest in me and my actions. I thank you for the same.

I am however afraid, that you have been labouring under certain misconception. Firstly, you should not have ^{any} doubt in your mind that I ever desired to be a leader. I am aware of my limitations and shortcomings. If ever I have had any ambition, I would not have antagonised the Congress party in the Corporation, as you mentioned, nor would I have courted displeasure of the Left leaders by my utterances in the University Institute, which you ~~were~~ stated in your letter.

Secondly, it is not true that I have formed the Progressive Citizens' Block, I was not even consulted and, I was not aware of its formation. I did not put in my signature to the Manifesto, you mentioned, to form any Block. On my return from Lucknow, I was told about it, and my name was frequently mentioned. Is it Mr.Bhowmik, political dishonesty to state that I was not a party to it ? or, does it not, according to you, conform to your "Political principle"? - to tell the truth?

You are a political leader, you have framed long charge-sheet against my behaviour, as such, I do not think you should give so much importance to me or to my statement of facts. I am sure, as you are, that nobody will take any notice of, or will be influenced by a statement of an "opportunistic without principle."

You need not worry.

With regards,

Yours truly,

S. Sen
(Triguna Sen)

P.S. May I seek your permission to publish your charge-sheet against me, as well as this reply of mine ?

I thank you for your statement that P.C.B. was formed with the members of the Forward Block and S.S.P., to have a triangular fight in the election, which was not known to me.

esh Bhownick,
23/1, Kumartuly Street,
Calcutta-5.

March 23, 1965.

Dr. Triguna Sen, Padma Bhushan,
Rector, Jadavpur University,
Calcutta-32.

Respected Dr. Sen,

I feel obliged for your explanatory letter of
19.3.65.

Publication of our letters in the press just
on the eve of the civic poll will cause immense harm to
the innocent P.C.B. candidates. The motive of the so-
called organisers of the P.C.B. who did not care to use
your name with your prior consent amounts to a gross
violation of decent public conduct.

Therefore, I would request you ~~not~~ to publish
our letters and I am really sorry for the misconception
created by the organisers of the P.C.B. in order to give
vent to their long standing antagonism against the U.C.C.
at the cost of ignorant election seekers.

With best regards,

Yours very truly,