

Dr Swamy Against More Autonomy To States

GUWAHATI, Nov. 2—Dr Subramaniam Sawamy, Janata MP, said here today that more political autonomy to States at this stage would lead to exploitation by vested interests.

In an obvious reference to President N Sanjiva Reddy's recent observation in this context, Dr Sawamy said that his was an "unnecessary controversy" and added that political autonomy had a bad smell.

Talking to newsmen here Dr Sawamy pleaded for a strong and unified India and said his party was for economic decentralisation and a strong political Centre.

Dr Swamy said that "our present Constitution is all right and no further devolution of power is needed."

Certainly think that our present Constitution does not require any basic change. Any such change at the moment might be misused by some States. For instance, in Kashmir Sri Sheikh Abdullah was demanding greater autonomy and there is a demand for Khalistan also, he added.

Dr Swamy said a five-member team of the high officials of External Affairs Ministry will go to Beijing by the end of November for talks with Chinese officials on India-China border. This was conveyed by the External Affairs Minister, Sri Narasimha Rao to Dr Swamy, when he called on the Minister in New Delhi last night. The official level talks between India and China was earlier scheduled to begin in September.

Dr Swamy said that the border problem with China could be settled with peaceful negotiation but added that India should "proceed carefully" as some international forces were trying to spoil the relation between the two countries.

Dr Swamy said that he had learnt from "reliable authority" that border trade between India and Tibet would be resumed within a year which would fulfil a long felt demand of the people in border areas in both sides.

The Janata Party MP said that he had suggested to the Government of India to set up a "Kailash Mansarovar Jatra Samity" in the pattern of Haj Committee for the benefits of pilgrims willing to visit the holy places in Tibet.

Referring to Indo-Pak relations, Dr Swamy said India should give "serious thought" to the no-war pact proposal offered by Pakistani President Zia-ul-Haq. India should find out more details on the offer from Pakistan in this regard, he added.

Criticising the economic policies of the Congress (I) Government, Dr Swamy said that during Srimati Gandhi's 20 months rule the country's economy was sliding down. Citing instances, he said the food stock of the country declined from 23 million tonnes at the time of fall of the Janata Government.

Similarly, the dependence on foreign countries was increasing and the country had imported 1.5 million tonnes of U.S. wheat and borrowed Rs. 5000 crores from International Monetary Fund 'by agreeing to all sorts of conditions'. He alleged that the present Government had given a freehand to multinationals.

Dr Swamy also attacked the Congress (I) saying that it was no longer a political party but turned itself into a party of "commission agents".

Dr Swamy alleged that Congress (I) Government had 'scrapped' all good projects like 'Food For Work' started by the Janata Government.

He blamed the Centre for present movement in the North Eastern region and said that the grievances of the people of the region must be removed. Dr Swamy regretted that the present Congress-I Government had not started work of even a single new railway line of the total six new such projects cleared by the Janata Government.

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He felt that a solution to the foreign nationals issue could be found out if the Centre was serious about the matter. The question of cut-off year for detection of foreign nationals "is a technical matter" he said adding that a practical method should be found by which the Assamese people could feel secured and their fear of loosing the identity was removed.

—PTI.

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