

States
Information
Service & Bureau

V2-2.dN7:1.N7
K5
126748

a PROSPECTUS : 18 May 1965 : M :
reprinted, for private circulation.

Introductory

THE SUBJECT of this Prospectus was discussed at the Inaugural Conference of Consultation held at New Delhi on the 12th and 13th of August 1967. The agenda tabled by the Organiser and Sponsoring Committee of Consultation included the following agendum :—

9. *To approve the setting up of an Information Service and Bureau. (Resolution No. 8 dated the 13th February 1966, adopted by the Saurashtra States Conference, and a prospectus of the proposal, dated the 18th May 1965, will be tabled.)*

The members present at the Conference in New Delhi, will have perused their copy of the Prospectus of which I now have the pleasure of presenting this reprint.

After the discussion on this agendum, on the first day of the New Delhi Conference, it was my privilege to move the following resolution :—

RESOLUTION No. 6 : Institution of a States Information Service and Bureau : THE CONFERENCE commends and hereby approves the setting up of a States Information Service and Bureau for the collection, production and dissemination of information on the constituent territories of India, past and present (as anticipated by the Saurashtra States General in their Resolution No. 8 of the 13th February 1966, *vide* the Prospectus appended) and directs that an endowment, sufficient to its needs, be created and set aside for its stability and permanence.

As recorded in the circulated proceedings (which were subsequently confirmed by the Plenary Conference of Consultation at Bombay on the 10th November 1967), the resolution was 'supported by His Highness the Nawab of Palanpur, His Highness the Raja of Mandi, Her Highness the Rajmata Scindia of Gwalior, His Highness the Raja of Narsingarh and others, and passed unanimously.'

The resolution of the Saurashtra Rulers Conference, adopting the original proposal, reads as follows :—

RESOLUTION No. 8 : Proposal of a States Information Service and Bureau : THIS CONFERENCE recommends

and approves the setting up of a Bureau and Service for the collection, production and dissemination of information on the Indian States (see the appended prospectus dated 18th May 1965) and authorises the Board to promote the same, provided that for its expenses, chargeable to the Administrative Fund, no further contribution will be invited from the Saurashtra Rulers, unless the project achieves wider acceptance or a separate existence.

This resolution was moved from the Chair by His Highness the Maharaja of Porbandar, President of the Conference, and passed unanimously.

The idea of a central institution of this nature and scope, was first mooted in 1963 (in connection with a project, the *Illustration of Houses*, a compendium or reference work on the ruling houses) by His Highness the Maharaja of Dhrangadhra, now known to be the author of this Prospectus. One can only regret that the proposal did not, at that time, evoke sufficient response, and that this serviceable institution did not then come into being. It foreshadows the Concord itself.

Today we shall have to *begin to create* an organisation—an uphill and most difficult task—instead of having had one ready at hand. We shall have to *begin to pool* our resources, when we should have already had the means at our ready disposal. We shall have to take *remedial* measures where we might have taken *preventive* ones.

The words and contents of this 1965 Prospectus carry so strong an appeal, so cogent a message, that I deem it but right, indeed a duty, especially as the mover of the Resolution, to render this very small service in the common cause. I am grateful to the Convenor General for kindly permitting me to reprint this Prospectus.

With this, I earnestly commend this prophetic Prospectus (which was written more than two and a half years ago) for perusal and study by my brother members of the Order and the distinguished members of the Council and the Committee.

21st January, 1968

The Villa, Kapurthala

Maharaja of Kapurthala