I have received your letter dated the 23rd January. It will not be possible for me to let you know the views of the members of our Party regarding withdrawal from the Legislature before the middle of February because the Council (Upper House) is not meeting before the 10th of February and the Congress members of the Council will not be available for consultation before the date. The Assembly will meet to-morrow. However, I have consulted all available members and am giving you our views of the matter. In our opinion withdrawal from the legislature will practically mean the extinction of the Congress Party in the legislature not only for the present but for some years to come if not for all times. As it is, the position of the Congress in Bengal has been shaken to its foundation by the revolt of Sree Subhas Bose and Sree Sarat Chandra Bose. Against great odds, we have succeeded in keeping alive some sort of Congress Organisation in this province. As you know, we have to fight against the provincialism of the Bose Brothers on the one hand and communalism of the Hindu Mahasabha on the other. By great efforts, thanks to the support we received from the Working Committee and specially from Maulana Azad and also to some extent because of the blunders of the Bose Brothers, we are now making fair progress and the public opinion is gradually veering round the Congress.

If the Congress members absent themselves from the Legislature at this critical juncture and the duty of Opposition is
left to the revolting group led by Sree Sarat Chandra Bose and other groups opposed to the Congress, the chance of Congress members being returned at the next election will be nil. This step is sure to be interpreted as indicating complete apathy of the Congress High Command towards the problems of Bengal - otherwise, it would be said, they would not withdraw their members from the Legislature at a time when the Huq Ministry is passing legislation after legislation to crush the Hindus of Bengal. We beg of you to consider this aspect of the question very carefully. The position here is not like the position in the Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay or Madras. There the Congress is powerful enough to come back to power whenever necessary. In Bengal unfortunately the Congress is fighting at present for its own existence.