

Swatantra can form Govt in 1976: Piloo Mody

MADRAS, April 14 (UNI) — Swatantra Party president Piloo Mody said here today there was no reason why his party should not win 300 seats to Parliament in the 1976 elections and form the Government at the Centre.

Delivering the presidential address at the party's sixth national convention, Mr Mody told his partymen: If we can win one seat, we can win 300. The problem is exactly the same and the outcome is exactly the same. Only the effort has to be multiplied.

Mr Mody said the Swatantra Party had one basic difference with all other parties. While the ideologies of all other parties sacrificed the individual by claiming, supremacy for the State or the ascendancy for the party, the Swatantra party all along considered the individual as the Central figure around which society must be fashioned.

Mr Mody said that development was largely a matter of inspiring the dynamics of individuals and of local communities, generating responsible initiative locally and multiplying human energies.

He explained: When every iota of available resources was extracted and utilised with the best of management skills there would still be considerable scope for greater effort. This "X" factor was the individual's sense of achievement.

"Where all other data are known and tangible, there is no ceiling on human resourcefulness and the spirit of man. It is in the mobilisation of this great resource, that this "X" factor becomes the vehicle of rapid growth," he said.

The Swatantra Party had defined its policies with a proper appreciation of this phenomenon, he said.

Mr Mody said that the democratic fabric of India was wearing thin and accused the ruling party of "violating the laws of the land" and even "destroying the constitution" for its own political ends.

More radical

In this context he cited the instance of imposition of President's rule in Orissa and said: "The case of Orissa is the most blatant example of constitutional double standards employed by the ruling party with the connivance of its stooges institutionalised in the form of Governors."

Inaugurating the convention, former Swatantra Party president M. R. Masani asked his partymen to think afresh and boldly in order to play the party's role effectively against the "follies and mistakes of the socialist establishment."

Mr Masani said "we shall have to be prepared to show that we are more radical than the members of the socialist establishment who cling to the deadwood of Marxist dogma and mistake bureaucratic State capitalism for socialism."

Brushing aside the "meaningless labels like right and left," he asked the partymen to work well with all those who have a genuine concern for the poor and a burning passion for social justice.

Mr Masani said it would be counter-productive "to join in efforts such as those recently started by Mr Biju Patnaik." He said the Swatantra Party would have to beware of false starts of

nature and "this applies to efforts being made in the direction even by well-intentioned persons like Mr Balraj Madhok."

Mr Masani warned against over-commitment of the country to the Soviet Union. Unless this trend was reversed and the country returned to a relatively balanced role with the three Super Powers, the risk of the country's involvement in needless international controversies would increase.

Tracing the political developments in the country since 1968, Mr Masani said the result had been a complete distortion of popular will and the reduction of democracy to a farce. He said alongside the "political developments, there had been a sharp drop in the standards of public morality."

Orissa episode

Mr Masani attacked the Orissa leadership of his party for aligning with Mr Biju Patnaik in a toppling operation. He regretted the Samyukta Vidhayak Dal disease had now "infected our own camp" in Orissa.

He said the leadership had "even accepted as leader of the group someone against whom a judicial investigation was successfully instituted by the Swatantra Party's Government in Orissa for his improprieties."

Piloo