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Masani Welcomes Mrs Gandhi Offer To End Controls

BOMBAY, Oct 9.—Mr M. R. Masani, the Swatantra Party leader, yesterday welcomed the statement of Mrs Gandhi before business men in Madras that the Government would be willing to remove controls to the extent private industry reflected an increasing awareness of its social responsibilities, reports PTI.

Addressing a public meeting here under the auspices of the Forum of Free Enterprise, the Swatantra leader said that the Prime Minister's statement should be taken by the business community as a challenge. They should accept the concept of "trusteeship" preached by Mahatma Gandhi.

Mr Masani, replying to a question after an hour-long speech on "public accountability" of business organizations both in the public and private sectors, said his party's directive principles included a clause relating to the social responsibility and accountability of business men and advocated the adoption of Gandhiji's concept of trusteeship.

He criticized business organizations such as FICCI for inviting Government leaders and "swallowing insults". He felt that the climate for nationalization, which had never worked anywhere in the world and could not as it was not a natural function of the State to be in business, would not have mounted if business organizations had shown recognition of their social responsibilities.