

Swatantra Party.

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The agitation for the creation of a separate State comprising eight Vidarbha districts has died a natural death following the third general elections in Maharashtra.

Shri Brijlal Biyani, leader of the Nag-Vidarbha Andolan Samiti, who sponsored the separatist agitation is the first to admit that the people of Vidarbha have given a clear verdict in favour of a united Maharashtra State.

Shri Biyani has failed to persuade his hot head followers to wind up the organisation which he himself founded with the result that he has to quit it on his own accord. But the NVAS is a dead force even in Vidarbha.

The NVAS contested as many as 43 Assembly and ten Lok Sabha seats in the Vidarbha region but it has secured only two seats in the State Legislature and one in the Lok Sabha. The election of its Lok Sabha candidate, Dr. M. S. Aney is attributed more to his own personal popularity than to the strength of the organisation.

Dr. Aney has also realised that there is no future for the separatist movement. He has therefore joined the Swatantra Party since his election to the Lok Sabha.

It must be said to the credit of Chief Minister Chavan that he has been able to foster a sense of unity among all sections of the people in Maharashtra.

The debacle of the Nag-Vidarbha group is a healthy aspect of the political development in the State. It only shows that fissiparous tendencies have no future in Maharashtra.

Shri Biyani has acted in the interest of the entire State by advising his followers to dissolve the NVAS which has no more than a mere nuisance value at the present juncture. It is to be hoped that wisdom will prevail with these hot-heads also.