

Pact on 'electoral adjustment' now 'GRAND ALLIANCE' IS STILL-BORN

Our Special Correspondent

THE PROPOSED RIGHTIST ALLIANCE UNDER THE NAME OF DEMOCRATIC FRONT—EARLIER AGREED UPON BY THE SYNDICATE, THE SWATANTRA AND THE JANA SANGH—WAS STILL-BORN ON SUNDAY EVENING. IT WAS REPLACED BY A HURRIEDLY-ARRANGED ELECTORAL FRONT FOR ADJUSTMENT OF SEATS AMONG THE THREE PARTIES.

As the appointed hour for making the announcement came near, Swatantra party chairman M. R. Masani angrily walked out from the closed door conclave of the party leaders, brushing aside Syndicate leader S. N. Misra who tried to prevent him from going away.

to meet Giri 'charges' ong-O

L. Bahuguna on Sunday des-
urge made by Cong-O leader
party was trying to secure
ertisements from the public
sector, reports PTI.

Mr Bahuguna told newsmen that
it was "factually incorrect" that any
advertisement had been got or was
in the process of being secured by
the AICC or its constituent units
from any public sector unit.

Similarly there was no substance
in another charge by Mr Mishra
that jeeps being built for defence
purposes were being diverted to
the ruling party.

Mr Mishra had made the charges
in a letter to the President.

Mr Bahuguna said: "Making such
wild allegations is in tune with his
(Mr Mishra's) basic approach. Nor-
mally we would have refrained
from commenting on his statement
if it were not made in relation to
the preparation for elections."

"I would like to know from Mr
Mishra how his party is going to
finance the coming elections", he
remarked.

Earlier, leaders of Cong-O, the
Jana Sangh, the Swatantra and the
SP decided to meet the President
on Monday to urge him to prevent
the "misuse of Government machi-
nery" by the Prime Minister, adds
UNI.

They also decided to meet the
Chief Election Commissioner to im-
press upon him the need to take
effective steps to ensure free and
fair elections.

Those who attended the meeting
were Mr S. N. Mishra, Mr Raj
Narain, Mr Mahavir Tyagi, Mr Pi-
ambar Das, Mr L. K. Advani, Mr
Tum Sewak Yadav, Mr Rabi Ray,
Mr Dattabhai Patel and Mr S. D.
Mishra.

Gujarat split on Masani

AMMEDABAD, Jan 3 (UNI)—
The Syndicate PCC president
Krishna Shukla and district
committee president Vallabh-
bhai told newsmen here today
that if the party high command
overruled the Rajkot Lok Sabha
seat to the Swatantra party, they
could put up their own candidate
against Mr M. R. Masani, the
proposed Swatantra candidate.

They said "we do not care about
disciplinary action". Allocat-
ing the seat to the Swatantra
would split the district committee
into the three groups—one sup-
porting the allocation, one oppo-
sing it and one neutral, they
warned.

W. BENGAL UNIT TO IGNORE ALLIANCE

Our Special Correspondent

THE West Bengal unit of the Syn-
dicate has staged a virtual re-
volt against the bosses on the ques-
tion of having an alliance with the
Jana Sangh and the Swatantra
Party.

West Bengal Syndicate leader P.
C. Sen told newsmen in Delhi on
Sunday that the West Bengal Syn-
dicate would contest all the 40 par-
liamentary and 280 Assembly seats
irrespective of alliances.

Mr Sen, former leader of the
Cong-O Assembly Party, made the
announcement in the presence of
Mr Atulya Ghosh.

He said there was no question of
the Syndicate having any adjust-
ments with the Jana Sangh and the
Swatantra. "These parties simply do
not exist there", he added.

The Jana Sangh has already an-
nounced four parliamentary consti-
tuencies in West Bengal where it
would set up its candidates.

Mr Sen claimed that his party's
chances in the State had become
"bright" with the formation of va-
rious groups under the leadership
of the CP-M, the CPI, the Bangla
Congress and the Congress. "The
more the parties, the better our
chances would be", he claimed.

The Syndicate leader also de-
manded that elections to the State
Assembly should be held simulta-
neously with the parliamentary elec-
tions. "The law and order situation
in West Bengal might deteriorate
further if simultaneous elections to
Parliament and Assembly are not
held", he added.

Mr Sen said all the West Bengal
parties wanted elections to the As-
sembly and there was no justifica-
tion now for the Union Govern-
ment not to hold elections.

J.S hopes

The Central Parliamentary Board
of the Jana Sangh has identified
100 of the 138 Lok Sabha consti-
tuencies in UP and Bihar where
the party could fight with success
irrespective of adjustments with
other parties, reports UNI.

The board feels that the party
has good chances in 60 of the 85
seats in UP and 40 of the 53 in
Bihar.

The constituencies similarly iden-
tified in other States are: Rajas-
than 12 (out of 23), Gujarat 8
(24), Orissa 2 (20), Mysore 8 (27),
Andhra Pradesh 12 (41), Tamil Na-
du 1 (19), and Kerala 4 (19).

In all, the party is confident of
going it alone in 215 of the 520
Lok Sabha seats.

However, after Mr Masani had
left, the Syndicate, the Jana Sangh
and the SSP announced their deci-
sion to enter into electoral adjust-
ments for the mid-term poll to the
Lok Sabha.

The electoral adjustment was a
big climb-down from the full-
fledged Democratic Front. This
was said to be the cause of the
walk out by Mr Masani who latter
charged the Syndicate leaders of
"vacillation and indecision".

Mr Masani held the SSP responsi-
ble for scuttling the whole thing,
by successfully persuading the
Syndicate leaders to go back on
their commitments.

The four-man group of SSP lead-
ers, consisting of Mr Raj Narain,
Mr R. S. Yadav, Mr Madhu Limaye
and Mr Rabi Ray, acted virtually
like a demolition squad to finish off
the "grand alliance" castle.

They insisted that the proposal
of a full-fledged alliance, with a com-
mon minimum programme, full ad-
justment all over the country and
common campaigning for the al-
liance candidates, be scrapped and re-
placed by "more electoral adjust-
ment".

What, however, piqued the Swa-
tantra leader was the attitude of the
Syndicate leaders, who crumpled
under the SSP pressure and went
back on the agreed declaration.

The declaration on the formation
of the alliance was agreed upon be-
tween the Syndicate, the Jana Sangh
and the Swatantra as far back as
20 December.

The alliance, according to the
agreement, was to have a common
minimum programme, adjustment on
all the 523 Lok Sabha seats and
agreement on joint campaigning in
the elections by all the parties.

The declaration was kept secret
for some time to allow the Syndicate
leaders to get it approved by the
Syndicate AICC meeting at Luck-
now. The announcement was later
postponed in the hope that the SSP
and the BKD would also join it.

The Swatantra and Jana Sangh
leaders wanted to get declaration
to be made as early as possible.
But the tactics of the BKD and

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 2)

Nijalingappa's claim denied

Our Special Correspondent

Swatantra Party chairman
Minoo Masani said in New
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"we (Swatantra, Jana Sangh,
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statement last night. It is in
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Earlier, Cong-O chief Nija-
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Asked by a newsmen whether
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Earlier, leaders of Cong-O, the Jana Sangh, the Swatantra and the SP decided to meet the President on Monday to urge him to prevent the "misuse of Government machinery" by the Prime Minister, adds UNI.

They also decided to meet the Chief Election Commissioner to impress upon him the need to take effective steps to ensure free and fair elections.

Those who attended the meeting were Mr S. N. Mishra, Mr Rajaram, Mr Mahavir Tyagi, Mr P. Ramdas, Mr L. K. Advani, Mr Ram Sewak Yadav, Mr Rabi Ray, Mr Dalabhai Patel and Mr S. D. Joshi.

Gujarat split on Masani

MUMBAI, Jan 3 (UNI)—The Gujarat PCC president, Mr. Shukla and district secretary, Mr. Vallabhji Patel told newsmen here today that if the party high command overruled the Rajkot Lok Sabha seat to the Swatantra party, they would put up their own candidate against Mr. M. R. Masani, the proposed Swatantra candidate.

They said "we do not care about disciplinary action". Allocating the seat to the Swatantra would split the district committee into the three groups—one supporting the allocation, one opposing it and one neutral, they added.

West Bengal Syndicate leader P. C. Sen told newsmen in Delhi on Sunday that the West Bengal Syndicate would contest all the 40 parliamentary and 280 Assembly seats irrespective of alliances.

Mr Sen, former leader of the Cong-O Assembly Party, made the announcement in the presence of Mr Arulja Ghosh.

He said there was no question of the Syndicate having any adjustments with the Jana Sangh and the Swatantra. "These parties simply do not exist there", he added.

The Jana Sangh has already announced four parliamentary constituencies in West Bengal where it would set up its candidates.

Mr Sen claimed that his party's chances in the State had become "bright" with the formation of various groups under the leadership of the CP-M, the CPI, the Bangla Congress and the Congress. "The more the parties, the better our chances would be", he claimed.

The Syndicate leader also demanded that elections to the State Assembly should be held simultaneously with the parliamentary elections. "The law and order situation in West Bengal might deteriorate further if simultaneous elections to Parliament and Assembly are not held", he added.

Mr Sen said all the West Bengal parties wanted elections to the Assembly and there was no justification now for the Union Government not to hold elections.

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What, however, piqued the Swatantra leader was the attitude of the Syndicate leaders, who crumpled under the SSP pressure and went back on the agreed declaration.

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Earlier, Cong-O chief Nijalingappa, commenting on Mr Masani's press statement, had claimed that there had been no firm decision on the formation of a full-fledged Democratic Front.

Asked by a newsman whether he thought Mr Morarji Desai's telephonic talk with his colleagues in Delhi to be responsible for the end of the Front, he said, "No, no. It is the SSP which has been after Mr Nijalingappa the whole afternoon."

Dissolution of Tamil Nadu Assembly

C.M asked to decide

Our Staff Correspondent

MADRAS, Jan 3

THE policy-making general council of the DMK has authorised party chairman and Chief Minister Karunanidhi and general secretary

V. R. Nedunchezian to take a decision on whether or not the Assembly should be dissolved.

Mr Karunanidhi told newsmen after the general council's brief business session, that a decision in this regard would be taken in a few days.

simple reason that no constitutional crisis has arisen and the DMK, at time of dissolution commands absolute majority in the House.

UNI adds: The Tamil Nadu Congress hopes to win 25 Lok Sabha seats, TNCC president T. V. Swaminathan said today.

Briefing newsmen after the working committee meeting this morn-

ing, he said the meeting discussed the party's chances and assessed the strength in various constituencies.

He said the number of seats the party would contest depended on the availability of "better candidates". The Congress is a member of the seven-party Progressive Front which will contest all the seats.

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o depended on big business. In beginning promises and assurances took the Swatantra reins into the Syndicate, but growing disparities in the rural sector have created divisions among shatriyas and they are now turning towards the Congress: like the Kshatriya peasantry, the patidars are also getting disillusioned with the Syndicate. This accounts for the continuing trek to the Congress from the Syndicate. Indeed, even big business patrons of the Syndicate have begun to realize that its policy of confrontation with the Centre does not suit them. Mr Vadilal alubhai is not the only big industrialist to come out in support of the Congress. Young officials of the Merchants' Chamber have also assured support to the Prime Minister. Thus from the landless and poor peasantry to business icons, everyone in Gujarat wants a change and has begun looking towards the Congress.

UNHEEDED WARNING

This change in the situation as observed months back by men like Mr Chimanbhai Patel and Mr Jamunashankar Pandeya. Mr Patel was secretary of the party for a decade before becoming Minister and has wide contacts with students and the teaching community because of his association with a number of educational institutions all over the State. To Mr Jamunashankar Pandeya goes the credit of putting the undivided Congress on a firm footing in Ahmedabad city from where the party was unable to get into the Lok Sabha during the last three general elections. Mr Chimanbhai Patel found that at student meetings and in talks with teachers radicalism evoked hearty response while attempts to justify existing policies left the audience cold. Even the staid and conservative middle class of Ahmedabad began showing signs of enthusiasm for the Prime Minister's pronouncements and adopted a cynical attitude towards the State Government's policies which was evident, as Mr Chimanbhai Patel pointed out, from the decline in the circulation of pro-Syndicate newspapers and increase in that of papers supporting the Prime Minister. Criticism of the State Government in the Assembly by Congressmen Kantilal Ghia, Gangaram Rawal

and Shantabehn has evoked wide support from the people and the INTUC which is the handmaiden of the Syndicate. The Syndicate failed to rally workers against the bonus struggle jointly led by Congress, Communist, Socialist and independent trade unions. Mr Pandeya and Mr Patel warned Mr Htendra Desai of the changing situation but their warning went unheeded. The unresponsiveness of the Htendra Desai Government can only be explained by what Mr Ghanshyam Oza described as the total bankruptcy of Syndicate leadership. According to him, it just cannot think about any of the problems facing the State, and whenever he sought to raise them with Mr Morarji Desai, he found the latter concerned over only one problem—how to dislodge the Prime Minister and become Prime Minister himself.

Prof Pathak has an explanation for Mr Morarji Desai's attitude. He recalls that in his ambition to become a national leader he has always sacrificed the State's interests of which a number of instances can be cited, and even now he is prepared to take the risk of instability in the State so that he can replace the Prime Minister with the help of Swatantra and the Jana Sangh which till now had constituted the main threat to the State Government.

MORARJI'S AIM

It is this attitude of Mr Morarji Desai which has alienated him even from Gandhian constructive workers in the State and turned public opinion against him. As against this, Mr Chimanbhai Patel pointed out that the Centre's cotton policy has demonstrated the Prime Minister's concern for the interests of the State. By reducing the possibilities of price manipulation by private trade, the new policy has given cotton-growers a 60 per cent increase in prices and also assured supplies to industry. This, Mr Chimanbhai Patel holds, has brought about a sudden swing in favour of the Prime Minister and the Congress all over the countryside. Thus the hope roused by the Prime Minister's pronouncements and policies among the people, the growing disillusionment among all social groups without exception with the policies of

the Syndicate Government in the State and its leadership at the Centre, the large influx of Congress activists and organizers from the Syndicate, the continuing trek back to the party of those who remained loyal to the bosses after the split, the ability of the Pradesh Congress to bring together leaders of all sections of opinion and representatives of all interests, the unity of the Pradesh Congress leadership despite differences of outlook and approach and the enthusiasm generated among party workers by democratic functioning of the Congress—these are factors in favour of the Congress and account for optimism in regard to its electoral prospects. These factors also open up for the first time after the Mahagujarat movement, possibilities for radicalisation of State politics.

STILL STRONG

The Congress leadership, however, cannot afford to be complacent. The Syndicate still controls the wide network of cooperative and Panchayati Raj institutions and has at its disposal a vast army of what are called constructive workers who cannot desert it whatever their views simply because they depend for their livelihood on the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi which is also controlled by Syndicate bosses. Besides, it has vast resources at its disposal (it is said contractors who built Gandhinagar have contributed liberally to its coffers) and also as long as it is in power in the State, industry and trade cannot afford to antagonise it.

In a number of districts the Syndicate has lost its activists to the Congress—nearly one-third of the active membership has returned to the Congress—and in a number of places its organisational machinery has been smashed but even then it is much better organised than the Congress. Above all, forces of reaction know ways to drown discontent and divide the ranks of the progressives by rousing communal passion. This is the biggest weapon in their hands and the scars left by the 1969 bloodbath can still be seen. It is not easy to defeat reaction in the homeland of conservatism even though winds of change are blowing.

(Concluded)

ists to create an atmosphere of confidence and creative endeavour which could help find solutions to the country's many problems.

Inaugurating the 58th annual session of the Indian Science Congress here, Mrs Gandhi asked scientists to unhesitatingly shoulder the responsibility of promoting a temper of tolerance and respect for facts.

In her absence, the address was read out by Mysore Governor Dharam Vira.

Mrs Gandhi told the scientists that all of them, whether scientists, technologists or even ordinary citizens, should think not of exploiting human or material or natural resources, but of employing them with discernment and imagination to derive maximum benefit for human welfare and to ensure that the inevitable changes in living conditions and the environment did not despoil nature or create a sense of alienation in the people.

She said the greatest challenge to

QUARRELS IN JANA SANGH OVER DELHI SEATS

By 'EKALAVYA'

THE Grand Alliance in Delhi got a bad shock as New Year gift. While the Jana Sangh's leaders were

inaugurating their election campaign at Bara Tooti came the news that Syndicate leader Brij Mohan has resigned from the party. The Shahdara Syndicate unit along with 150 prominent workers will follow suit.

The Jana Sangh had high hopes from the Syndicate, but the desertion of the only prominent Syndicate figure and the gestures being made to the Congress by a prominent Muslim Syndicate leader have been shattering blows. The Sangh was ready to concede the Chandni Chowk seat to Mr Brij Mohan, now passing its sitting MP from the area, Mr Ram Gopal Shalwale.

The Syndicate's never-say-die manipulators, however, are trying to get the Sangh to give up two seats for their own nominees—the New Delhi seat to Mrs Sucheta Kripalani (she held it in 1952) and one in Old Delhi.

MADHOK PLEA

Giving up New Delhi as a gesture of deference to the Grand Alliance will create difficulties for the Jana Sangh. How to advise Mr

and growing opposition in the refugee colonies are pointers. RSS attendance in the New Delhi's sakhya has come down to a mere 1,000 from 3,000 in December 1969.

At the time of the Central Government employees' strike, Guru Golwalkar had snubbed the over-enthusiastic leaders of the party in Delhi for their active campaign against the Government. The leadership beat a hasty retreat, although Mr Sondhi felt very sore. After that, the Delhi Sangh became cold towards the Government employees. In the Refugee-dominated areas, the water-crisis is remembered as a special Sangh addition to the difficulties of South Delhi colonies.

In the fourth general election, the Jana Sangh captured six Delhi seats out of seven, but the victory in terms of votes in most of the constituencies was marginal. New Delhi: Sangh — 55,390; Cong — 38,630; South Delhi: Sangh — 54,520; Cong — 35,770; East Delhi: Sangh — 48,760; Cong — 45,470; Chandni Chowk: Sangh — 44,050; Cong — 31,230; Sadar Bazar: Sangh — 47,540; Cong — 41,290; Karol Bagh: Sangh — 40,190; Cong — 37,290.

Mr Sri Chand, Metropolitan Councillor, and three

by New Year's day, but it has not been able to finalize the list after three lengthy sittings of the local bosses. The leadership wanted to replace Mr Shalwale with Mr Hans Raj Gupta, the present Mayor or Shri Kishan Lal Katpiceewala, a Metropolitan Council member from Chandni Chowk. But Mr Gupta declined as he wanted to go to the Rajya Sabha. Mr Satya Narain Bansal, the party election in-charge in Chandni Chowk, insisted on Mr Gupta's name as in his opinion he was the only suitable candidate. RSS workers supported Mr Bansal.

Mr Bansal wanted Mr Gupta to go to the Lok Sabha or get defeated because this would open the door for him to enter the Municipal Corporation as Mayor or as Chairman of the powerful Standing Committee.

Mr Shalwale staked his claim as sitting MP and brought the powerful pressure of Arya Samaj to bear on the Sangh leadership. The three names have been forwarded to the Central leadership. Mr Shalwale is, however, likely to be dropped. For the other seats, sitting members of the dissolved Lok Sabha were recommended and any alteration has been left to be made by the Central

UNHEEDED WARNING

This change in the situation as observed months back by men like Mr Chimanbhai Patel and Mr Jamunashankar Pandey. Mr Patel was secretary of the party for a decade before becoming Minister and has wide contacts with students and the teaching community because of his association with a number of educational institutions all over the State. To Mr Jamunashankar Pandey goes the credit of putting the undivided Congress on a firm footing in Ahmedabad city from where the party was unable to get into the Lok Sabha during the last three general elections. Mr Chimanbhai Patel found that at student meetings and in talks with teachers radicalism evoked hearty response while attempts to justify existing policies left the audience cold. Even the staid and conservative middle class of Ahmedabad began showing signs of enthusiasm for the Prime Minister's pronouncements and adopted a cynical attitude towards the State Government's policies which was evident, as Mr Chimanbhai Patel pointed out, from the decline in the circulation of pro-Syndicate newspapers and increase in that of papers supporting the Prime Minister. Criticism of the State Government in the Assembly by Congressmen Kanfalal Ghia, Gangaram Rawal

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MADHOK PLEA

Giving up New Delhi as a gesture of deference to the Grand Alliance will create difficulties for the Jana Sangh. How to adjust Mr M. L. Sondhi and Mr Balraj Madhok, who were members of the party in the now dissolved Lok Sabha?

Mr Madhok is reported to be in favour of shifting to a safe constituency outside Delhi and his supporters are trying hard to sell the idea to the leadership of the party. Mr Madhok would like some constituency in Madhya Pradesh because New Delhi is not in a mood to back the Sangh. The new awakening among Government employees

and growing opposition in the refugee colonies are pointers. RSS attendance in the New Delhi's sakhhas has come down to a mere 1,000 from 3,000 in December 1969.

At the time of the Central Government employees' strike, Guru Golwalkar had snubbed the over-enthusiastic leaders of the party in Delhi for their active campaign against the Government. The leadership beat a hasty retreat, although Mr Sondhi felt very sore. After that, the Delhi Sangh became cold towards the Government employees. In the Refugee-dominated areas, the water-crisis is remembered as a special Sangh addition to the difficulties of South Delhi colonies.

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Mr Sri Chand, Metropolitan Councillor, and three corporators have left the Sangh in the course of the last few months. This has further weakened the position of the Sangh. Many party activists are bitter over the continued tussle between the RSS and the Jana Sangh.

NO LIST YET

The Delhi unit of the Jana Sangh boasted that it would announce its list of candidates for the poll

by New Year's day, but it has not been able to finalize the list after three lengthy sittings of the local bosses. The leadership wanted to replace Mr Shalwale with Mr Hans Raj Gupta, the present Mayor of Shri Kishan Lal Katpiceewala, a Metropolitan Council member from Chandni Chowk. But Mr Gupta declined as he wanted to go to the Rajya Sabha. Mr Satya Narain Bansal, the party election in-charge in Chandni Chowk, insisted on Mr Gupta's name as in his opinion he was the only suitable candidate. RSS workers supported Mr Bansal.

Mr Bansal wanted Mr Gupta to go to the Lok Sabha or get defeated because this would open the door for him to enter the Municipal Corporation as Mayor or as Chairman of the powerful Standing Committee.

Mr Shalwale staked his claim as sitting MP and brought the powerful pressure of Arya Samaj to bear on the Sangh leadership. The three names have been forwarded to the Central leadership. Mr Shalwale is, however, likely to be dropped. For the other seats, sitting members of the dissolved Lok Sabha were recommended and any alteration has been left to be made by the Central leadership.

The Jana Sangh is extremely worried about the prospect of the civic elections being postponed for two months. Earlier it had opposed the holding of civic elections and wanted extension for one year. A prominent Jana Sangh leader has confessed that separate polls would bring national problems to the fore whereas the Sangh wants to exploit local issues.

'Grand' alliance is still-born

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 4)

SSP leadership exhausted their patience, and they pressed for the declaration to be issued on Sunday at 9 p.m.

The meeting of the alliance parties began in the evening with a happy note as the SSP delegation walked into the residence of Syndicate president Nijalingappa for the final conclave. The Syndicate was represented by, besides Mr Nijalingappa, Dr Ram Subhag Singh, Mr S. N. Mishra, and Mr Sadiq Ali. Mr Masani came at about 8 p.m., after about two hours, hoping that the formal declaration would be made to the large gathering of newsmen, including from the foreign Press, at the residence of Mr Nijalingappa.

He was amazed to find that the Syndicate leader had nearly revised their views about a full-fledged alliance. The SSP had in two hours of discussion, pressurised them to the extent that they were ready to change their stand on many issues.

Mr Masani, at first, tried to argue with the SSP and then with the Syndicate leaders. Unfortunately for Mr Masani, Jana Sangh president A. B. Vajpayee, who was to reach the venue of the meeting at 8 p.m., was delayed on his way to Delhi from Ambala.

Mr Masani found himself alone pleading with the Syndicate leaders to go ahead with the agreed programme of announcing the formation of the three-party alliance.

The Swatantra leader then left the room in a huff, brushing aside the Syndicate leaders who tried to prevent him from going out.

After Mr Masani had left, a tired Mr Nijalingappa came out of the room to say that the announcement was being postponed till after the Swatantra Party chairman had discussed it with his colleagues in the party.

Mr Nijalingappa said that the announcement was being postponed because BKD emissary Kumbharam Arya and the Jana Sangh leader had not come.

Just at that moment, Mr Vajpayee walked in.

Mr Nijalingappa then said that they had discussions with "SSP friends" who made certain suggestions. Mr Masani wanted to think about these suggestions.

The SSP, he said, wanted that the efforts for "electoral adjustments" should be co-ordinated to replace the Indira Gandhi Government.

Replying to a question, he said "you cannot put all together on a joint declaration", indicating that the SSP was not prepared to sign the declaration.

The beans were, however, spilled by the Swatantra leader. He said, in a statement, that "our view was that nothing less than a full-fledged alliance, with a common programme, agreed candidates supported by all the parties in the alliance, can provide an effective alternative to the present ruling party."

This was well understood during the protracted discussions. It was also agreed that the three parties—the Jana Sangh, the Swatantra and the Syndicate—would make the declaration of the formation of Democratic Front on Sunday evening. Unfortunately some last minute thinking has once again led to vacillation and indecision on the part of Syndicate leaders.

"What is now proposed, at the instance of SSP, is an attempt at mere adjustment of seats with formation of a Democratic Front with common programme. I have no authority from my party to agree to this proposal or to anything short of a principled electoral pact of the kind that was intended to be announced. I would, however, put the new proposals before the party executive on 13 January at Madras. It is for the executive to define the attitude of the party to new proposals."

Later, in an attempt to prevent demonstration from spreading in their ranks, the Syndicate, the Jana Sangh and the SSP hurriedly issued a statement announcing a joint electoral front.

Their joint statement said that they had decided "to form a Front to contest the elections to the Lok Sabha with a view to defeating the present Government which is taking the country in an authoritarian and anti-democratic direction."

The statement was signed by Mr Nijalingappa, Mr Vajpayee, Mr Ram Sevak Yadav, and Mr George Fernandes.

It said: "In order to offer the country an alternative which it urgently needs we have agreed to come together to fight the elections. We appeal to other parties, groups and individuals who share these objectives to join us."

"Our endeavour will be to put up one agreed candidate for each Lok Sabha constituency throughout the country who will be supported by all our parties."

"The allocation of constituencies and the nomination of candidates will be carried out by a co-ordinating committee of these and other co-operating parties."

Mr Nijalingappa later denied Mr Masani's contention that there was any firm decision to have a full-fledged alliance. He said talks on such a programme could follow an electoral understanding. "These can take place even now", he added.

Mr Vajpayee, asked why plans for a common programme had been given up, said: "A common programme is needed only for an alternative Government. Otherwise, the common programme will remain only on paper."

"The need of the hour is to form a broad-based front covering all nationalist and democratic parties so that the objective of defeating the ruling party is achieved."

"Did we not after the 1967 elections, when the Congress party was defeated in several States, come together to chalk out common programmes and form governments?" he added.

DESAI: NO COMMENT

AHMEDABAD, Jan 3 (PTI) — Cong-O Morarji Desai declined comment on the walk-out of Mr M. R. Masani from the "grand alliance" talks. Mr Desai told newsmen "such things require patience."

Six unions of D.T.U back clerks' dharna

Our Staff Reporter

ALL the six unions of the Delhi Transport Undertaking (DTU) have extended support to the DTU clerical staff to the management to consider their demands.

This was announced in New Delhi on Monday by DTU clerical staff union general secretary H. C. Thakur.

The clerical staff of the DTU had been staging dharna demanding revision of their pay scales, on Monday a third batch of eight members staged dharna in front of the DTU general manager's office.

Mr Thakur said the management had already revised the pay scales of drivers, conductors and other technical employees. He wanted to know why in the case of the clerical staff only it was failing to do so.

Jobs for blind urged

Our Staff Reporter

Union Minister for Law and Social Welfare K. Hanumanthappa said on Sunday that the industries departments and the nationalized banks should be approached to start suitable industries for blind workers.

He was inaugurating the Blind Welfare Week to be observed till 10 January.

The week has been organized under the auspices of the Louis Braille Memorial Committee.

Mr Hanumanthappa, added that people should come in large numbers to help the blind for service to the blind was the service to divine.

The chairman of the Louis Braille Committee, Mrs Indrani Devi welcomed the chief guest Mr Hanumanthappa.

The funds raised during the week, it was declared, would be utilized in part for raising a suitable memorial to Louis Braille the blind Frenchman who invented the "Braille system" which enables the blind to read and write.

Clerks to form confederation

Our Staff Reporter

The Education Directorate Clerks' Association decided on Sunday to form a confederation of all the employees of the Delhi Administration to fight unitedly against the "callous" attitude of the Administration on their demands.

In a resolution adopted in the Association's general body meeting, the Association said if their long standing demands were not conceded by 15 February, they would take to the agitational path.

Among their 14-point demands are the formation of a joint con-

DELHI BAGS AWARD FOR TRAINEES

John Soleman and Miss Jasvir Kaur, trainees from Industrial Training Institutes, Delhi Administration, have secured the highest marks in the instrument mechanic and cutting and tailoring trades respectively in the Seventh All-India Skills Competition held in September last, reports UNI.

By virtue of this, the Delhi Administration will be awarded the President's running Shield.

The names of the eight trainees adjudged best in their respective trades are: John Soleman, instrument mechanic, ITI, Miss Jasvir Kaur, cutting and tailoring (for women) ITI for Women, New Delhi, E. K. Lathesh, fitter CSI Technical Training Institute, Tellicherry, Kerala, Tashi Topayal, turner, Edn-cum-Voc. Institute, Pachmarhi, (Madhya Pradesh), Radhey Shyama Dass, Machinist (composite) MTI, Kanpur; Rameshwar Dayal Gupta, electrician, MTI, Kanpur, Raju Srinivasan, welder, MTI, Madras and Kailash Chander, mechanic (motor vehicle) ITI, Chandigarh.

Each of the best trainees will be given a cash prize of Rs 5,000 besides a silver medal, certificate of merit and tools kit. The trainees will also be taken on an All-India visit to acquaint them with modern techniques of the trades.

Agitation by ITC staff likely

Our Staff Reporter

The Industrial Training Centres employees are proposing to launch an agitation for their demands including revision of pay-scales and confirmation of the temporary staff.

As a first step, the employees' union resorted to a day's pay strike by refusing to accept pay on the pay-day.

The executive of the employees' union will meet in the near future to chalk out its programme of action.

The union is also agitating for deputation allowance and better service conditions.