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Jana Sangh talks next week on party crisis

"The Times of India" News Service

New Delhi, September 9.

A Special meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board of the Jana Sangh has been called here on September 17 to discuss the situation arising from Mr. Balraj Madhok's reported statements last week strongly attacking the party leadership.

This gives a new dimension to the crisis brewing in the Jana Sangh due to sharp differences between Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Madhok.

Mr. Vajpayee has taken a serious note of the two statements published in the press in Mr. Madhok's name attacking the leadership and purporting to give his version of what transpired at the recent meeting of the Jana Sangh working committee.

Mr. Madhok had sharply reacted to a press report that the working committee had sought to censure him because of his earlier utterances and actions, particularly, his filing a writ petition in the Supreme Court challenging the validity of the Bank Nationalisation Ordinance. He had stated that it was the leadership and not he which was in the dock. He was quoted as having said that some Jana Sangh leaders had deliberately leaked out the proceedings of the working committee to publicly malign and denigrate him.

The Parliamentary Board, it is stated, will also consider whether any working committee member had been responsible for the leakage.

Merger with Swatantra is ruled out

INDORE, September 9:

Mr. Manaji Deshmukh, treasurer of the Jana Sangh, today ruled out any possibility of a merger between the Jana Sangh and the Swatantra party.

Addressing a press conference he said that the merger was not possible because of a basic difference in ideology and programme of the two parties. While the Jana Sangh believed in controlled economy, the Swatantra Party subscribed to a policy of free enterprise - P.T.I.