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Rajaji's death 'will not affect party's future'

MADRAS, Dec 27 (UNI).
 The Swatantra Party President, Mr Piloo ~~Mody~~, said here today that the death of the party's founder, Mr C. Rajagopalachari, would not cause any setback to the party's future.

"On the other hand, it will spur us to be more active," he stated.

Mr Mody, who came here to attend the funeral of Rajaji, told UNI, "No doubt, we will all miss the guidance of our leader, who had an original solution to every knotty problem".

He said in the early days the party used to hold its session in Madras to receive advice from Rajaji. "But of late, we are accustomed to hold meetings outside also," he said.

Asked about the future of the Swatantra Party in Tamil Nadu, which was stated to be existing only under the "magic spell of Rajaji" than on its organisational strength, Mr Mody retorted, "Is not the party surviving in other States?"

He disclosed that he had a long chat with Mr Rajagopalachari on November 23, on the strengthening of the Swatantra Party in Tamil Nadu in the context of the split in the ruling DMK.

He maintained that the party's apparatus was all right and only its technique of approaching the people needed to be changed. "It is time for us to rededicate ourselves to the cause of which Rajaji stood," Mr Mody said.

On the resignation of Dr R. C. Cooper, former General Secretary from the party, Mr Mody said that he could not understand the people, who swore by the Swatantra principles and did not want to be associated with them.

"Swatantra Party needs men with a stout heart", he added.