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Masani foresees merger of alliance partners

"The Times of India" News Service

NEW DELHI, January 28.

THE Swatantra president, Mr. M. R. Masani, said here today that the constituents of the four-party alliance could merge if they all accepted the Lucknow resolution of the Congress (O) as the basic document.

Mr. Masani, who was addressing a news conference, pointed out that so far as his party was concerned, its manifesto was based on the Lucknow resolution. The Jana Sangh had also accepted it.

The Swatantra chief did not think that differences among the alliance parties on specific issues would come in the way of their coming together to fight the election and forming a government later on the basis of a minimum agreed programme.

Personally, he said, he was in favour of a bloc or front being formed before the elections. He cited the example of West Germany where every Ministry after World War II had been a coalition of parties with different electoral promises.

PROPERTY RIGHT

Asked whether the demand of the SSP for doing away with the property right as a fundamental right did not run counter to his party's stand Mr. Masani agreed that it was so. If the SSP brought any motion in Parliament in pursuance of its demand, his party would oppose it.

Mr. Masani thought that there were already adequate restrictions on property rights and his party was only anxious that the constitutional guarantee of compensation for any property acquired by the State was not taken away. The right to property "cannot be subject to the whims and fancies of the ruling party."

When the Swatantra leader asserted that his party pursued a middle-of-the-road policy, he was asked to name the parties to the right and the left. In his view, those terms had no relevance in the present day

politics and yet to answer the query, he said the Communist Party of India was to the right, representing an "extremely reactionary" group and to the left were Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan and Acharya Bharat.

Mr. Masani also expressed himself against nationalisation of foreign banks when his attention was drawn to the demand made in its favour by the Jana Sangh in its election manifesto.

SYMBOL ISSUE

Asked whether he considered the cow-and-calf symbol, allotted to the Congress (R) a religious one, Mr. Masani replied in the affirmative and narrated what had happened in 1957. At that time, he had chosen the cock as his symbol for fighting the election from Ranchi. He won the election, but it was his re-election that some time later the Election Commission removed it as an election symbol following objections raised by some Adivasis on religious grounds.

About his candidature Mr. Masani said that he had been told the Jana Sangh would not put up any candidate against him for the Rajkot seat. He hoped the Congress (O) too would not oppose him. If it was a straight fight between him and the Congress (R), he was confident of winning the contest. He would file his nomination tomorrow.

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hectares of dry land was politically motivated.

Proper attention to sanitation urged

NAGPUR, January 28: Bad sanitation was a national disgrace and the problem should be treated as a national challenge, Dr. Atma Ram, director-general, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, said here today.

Dr. Atma Ram was inaugurating a three-day conference on public health engineering research and development organisation here by the Central Public Health Engineering Research Institute (CPHERI).

Emphasising the importance of sanitation, he urged the delegates to consider the magnitude of the problem.

About 75 per cent. of the villagers hardly knew the modern means of sanitation, he said.

Prof. S. Jarceivala, director, the CPHERI, called for a co-ordinated approach and for greater communication between research and development workers.—U.N.I.

Earnings from tourist traffic up

NEW DELHI, January 28: India received a total of 244,724 tourists during 1969.

This represented an increase of 300 per cent. on arrivals in 1957.

Foreign exchange earnings from tourists totalled Rs. 33.11 crores in 1960. This was 2.5 times more than the earnings in 1957.

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Ratan Gamit, P.S.P. member of the Dangs, resigned from the party today and announced his decision to contest the Lok Sabha election from the Mandvi constituency in Bulsar district.

Mr. Gamit, who is the chief of the Dangs Sena, left the party protesting against its decision to enter into an electoral understanding with the Congress (R) in the State.

Under the alliance agreement, the P.S.P. had been offered only one seat of Baroda from where the party secretary, Mr. Sanat Mehta, will fight against the Baroda Maharaja.

In a statement, Mr. Gamit described both the Congress parties as actionaries and said that he would try to muster the support of radical and progressive parties.

He claimed that more than 3,000 P.S.P. workers from Bulsar and the Dangs would quit the P.S.P.

H. M. Patel faces rival from own party

"The Times of India" News Service

AHMEDABAD, January 28: Mr. R. K. Amin, Swatantra member of the dissolved Lok Sabha from Dhandhuka, announced here today his decision to seek re-election from the constituency irrespective of his party's support.

In a statement, he said that the State as well as the Central Parliamentary Board of his party had decided to nominate him from the same constituency, but the State unit had now selected the party president Mr. H. M. Patel.

A spokesman of the Swatantra told reporters that the decision to put up Mr. H. M. Patel from Dhandhuka was final.

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completing another
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