

# Indira's Socialism Is Shortcut To Slavery

From Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** Swatantra Party President Minoo Masani predicted confidently that "Mrs Gandhi's poll gamble will fail and she will return substantially weaker".

At a Press Club luncheon meeting here, Masani quoted Marx and Confucius to debunk both the leadership and the Socialism of the "father and his daughter", when he said his Party stood for "Socialism of the Brandt brand of West Germany cause the Nehru brand was outdated". Even Tito of Yugoslavia was ahead of her in this direction when he talked of market laws, Masani remarked.

Aware of the dominant Pinks in

his gathering, Masani took the bull by the horns when he started off with an attack himself. On property relations, Karl Marx wrote a hundred years ago that control over physical environments marks the difference between a free man and a slave.

## DRIVEN TO SLAVERY

People were made slaves after they were reduced to a property-less status, said Masani, again quoting Marx. That, the Swatantra leader added, was a correct

diagnosis — but the Marx remedy was fatal.

The correct way out is to give property to every one, not to take it away from everybody, as had been done in China, Russia and other countries, he said. "The way of Karl Marx is the way to total slavery," Masani pointed out.

## DISASTROUS PM

Nor did Masani mince words in describing Mrs Gandhi. She is a "disaster", he said. "It is a big lie to say that she stands for change and I for status quo. Is there a single legacy for the last 20 years that she wants to discard?" he asked. The Permit-Licence Raj, excessive bureaucratisation, investment pattern, anything? Why can't we be Socialist like Japan and Germany are, he asked.

There is not one single item of policy that had been followed during the two disastrous decades that she wanted to change, that was true status quo, Masani observed. As for himself, the Swatantra leader said: "I am very definitely for change."

## NO SOLIDARITY

To questioners who suggested the Grand Alliance had little "credibility" among the people because it had no common programme, Masani said he stood for a merger of these parties and saw no major contradiction among the partners. "If we lack credibility, the Indicate lacks solidarity; Mrs Gandhi's is a Coalition Government," he said.

Most of the criticism against the Alliance rested on the issue of right to property which the SSP contested, but Masani explained painstakingly that this right was FUNDAMENTAL and not ABSOLUTE. As such, it was subject to reasonable restrictions.

The large majority of our masses own a bit of land, a little hut somewhere, some pension, some provident fund. They would like to keep it that way, he said.

## RAJAJI'S OWN VIEW

To a question on Kashmir and Rajaji's recommending UN trusteeship for it, Masani said Rajaji's were his personal views. He said his Party, after the war with Pakistan in 1965, decided that Pakistan had lost all claims



because of its attack on India. He declared that the Swatantra Party believes Kashmir is a part of India.

Masani charged that the Soviet Union was interfering in our elections with money. This, he emphasised, had been going for a number of years, but now it had assumed alarming proportions.

In unequivocal terms, he condemned Pakistan's complicity in the hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane and said it was undoubtedly an act of piracy.

## HIJACKING CONDEMNED

He accused the Indian Prime Minister of double standards in condemning this hijacking but not having a word to say about the hijackings by the Arab Al Fatah.

The Swatantra leader summed up Mrs Gandhi with a telling quotation from Confucius. Thousands of years ago, the Chinese sage said: "A weak character in an honoured place, and limited resources with heavy responsibilities seldom escape disaster."

Mrs Gandhi is a "disaster", Masani concluded.

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