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Masani rules out party support to Fernandes

By A Staff Reporter

Swatantra Party President M. R. Masani on Thursday overruled a statement issued by the party's Bombay branch Secretary identifying the Swatantra Party with SSP General Secretary George Fernandes' candidature in Bombay South.

Shri Masani, who returned from Rajkot on Thursday, made it clear that his party had desisted from intervening as a party in the Bombay South campaign "in the light of all relevant considerations."

The question of Swatantra supporting Shri Fernandes, he said therefore, did not arise. Individual partymen were free to vote as they pleased.

The statement pledging Swatantra support to its Alliance member George Fernandes had been issued by Shri P. S. Koppikar, Secretary of the Bombay unit.