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SWATANTRA PARTY
GENERAL COUNCIL

BANGALORE:
SEPTEMBER 18, 1971.

RESOLUTION ON FLOOD HAVOC IN NORTHERN INDIA AND DROUGHT
IN SOUTHERN INDIA

Even after 22 years of independence the people of India, particularly those living in and around the mighty rivers of India are not safe from floods which have once again inundated large tracts of land in Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. The havoc caused has been extensive. People have been rendered homeless, crops and cattle have been washed away and Government's relief measures are wholly inadequate.

2. At this same time, vast areas of Southern India have been ravaged by drought. And here too generous assistance and adequate relief measures are called for.

3. The General Council of the Swatantra Party expresses its deep sympathy for the unfortunate people whether affected by the fury of these rivers or by drought and calls upon the Government at the Centre and in the States to give the highest priority to relief measures in appropriate and generous manner.

4. The frequent recurrence of these floods proves, if proof were necessary, that Government has not been as assiduous as was essential in implementing projects designed to slow down the fury of floods through afforestation in the catchment areas, and through the dredging of river-beds so that water may flow slowly and harmlessly. Similarly, there is much scope for long term measures designed to mitigate the worst consequences of drought.

5. Instead of indulging in slogans and catchwords what is needed is for the Government to concentrate on tackling issues such as these, which year in and year out bring untold sufferings to millions of Indians.