

Bombay

Swatantra Party

Client :-

Swatantra Party

Subject :-

Indian Express, Madras.

3 JUN 1968

Masani unhappy

MADRAS, June 2 (UNI) — Mr. M. R. Masani M.P., said here today that the decision of the National Executive of the Swatantra Party to restore discipline in the Gujarat unit, would "unfortunately not help its growth but rather likely to recoil on the party and harm it".

Commenting on the decisions of the National Executive and the General Council of the party, Mr. Masani told newsmen that the executive's decision "adhered to the attitude of surrendering to considerations of a short-term expediency" which had characterised the decision of the previous meeting of the executive in April in Delhi.

He said efforts were made at the General Council to rectify matters in the form of two resolutions but they were rejected by the majority of members. In these circumstances there was clearly no alternative for him but to decline the offer of re-election to the executive, Mr. Masani said.

Asked what he intended to do Mr. Masani said that the question he had to face now was how to save the party. He believed that the task of those like Dr. K. M. Munshi, Vice-President, himself and many others who believed in "ethical and disciplinary methods" was to educate and arouse members of the party and appeal to the considerable fund of idealism that exists among the party ranks, "so that demoralisation that has crept into the party could be eliminated".

Mr. Masani stated that this could be done more effectively by those who were not trammelled by the responsibilities of administering the party affairs.

He felt that the recent succession of reverses the Swatantra Party had suffered in Haryana by-election, in Rajasthan and the panchayat elections in Gujarat provided "a warning that if the party does not soon awaken to the need for putting its house in order and restore its credibility", he feared, the outlook for the future of the party "is a bleak one."

Mr. Masani said that he would try with all his strength to prevent

MM

Census