

Client :-

5506

Bombay

Swatantra Party

Subject :- Swatantra Party

Patriot-New Delhi
JUN 1968HAM
Crisis

MASANI'S WORRY TO SAVE PARTY, ATTACKS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

MADRAS, June 2 (UNI).

MR M. R. Masani, MP, said here today that the decision of the national executive of the Swatantra party to restore discipline in the Gujarat unit, would "not help its growth but" might "recoil on the party and harm it."

Mr Masani told newsmen that the executive's decision "adhered to the attitude of surrendering to considerations of a short-term expediency" which had characterized the decision of the previous meeting of the executive in April in Delhi.

He said efforts were made at the general council meeting to rectify matters through two resolutions but they were rejected by the majority of members.

In these circumstances, he said, there was no alternative for him but to decline the offer of re-election to the executive.

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 vice-president K. M. Munshi himself and many others who believed in "ethical and disciplinary methods" was to educate the members of the party and appeal to the

"considerable fund of idealism that exists among the party ranks", so that demoralisation in the party could be eliminated."

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

REVERSES

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

Mr Masani said that he would try with all his strength to prevent such "a catastrophe".

Mr Masani maintained that the real culprits were allowed to escape while smaller ones were punished. About the poor attendance at the general council meeting, he said it did not speak well of the party.

He discussed with the assessment of the party secretary Mr N. Dandekar that the party had passed the crossroads. "I wish he was right," he said.