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Masani Sticks to Resignation from Swat. Executive

NEW DELHI, May 15.

Mr. M. R. Masani has turned down the appeal of the Central Parliamentary Board and National Executive of the Swatantra Party that he withdraw his resignation from these bodies.

In a letter to the General Secretary of the Party, Mr. N. Dandekar, Mr. Masani said that his decision was final.

Mr. Masani offered to resign from membership of the Parliamentary Board and Executive early in April, following the conduct of some Swatantra partymen in the elections to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat. Disobeying the Party directive, Gujarat Swatantra M.L.As. had set up their own candidate against the candidate sponsored by the National leadership and helped him win the elections.

In his letter, Mr. Masani has said the reported "disciplinary action" initiated against six party-

An Ashram to End Feeling of Neglect

NAINI TAL, May 15.

A haven for old people anxious to lead an "ashram" type life and earn their livelihood through self-help is proposed to be set up soon in the Terai area of this district.

A search is on for a suitable location for the centre.

The expenses of the planned haven will be met through public donations, pensions of the retired people who come as inmates, and cottage industries at the ashram.

Sponsored by the Tapoban Ashram at Muani, Pithoragarh district, the project is designed to infuse a sense of self-dependency in old people and to spare them from the feeling of neglect. A small centre is already functioning at Muani.

—NAFEN.

men in Gujarat by the National Executive was a mere "eye-wash."

Both Mr. Dandekar's letter to Mr. Masani urging him to withdraw his resignation "in view of the disciplinary action initiated against Mr. Mahida and five other persons, who were known to have supported his candidature" and Mr. Masani's letter pressing his resignation were released to the Press to-day.

Mr. Masani feared that the Swatantra Party also was developing the same cynicism about the sanctity of the party's pledged word and the same contempt for the electorate which the Congress Party had been showing.

In these circumstances, he felt, he could do more for the party and the maintenance of democratic processes by staying outside the Executive and Parliamentary Board.—UNI.