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Swatantra not to drive rebels to the wall

From NARAYAN SWAMY

NEW DELHI, April 14.

The Swatantra Party National Executive today decided to serve show cause notices on only those four members of the Gujarat Assembly who sponsored the candidature of Mr. U. N. Mahida for the elections to the Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Mahida, with the support of about 40 Swatantra MLAs, defeated the official candidate of the party, Mr. Vaidya. This provoked the resignation of Mr. M. R. Masani from the Parliamentary Board and the National Executive as the commitment to support Mr. Vaidya, an Independent, was made by Mr. Masani while he was the General Secretary in 1966 in return for the support of Mr. Vaidya and other Independents to the Swatantra candidate then.

Mr. N. Dandekar, General Secretary of the party, told newsmen that as the ballot was secret and therefore it would not be possible to know who defied the party mandate no action could be taken against other MLAs.

But reports from Ahmedabad suggest that any move for disciplinary action against the 40 and odd rebels would have meant the virtual eclipse of the Swatantra Party in Gujarat. There are already rumours of a large section of the Swatantra Party in the State joining the Jan Sangh.

Mr. Dandekar said that party members in Gujarat would be permitted to offer satyagraha against the implementation of the Kutch award but the party as such would not take any action. The executive, while describing the award as unfortunate, favoured its implementation be-

'Dronacharya' thrills audience

The superb stagecraft and splendid role of Dronacharya played by Manohar will be ever-green in the minds of Bangalo-reans.

Depicting the motto of "Satya-meva Jayathe," Elangeswaran Manohar Group of the National Theatres on Sunday put on boards "Dronacharya" in aid of the Sri Kumaran Children's Home English Nursery and Primary

Geetha and Nagu, Mr. K. Padma-