

Bombay

Client:-

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Swatantra Party

Subject: Swatantra Party

Statesman, Delhi

15 MAY 1968

DECISION TO RESIGN FINAL, SAYS MASANI

Mr M. R. Masani, Swatantra leader, has turned down the appeal of the party's Central Parliamentary Board and the National Executive that he withdraw his resignation from these bodies, reports UNI.

In a letter to the party's General Secretary, Mr N. Dandekar, Mr Masani has said that his decision was final and that he had decided to adhere to the action he had taken.

Mr Masani offered to resign from the membership of the two bodies early in April following the conduct of some Swatantra party men in the elections to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat.

Disobeying the party High Command's directive, Gujarat Swatantra MLAs had set up their own candidate against the candidate sponsored by High Command and helped him win the elections.

MERE EYEWASH

In his letter, Mr Masani has said that the reported "disciplinary action" initiated against six Swatantra men in Gujarat by the National Executive was a mere "eyewash".

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 others who were known to have supported his candidature" and Mr Masani's letter pressing his re-

signation were released to the Press on Tuesday.

Mr Masani also said that the party's National Executive had ignored the lapse of duty on the part of the leader of Opposition and the president and general secretary of the State unit in Gujarat as also of certain Parliament members who went to Ahmedabad a day or two prior to the elections to work against the party candidate.

He feared that the Swatantra Party also was developing the same cynicism about the sanctity of its pledged word and the same contempt for the electorate which the Congress 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.

He urged Mr Dandekar to report his resignation to the general council of the party when it meets in Madras on June 1.

Mr Masani also disclosed in his letter that there was an unpublished decision not to take serious action, such as expulsion, against those called on by the party's National Executive, at its recent meeting in Delhi, to explain their conduct in connexion with the elections to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat, adds PTL.