

Bombay

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Swatantra Party

Subject: Swatantra Party

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Masani firm on his resignation

NEW DELHI, May 14. — Swatantra leader M. R. Masani has turned down the appeal of the Central Parliamentary Board and National Executive of the party to withdraw his resignation from these bodies.

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

Mr. Masani offered to resign from membership of the Parliamentary Board and executive 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, the Gujarat Swatantra MLAs had set up their own candidate against those sponsored by the high command and helped him win the elections.

In his letter to Mr. Dandekar, Mr. Masani has said the reported "disciplinary action" initiated against six partymen in Gujarat was a mere "eyewash."

Mr. Masani feared that the party was developing the same cynicism about the sanctity of the party's 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. While he would continue to spread the party's principles both in Parliament and outside, Mr. Masani said, he would also be free to give expression to the suppressed feelings of the rank and file many of whom were not happy with the state of the party.

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