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Client :-

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Swatantra Party

Subject :-

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MKM

Mr. Masani's political career in the Swatantra Party described in your issue (April 1968) was a balanced one. You correctly conveyed that the Swatantra Party set an excellent example of responsible leadership relying largely on logic, fairness, and for the current, honesty and split in the party, caused by the resignation of Mr. M. R. Masani, the Swatantra Party could have improved its image before the people as the sole champion of rightist views. The Swatantra Party, like all other parties, is now affected by the crisis of character among leaders who lead the party.

Writing in "Swarajya" a few months back, Mr. M. R. Masani admitted that there was now a "credibility gap" amongst the masses in relation to the Swatantra Party. Mr. Masani has come to the conclusion that the party is losing its clan and dynamism of the earlier years and tending to become stagnant. Too many people have been occupying the same positions in its hierarchy for too long.

The second weakness of the Swatantra Party is the relative lack of discipline. The recent losses in the bye-elections of the Swatantra Party in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Orissa, their strongholds, demonstrate clearly that the image of the party amongst the masses is certainly declining and that the split in its ranks is not just a superficial crack.

But what is true of the Swatantra Party is also true of practically all other political parties. The masses are now disillusioned with all political parties and their programmes. The image of the rightist, centrist and leftist parties, all parties, is one of confusion and disarray. Defections and indiscipline amongst politicians have been accepted as axioms for success within a party. The Swatantra Party is no exception.

K. C. BHARGAVA

Causa felix