

Party presses Masani 18-4-66 to stay on

Hindustan Times Correspondent

New Delhi, April 17—Mr M. R. Masani today refused to comment on the decision of the national executive and the central parliamentary board of the Swatantra Party requesting him to withdraw his resignation from the membership of these two policy-making bodies of the party.

General Secretary N. Dandekar proposes to shortly see Mr Masani, who returned here today from a tour of his constituency in Rajkot, to convey the party decision on his resignation.

A founder-general secretary of the party, Mr Masani, resigned to "atone" for the party's failure to keep the understanding given to the then leader of the independent progressive group in the last Gujarat Assembly, Mr Bhabhai Vaidya.

According to this the party was to help in the election of Mr Vaidya to the Rajya Sabha this year in return for assistance he and his party Sh. Dr B. L. Antani elected Rajya Sabha in 1966.

Mr Dandekar M - sani about "good" from the Mahida, who successfully collected against Mr Vaidya with help from the Congress and 33 Swatantra MLAs.

The Swatantra Party has sought explanations from five leading MLAs of Gujarat for openly supporting Mr Mahida.

Gujarat leadership

Meanwhile, the executive and the general council of the Gujarat Swatantra Party as well as the Swatantra Legislature Party will meet in Ahmedabad on Sunday to further discuss the question of indiscipline in the party.

The legislature party will elect its new leader and deputy leader in place of Mr Bhallabhai Patel and Mahara Jaideep Singh o' Baria who have resigned on the indiscipline issue.

Following party leaders' talk with Mahara Jaideep Singh, he has agreed to take over the leadership provided all sections of the party co-operate in maintaining discipline and strengthening the organization.

No agreement has yet been arrived at for the deputy leader's post. By convention, the office will go to a member of the Patel community as a member of the Kshatriya community is taking over the leadership.

Meanwhile, the general secretary of the Gujarat Swatantra Party, Mr Pravinsinh Natwarsinh Solanki, MP, today refuted the reports that he was going to join the Jan Sangh.

Before his departure for Ahmedabad, Mr Solanki said some people had alleged that "I am using this threat as a pressure so that no action may be taken against the people who did not support Mr Vaidya in the Rajya Sabha elections."

All this, said Mr Solanki, was untrue. He also accused "those who talk of pressure of having created a situation where pressure is used to drive out people from the Swatantra Party."

Though the national executive has taken a decision in regard to the Gujarat trouble, it appears the controversy will continue to rage in the Gujarat Swatantra parties for many weeks to come.

There is also some uneasiness in the party circles that though the national executive has permitted its Gujarat members to participate in the Kutch movement, other parties such as the Jan Sangh and the Samvukt Sahel Party which have no moorings in Gujarat are today in the forefront of the movement.

SWATANTRA PARTY

List of Office Bearers and members of the newly elected
National Executive for the period 1967-69

PRESIDENT:

Prof. N.G.Ranga

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Dr. K.M.Munshi
Prof. M.Buthnaswamy
Smt. Gayatri Devi
Mr. R.N.Singh Deo
Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel

GENERAL SECRETARY:

Mr. N.Dandekar

JOINT SECRETARIES:

Mr. Charanjit Rai
Mr. Sundermani Patel
Mr. T.Krishnamma
Mr. C.R.Irani

TREASURERS:

Dr. R.C.Cooper
Mr. H.P.Nanda

MEMBERS:

Mr. C.Rajagopalachari
Mr. M.R.Masani
Mr. G.Latchanna
Sardar Basant Singh
Mr. P.K.Deo
Mr. Lakshman Singh of Durgapur
Mr. S.S.Mariswamy
Mr. K.K.Kuruvilla
Mr. J.Mohammed Imam
Mr. H.M.Patel
Sardar Ram Singh
Mr. K.Sundaram
Mr. B.P.Singh
Mr. G.Hanumantha Rao
Mr. Dahyabhai Patel
Mr. Martin Narayan Majaw
Mrs. Kailash Rekhi
Mr. J.M.Lobo Prabhu
Mr. C.C.Desai
Mr. Loknath Misra