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Crisis

Patel regrets Vaidya's 'ingratitude'

By A Staff Reporter

AHMEDABAD, April 15.

Mr. H. M. Patel, president of Gujarat Swatantra Party, today criticised Mr. Babubhai Vaidya—the nominee in the Rajya Sabha elections—for having made allegations against Bhaikaka and himself.

He was replying to questions regarding the allegations by Mr. Vaidya in a letter to the Swatantra founder-leader, Rajaji.

Mr. Vaidya had alleged that both Mr. H. M. Patel and Bhaikaka had failed to help him actively against the rebel candidate, Mr. Mahida, because he (Mr. Vaidya) was 'Masani's man'.

Mr. H. M. Patel said Mr. Vaidya's allegations were 'not only unfortunate but ridiculous'.

His letter proved that it was written by a man who had felt 'terribly annoyed and frustrated'.

The Swatantra president's criticism was reflected more sharply in the editorial in the latest issue of the weekly 'Swatantra Sandesh,' the official organ of the party.

Defection bid by 'rebels' deplored

By A Staff Reporter

AHMEDABAD, April 15.

Swatantra chief H. M. Patel deplored the negotiations Jan Sangh leader Vajpayee was reported to have carried out with some rebel Swatantra MLAs and one MP.

He was replying to a question about the talks between Mr. Pravinsinh Solanki, MP, and general secretary of Gujarat Swatantra Party and Mr. Vajpayee in Delhi.

Mr. Patel said he could not blame the Sangh leader for trying to win over the defectors. He, however, would not favour such defections among the Opposition parties, which were complaining about Congress encouraging the floor-crossings.

The rebels' reported move to join Jana Sangh might, after all, be meant as a sort of "pressure tactics" to lighten the disciplinary action proposed to be taken against them.