

MASANI FIRM ON QUITTING

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SWATANTRA PARTY
Parliamentary Deputy Leader M. R. Masani has turned down the unanimous request of the National Executive and the Central Parliamentary Board to withdraw his resignation from the Executive.

In a letter to General Secretary N. Dandekar, Mr. Masani said if and when the party realised the need for the acceptance of ethical and disciplined functioning, he

would be ready to respond to the call to share the responsibility for guiding the work.

The letter, released to the press today, discloses that the National Executive had decided at its meeting on April 13 that no serious disciplinary action, such as expulsion, would be taken against those called upon to explain their conduct in connection with the elections to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat.

Discipline

The Executive had failed to take steps to restore the credibility of the party in Gujarat and a measure of discipline within its ranks.

It appeared to have ignored the failure of duty on the part of the leader of the opposition and the president and the general secretary

of the State unit as also of certain members of parliament.

One of the members of the Executive had gone to Ahmedabad to work against the party's candidate.

"Would it be unfair to consider this kind of disciplinary action more spurious," the letter asked.

The people are hungering for a little idealism and ethics in our politics and these they are not getting today. The Swatantra Party could supply these missing elements if it made up its mind to do so.

"Devoting himself to constructive work, Mr. Masani would be free to give expression to the suppressed feelings of the rank-and-file, many of whom are not happy with the State of the party," he wrote.

The party's General Council, which will meet at Madras on June 1, will consider the issue.