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Swatantra Unit Allowed To Join Kutch Agitation

FROM OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, Saturday.—The Swatantra Party's central leadership has allowed members of its Gujarat unit to join the anti-Kutch agitation in their individual capacity.

This is a concession to the Gujarat unit, which has taken a stand different from the party's official policy on the Kutch award by objecting to India's acceptance of it. The Swatantra Party feels that however unfortunate the award might be, India should not back out from it.

The Gujarat issue came up before the meeting of the party's Parliamentary Board here today which discussed several topics on which a decision will be taken by the National Executive tomorrow.

The other problem, also relating to Gujarat, over which the Board expressed concern, was the defeat of the party's official candidate, Mr Babubhai Vaidya, in the Rajya Sabha elections in the State. The election was won by Mr U. N. Mahida, also a member of the Swatantra Party, who was refused nomination by the party. Mr Mahida has since been suspended from the party and charges have been framed against him. Today's meeting approved of the party chief's action.

The meeting also discussed the

crisis the party faces in Rajasthan and Gujarat because of defections from its ranks. It also decided to request Mr Masani to withdraw his resignation from the Parliamentary Board. The situation in U.P. and the line taken by the party's MPs on the Kutch issue were also discussed.

SWATANTRA PARTY

Resolution moved by Mr.F.K.Deo and unanimously adopted by the
General Council

The General Council of the Swatantra Party views with concern the growing interference of the Centre in the working of State Governments and using the institution of Governor to instal minority Governments in the States.