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**Masani asked to
withdraw
resignation**

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NEW DELHI, April 13.

THE Central Parliamentary Board of the Swatantra Party today requested Mr. M. R. Masani to withdraw his resignation from the board. A similar request is likely to be made to him by the party's national executive meeting here tomorrow.

Mr. Masani, who was not present at the meeting, tendered his resignation from the national executive and the Parliamentary Board on March 29 on the Rajya Sabha election controversy in Gujarat. In his resignation letter he had referred to the failure of some party MLAs in Gujarat to vote for the Swatantra candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections and charged them with breach of faith.

The board discussed for about five hours several organisational problems, particularly the recent defections from the Swatantra Party in Gujarat and Rajasthan and the defeat of the official candidate, Mr. Babubhai Vaidya, in the Rajya Sabha elections in Gujarat. There was a detailed discussion on the attitude adopted by the Central leadership on the Kutch issue.

U.P. SITUATION

The political situation in U.P. in the light of the recommendations made by the State Governor in his report to the President for dissolution of the Vidhan Sabha to pave the way for mid-term elections also figured in the discussion.

The party's general secretary, Mr. N. Dandekar, said after the meeting

that the national executive would take decision tomorrow on various issues considered by the board.

The board, it is understood, was not satisfied with the party's performance in the biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha. The party had hoped to win seven seats but it could secure five. Even then it has improved its position as three Swatantra members retired from the Rajya Sabha this time.

The President of the Gujarat unit, Mr. H. M. Patel, reported to the board the stand taken by the State unit on the Kutch issue.

The board decided to permit its party members to participate in the proposed satyagraha programme being launched by the anti-Kutch surrender committee on an individual basis. The PSP, Jana Sangh and SSP have already announced their decision to take part in the satyagraha starting on April 21 in Bhuj.

KUTCH AWARD

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Dandekar confirmed that the Gujarat unit had objected to the attitude of the Central leadership on the Kutch award. But the party's stand was that "however unfortunate the award is, you cannot back out." He said that the Gujarat unit as such would not join the satyagraha, only the members would do so on an individual basis.

During the discussion some members are reported to have demanded strong disciplinary action against those Gujarat MLAs and other party members who worked for the defeat of Mr. Vaidya. But some others suggested it would be enough if these members were asked to submit an unconditional apology to the national executive. A final decision on this issue will be taken by the executive.

The meeting was attended by Mr. N. G. Ranga, who presided, Mr. R. N. Singh Deo, Chief Minister of Orissa, Maharawal Lakshman Singh, Bhailalbhai Patel, Mr. H. M. Patel, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, Prof. Rutnaswamy, Mr. Lachmana and Mr. Dandekar.

SWATANTRA PARTY

Resolution moved by Mr. P. 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.