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**Swatantra MPs fail to
resolve Gujarat crisis**

From Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, APRIL 13.—The Swatantra Party Central Parliamentary Board, which met here today, failed to resolve the "crisis" in the party arising out of the defeat of a party's official candidate from Gujarat in the recent biennial election to the Rajya Sabha.

Members of the Board were sharply divided on the question of taking disciplinary action against those Gujarat MLAs who had defied the party mandate in regard to this election.

While Mr. Bhailal Bhai Patel, former Swatantra leader in the Gujarat Assembly, Mr. H. M. Patel, Chairman of the Gujarat unit, and Mr. Dayabhai Patel, are reported to have strongly demanded that disciplinary action should be taken against the offending legislators, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Party Chairman, Mr. N. Dandekar, General Secretary and Mr. C. C. Desai, MP, opposed any such step and felt that ways and means should be found out for a compromise.

They are reported to have felt that any drastic action might bring about a major break in the party and ultimately weaken it.

Mr. M. R. Masani, Deputy Leader of the Swatantra Parliamentary Group, did not attend the meeting. He is stated to be of the view that disciplinary action should be taken against the defaulting MLAs.

It may be noted that following the defeat of the Swatantra candidate, Mr. Masani resigned from the party's National Executive and the deputy leadership of the party. The Leader and the Deputy Leader of the party in the Gujarat Assembly had also resigned on the ground that the failure of some of the party members to vote for the party's official candidate was an act of betrayal.

The National Executive of the party, which is meeting here tomorrow, will make efforts to resolve the crisis.

Three proposals are stated to be under consideration:

- (1) State Party Executive should resign and fresh party elections should take place;
- (2) disciplinary action should be taken against the rebels;
- (3) disciplinary action should be taken only against those

who signed the candidature of Mr. U. N. Mahida who has been elected to the Rajya Sabha.

A proposal made for a compromise is that those who played a leading role in defying the party mandate in the Rajya Sabha election should tender apology and should be pardoned.

Meanwhile, Mr. U. N. Mahida, who contested the Rajya Sabha election against the official candidate of the party, Mr. Babubhai Vaidya, has been asked to explain why disciplinary action should not be taken against him.

The Parliamentary Board also discussed today the political situation in West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab and the party's attitude to the developments in these States. Further discussion on this is expected at tomorrow's meeting of the Executive.