

5628

Split Possible In Swatantra Party, Says Dandekar

From Our Correspondent

TRIVANDRUM, Mar. 30.—The defeat of the official candidate in the Rajya Sabha election from Gujarat and the consequent resignation of Mr. Masani from certain party posts may possibly result in a serious split in the Swatantra Party, according to its secretary, Mr. D. N. Dandekar. "The situation is pretty grave", he added.

Mr. Dandekar, who was talking to reporters here today, said the joint meeting of the National Executive and the Central Parliamentary Board of the party, due to be held on April 13 and 14, would be devoted mainly to discussion on this issue and only after that concrete steps, to be followed in this connexion, would be evolved.

Mr. Dandekar justified the action of Mr. Masani because of the need to respect the solemn agreement reached in the 1966 Rajya Sabha poll in Gujarat that his party would support Mr. Babubhai Valdia in the 1966 election. Due to a rift in the Gujarat party, Mr. Valdia did not get the backing of all Swatantra members and therefore the rival candidate, Mr. U. N. Mahadev, got elected.

KERALA SITUATION

Speaking about Kerala, Mr. Dandekar expressed the view that the law and order situation, in the civilized sense of the term, had broken down in the State. As examples, he cited the high-handedness of the so-called Popular Food Committees and the labour unrest in Mavoor and Idikkal. His party, he said, stood for banning of both Communist parties as everybody knew what they were up to in West Bengal and in the eastern regions of the country.

SWATANTRA PARTY

List of Office Bearers and members of the newly elected
National Executive for the period 1967-69

PRESIDENT:

Prof. N.G.Ranga

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Dr. K.M.Munshi
Prof. M.Buthnaswamy
Smt. Gayatri Devi
Mr. R.N.Singh Deo
Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel

GENERAL SECRETARY:

Mr. N.Dandekar

JOINT SECRETARIES:

Mr. Charanjit Rai
Mr. Sundermani Patel
Mr. T.Krishnamma
Mr. C.R.Irani

TREASURERS:

Dr. R.C.Cooper
Mr. H.F.Nanda

MEMBERS:

Mr. C.Rajagopalachari
Mr. M.R.Masani
Mr. G.Latchanna
Sardar Basant Singh
Mr. P.K.Deo
Mr. Lakshman Singh of Dungarpur
Mr. S.S.Meriswamy
Mr. K.K.Kuruvilla
Mr. J.Mohammed Imam
Mr. H.M.Patel
Sardar Ram Singh
Mr. K.Sundaram
Mr. B.P.Singh
Mr. G.Hammantha Rao
Mr. Dahyabhai Patel
Mr. Martin Narayan Majaw
Mrs. Kailash Rekhi
Mr. J.M.Lobo Prabhu
Mr. C.C.Desai
Mr. Loknath Misra