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VAIDYA'S CASE NOT ISOLATED

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when the party's candidate for the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat was selected.

Mr. Masani and Mr. B. Patel supported the candidature of Mr. Babubhai Vaidya while Mr. C. Desai at the Centre and Mr. H. M. Patel in the State (both formerly of the ICS) were against him.

Mr. Vaidya was given the party ticket but Mr. Mahida, the rival candidate who was supported during the inner-party discussions by Mr. Desai and Mr. H. M. Patel, also entered the contest. Though the official candidate, Mr. Vaidya was defeated and the rebel, Mr. Mahida, was elected.

It is believed that the defeat of Mr. Vaidya was caused because the C. C. Desai-H. M. Patel section in the Gujarat Swatantra legislature group voted for Mr. Mahida, who also got surplus Congress votes.

Mr. Vaidya heads a small group called the Independent Progressives and had extended the support of his group to the Swatantra candidate in the 1966 election to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat. In return for the promise that the Swatantra would support his candidature in the 1968 election, Mr. Bhakubhai Patel and Mr. Masani, who were parties to this assistance, were instrumental in getting him the party ticket, this time, and have, therefore, taken his defeat as a personal reverse.

'PROGRESSIVE'

The objection of Mr. Desai and Mr. H. M. Patel to Mr. Vaidya's candidature was that his group called itself "progressive" and

he could not therefore be depended upon to follow the party line in Parliament. They felt that Mr. Mahida, a retired Government official, would be a better spokesman.

In his letter of resignation addressed to Mr. Dandekar, Mr. Masani has said that the defeat of Mr. Vaidya "is unfortunately not an isolated case but one more example of how the general demoralization in the political life of the country is finding its way into our own ranks."

Mr. Masani has also given the entire story of how Mr. Vaidya was promised and given the party ticket and was then defeated because "a score of our members in the Gujarat Legislature joined hands with the Congress party."

SWATANTRA PARTY

Resolution moved by Mr. K.P.Singh Deo, M.P. and unanimously adopted by the General Council

Relief for Orissa Cyclone Victims

This meeting of the General Council of the Swatantra Party extends its sympathies to the unfortunate victims of the recent cyclone that ravaged large areas of Orissa. The human suffering caused by this visitation of nature's fury has only added to the cup of sorrow of the people of Orissa already undergoing the effects of a three-year old drought.

This meeting of the General Council appeals

- a. to the Central Government to render maximum assistance financially and in other material ways to the State Government to enable the latter to provide in adequate measure material assistance like loans to agriculturists, house-building equipment and accelerate Relief Works such as the reconstruction of wells, tanks and medium scale irrigation Works; and
- b. to the people of India in general and to members of the Swatantra Party in particular to donate liberally to the Orissa Chief Minister's Relief Fund.