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Ind Mr Masani 'exps.
Masani quits
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party posts

By Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, March 29 — The reported differences in the Swatantra Party in Gujarat Assembly and the resignation of the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Assembly Party yesterday, had their repercussions here today, when Mr M. R. Masani, Deputy Leader of the Party in Parliament, resigned from the National Executive, and the Central Parliamentary Board of the Swatantra Party.

Mr Masani has resigned from these Party posts because of the failure of large number of members of the Party in Gujarat Legislative Assembly to vote for the Party's candidate in the election to the Rajya Sabha. This, according to Mr Masani, constitutes a breach of an assurance given by the Party in 1966 with his concurrence, when he was General Secretary of the Party.

In his letter of resignation addressed to the General Secretary of the Party, Mr Masani says: "This, unfortunately, is not an isolated case but one more example of how the general demoralisation in the political life of the country is finding its way into our own ranks."

"As one of those who had pledged the Party's word to the Independent Progressive Group and its leader, I too have a personal responsibility in the matter along with our Gujarat leaders. I feel, that, as an act of atonement to those who have been let down by this breach of faith on the part of some of our colleagues and in the hope that this may stimulate the conscience of our Party, I should tender my resignation."

Mr Masani has assured the General Secretary of the Party, however, that he would continue to give the fullest support in his efforts to uphold the disciplined and effective functioning of the 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.