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RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE SWATANTRA PARTY HELD IN NEW DELHI ON APRIL THE 6TH & 7TH, 1974

1. The State of the Nation

The very existence of India as a civilised and democratic nation is at stake. Rising prices, spreading unemployment, massive corruption, acute shortages, and universal injustice - economic, social and political - have put an excruciating burden on the poor man, yet the only concern of the Congress leadership is to absolve itself of any responsibilities and shift the blame for the present situation on some opposition parties and foreign agencies that, according to them, have combined for political motivation.

The greater the failure of the Government, the more frantic becomes its search for scapegoats with the result that the Ruling Party has been paralysed into inactivity, lethargy and even inertia.

The present crisis has created untold confusion in the minds of the intelligentsia and brought unprecedented hardships on the common man, whose condition is steadily deteriorating and his temper is likely to erupt in any number of violent ways.

The recent events in Gujarat and Bihar bear eloquent testimony of the rising anger of the people against Government's ineptitude to tackle even the simplest problems.

Another reason for these violent eruptions is the near impossibility of registering any institutional complaint, the ineffectiveness of opposition parties and the deprivation of legitimate rights of protest either through demonstration or through the ballot box.

The entire electoral process has been vitiated by mal-practices which begin with gerrymandering of constituencies, playing the communal equations, creating and fanning religious hostilities, injecting massive amounts of money on which the Ruling Party has a monopoly, and projecting its propaganda through state-owned or controlled media, the intimidation of the electorate and when all else fails, the stuffing of ballot boxes. In spite of this the Ruling Party could not have secured even the meagre success it had in UP and Orissa, if it had not resorted to the ultimate electoral fraud of actually miscounting the votes and/or the substituting of ballot papers carried out through coincidental contrived electricity failures during the counting at the appropriate moment.

It is only when the natural anger of the people cannot find its way through the ballot box, that the student community have to come forward and show us the way to political emancipation.

Having lost their natural safety valve by which the people could ventilate their grievances at the polls, the electoral process having been divorced and insulated from all other activities, it becomes incumbent on all decent and law abiding Indians to deprive the Congress of its right to rule.

3. Resolution on Economic Recovery

The Swatantra Party warns the people that our present economic crisis can never be resolved by the present economic policies.

Rising prices, uncontrolled unemployment, blatant corruption, acute shortages and cynical injustice are all man-made phenomena induced by following faulty imported economic ideas.

The only way we can break through this vicious situation or crisis is by a drastic surgical operation on the economy, which requires:

- a) Making the Public Sector perform efficiently on commercial lines within a stipulated time, and if it fails to do so, dispossess the unit and save the tax payer from carrying this unbearable burden;
- b) A drastic reduction in taxes, both direct and indirect, to curb tax evasion, to bring prices down and to stimulate production and therefore employment;
- c) Delicensing of the economy to stimulate growth, speed up economic recovery and eliminate institutionalised corruption;
- d) Float the Rupee and allow it to find its international economic value to eliminate smuggling and remove the distortions arising out of the partiality inherent in foreign exchange control and the economic distortions it creates;
- e) Invest all available resources in the rural economy with a view to restoring economic viability in the rural areas through a vigorous programme of infra-structure activities like roads, railways, afforestation, agro-industries, rural electrification, and minor irrigation, contouring, bunding, terracing, drainage and water conservation;
- f) A complete revamping of our educational system, making it more meaningful, more job-oriented and more on the basis of science and technology available in the country at any particular time.

4. Resolution on Gujarat and Bihar Affairs

The Swatantra Party congratulates the youth of Gujarat for their heroic efforts and sacrifice to fight corruption and rising prices. Their sincerity and dedication which won for them the silent support of all sections of the people and finally enabled them to secure the resignation of the corrupt government and the dissolution of the Gujarat State Assembly.

The Swatantra Party extends its full support and expresses its solidarity with the youth of Bihar who have pledged themselves to fight the cancer of corruption in the Government. It welcomes the statement of Jaiprakash Narain, giving his whole-hearted approval of this movement and trusts that his inspiring leadership will enable the students to achieve their objective speedily.