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Masani's resignation accepted

Bombay, April 18 (PTD)—The General Council of the Swatantra Party today accepted the resignation of Mr M. R. Masani from the party presidency.

Mr R. C. Cooper, general secretary of the party, told newsmen here that the General Council had accepted Mr Masani's resignation with "great reluctance" as it felt that the debacle suffered by the party in the Lok Sabha election was not his "sole responsibility."

Mr N. Dandekar, one of the vice-presidents of the party, has agreed to officiate as president till the election of new office-bearers and members of the National Executive on Sept. 17 and 18.

The General Council adopted a nine-point minimum programme and appealed to the Central and State Governments to take "substantial measures" to alleviate the sufferings of the people, especially the poorer sections.

The nine points included: the Government must devise Plans to create a minimum of 50 lakh new jobs every year, to ensure employment opportunities, precedence must be given to minor irrigation schemes, road building and road transport, the Government must slow down the pace of population growth, arrest further inflation to prevent further increase in prices and the Government should reduce excise duty by 50 per cent on main items of daily necessities.

Pasani