

Party council accepts Masani's resignation

By A Staff Reporter

THE general council of the Swatantra Party, at its meeting in Bombay on Sunday, "regrettably" accepted Mr. M. R. Masani's resignation from the party's presidency.

Dr. R. C. Cooper, general secretary of the party, told newsmen after the meeting, that the general council tried its best to persuade Mr. Masani to withdraw the resignation, but failed.

Dr. Cooper said Mr. N. Dandekar, one of the party's vice-presidents, had agreed to officiate as president till new office-bearers and members of the national executive were elected in September.

The general council adopted a nine-point minimum programme it would press the Central and State Governments to implement during the year 1971-72 in order to make the

terms "political stability" and "economic stability" meaningful to the common man.

The programme, Mr. Dandekar said, aimed at expanding employment opportunities and providing immediate relief to the common man by making available to him the daily necessities at a reasonable price.

The items of the programme included the creation of at least 50 new jobs every year by according precedence to labour intensive schemes like irrigation projects, road building and road transport, giving top priority to the family planning drive, investing at least Rs. 200 crores for construction of low-cost housing and providing credit facilities at a reduced rate of interest to every agriculturist, small-scale industrialist and self-employed person.

The general council also wanted the Government to curb "non-plan, non-productive expenditure" to arrest further inflation and prevent any more increase in prices this year.

Dr. Cooper said that the members participating in the discussion at the meeting felt that there was "nothing fundamentally wrong" with the policies and programmes of the party. How-

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ever, the council decided that the national executive should set up a committee to review the party's policies and programmes and consider to what extent "revamping" was needed.

The committee would consist of young members of the party. The officiating president would decide the personnel of the committee which was expected to submit its report to the national executive by June 15, he said.

He said that many members felt that the party should change its attitude towards labour problems, and urged that they should take active interest in trade union activities.

The new national executive and general council would take decisions on these in the light of the discussion, he added.

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