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October 6, 1977

Azadi Ki Amar Kahani
Khadi Gram Udyog
Post Box 8004
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Sir,

On Sunday 25th September 1977 in your sponsored programme you had dealt with life of C. Rajagopalachari. While I am happy that you did so, what astonished me was that you appeared to share with the previous Congress Government the belief that Rajaji's political career ended in 1948 and that the only worthwhile thing he did after stepping down from his Governor-Generalship and before his demise in December 1972 was to lead a mission to the USA. You seem to forget two very important activities he undertook during that period.

The first was his taking over as Chief Minister of the old Madras State at a time when the communists were creating considerable trouble - an action which speaks volumes for a man who consented to be Chief Minister after having held the high office of Governor General. The other was his founding of the Swatantra Party which you might recall emerged as the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha in 1967 and was also a major partner in a coalition government in Orissa from 1967 to 1971. I can understand the previous government wanting to blackout aspects inconvenient to them, but surely we are now in a more 'liberal atmosphere'. If this had been sponsored by a private commercial establishment I would not have bothered but the programme has been sponsored by a public institution which had Rajaji's considerable support.

I wonder how you propose to make amends for this lapse apart from saying that there was lack of time or it is too late. In regard to the former better editing would have helped and as for the latter it is upto you to consider.

Yours truly,

(S.V. Raju)