

LETTERS

National Govt.

Sir, — Deeply concerned by the continuing political stalemate and the crisis faced by our country, we are making an appeal to the President of India as also to our fellow citizens to give serious thought to the proposal for setting up a national government to overcome the current crisis.

It is evident that we now have a government at the Centre which has lost much of its credibility and moral legitimacy and will find it increasingly difficult to solve the problems of drought, terrorism, communalism and general law and order.

The dilemma our people face is that they can elect a government but cannot force it to work honestly and efficiently. It was proved in 1974 and is being proved now that a party that has a large majority does not necessarily provide stability. Though limited in importance when it comes to large national contours, elections in our country have continued to prove impotent in shaping public affairs. In fact, they are becoming increasingly negative in nature, i.e., they are more a vote against than a vote for. People may vote decisively but parties, whether winners or losers, interpret the vote in ways that have little to do with the people's verdict.

Before our people lose faith in the vote itself, we must search for a solution. And the only solution, if we wish to avoid a tragic repetition of the emergency, is to install a national government for a short period of six months and then have a fresh election. Such a national government could include eminent persons from outside political parties.

This interregnum would also provide the necessary hope for the people and the time for sensible politicians across the party lines to think for the country and work out a new alignment of forces. It is, therefore, for the President and right-thinking people to insist on a national government between now and the next election. This alone will provide hope and continuity to our democracy.

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