

Hindu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India is paying a heavy toll to appease kidnapers in Jammu & Kashmir and let that not be repeated in the South. Both the governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have miserably erred in trying to appease the dangerous demands of the militants in this regard however precious the life of one individual may be.

C. Lakshmi Narain
Chennai

Self before state

Sir, — I have high respect for Mr. Rajkumar's histrionic talents as also for his demeanour in public. We first met at Vauhini Studios in Madras in 1959 when he was into his third film. Later we ran into each other in Kanteerava Studios at the 'muhoorta' of *Bayalu Darl*, and a few times in hotels and functions. I do not know about his private life — which, in any case, is none of my business.

What hurts me most and should hurt every self-respecting Kannadiga is that with all his professed, proclaimed and broadcast love of Karnataka, as one who prays to God that he should be born in Karnataka only if there is another *Janna* he has

done the greatest disservice to Karnataka by placing 'self before state'. By meekly appealing in captivity that Karnataka and Tamil Nadu should give in to Veerappan's diabolical demands, he has made it clear that his life is more precious than the safety, honour and credibility of the two States put together.

Parameshwara,
Bangalore

Hot pursuit

Sir, — This refers to the report (*The Hindu*, August 27) in which the Defence Minister rules out hot pursuit of terrorists across the LoC as it may result in the death of innocent people in Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

When we are losing tens and hundreds of our own citizens and brave jawans every day to the terrorism perpetrated across the border, Mr. Fernandes' statement sounds ridiculous; such utterances can easily demoralise the defence forces and the people of Kashmir who are fighting terrorists under adverse conditions.

The present government may have some long-term strategy for resolving

the Kashmir issue in which the hot pursuit may not fit in. Such strategies need not be revealed to the world but the minimum that the BJP Government should ensure is: (a) The safety and security of the people in Kashmir at all times. (b) To air all matters on Kashmir only through an appointed spokesperson so that there is clarity, consistency and a sense of responsibility in what is conveyed to the world.

N. Harihara Subramanian,
Chennai

Unholy alliance

Sir, — It was certainly amusing to read (*The Hindu*, August 24) that the AIADMK suprema, Ms. Jayalalitha, blatantly declared right in the face of Mr. Moopanar that, if elected, there would be no power-sharing with any party. That would have certainly laid to rest the dreams of the TMC of any ministerial berth, though Mr. Moopanar still seems to have hopes.

It is certainly a lesson — perhaps a bitter one at that — to people like Mr. Moopanar, who eulogised the virtues and rule of Kamaraj, but never followed his preaching; one who till recently opposed corruption

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