

Letters to the Editor

on the → PURINA
AIR DROP OF
ARMS

"A costly lapse"

Sir, — The air dropping of arms in Purulia and other reports of violations of Indian airspace and aviation rules which you have characterised as "air-borne menace" (Editorial, Dec. 26) make disquieting reading.

All tall talk and claims of defence preparedness will be fruitless exercises, unless utmost vigilance is kept on all fronts. The slip given by a crew member of the intercepted plane at Bombay airport is the most outrageous happening in the whole episode and should awaken us to the ground realities that require all agencies, officials and even common citizens, to shake-off complacency and exercise utmost concern and application to almost everything that happens around us. It calls for a nationwide awareness and alertness on the part of all citizens in discharging duties.

Otherwise, the laboured additions to our missile stockpile could only be held fit enough to be paraded as decorative floats on National Days in the Capital.

Jayashree Saranathan, Hosur

Hunt for arms

Sir, — The report "Mafia hunt for air dropped arms" (*The Hindu*, Dec. 28), wherein it has been stated that the villagers are more inclined to

hand over the sophisticated arms to the mafia men rather than the police in order to garner higher returns, portrays the state of affairs today wherein greed, corruption and immorality have seeped down to the village from the altars of power.

It is a fact that India lives and vibrates from its villages and if this is what our villagers are turning into, then we have cause to get really jittery.

The false secularism that the Congress has been practising all these years has alienated a majority from our great heritage and values and has made the people so self-centred that they are even ready to give a hand against their own country for a price.

The spread of the RDX culture and the escape of LTTE militants from high security prisons are a few other startling examples of this all pervading cancer.

N. Harihara Subramaniyan, Madras

President's rule

Sir, — This refers to the news item 'Seshan suggests Presidential form of Government' (*The Hindu*, Dec. 18). Much water has flowed under the bridge since a serious debate for and against the introduction of a Presidential form of Government in the country was held among the Constitutional experts.

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