

Step on anthem welcome

Sir: I strongly oppose the views of Mr. P.N. Benjamin about the 'misuse of national anthem' (Nov, 16). I cannot understand how the singing of national anthem everyday compulsorily in schools and colleges can be a misuse of it. The singing of national anthem and giving respect to our national flag should be taught to the children, which are the basic steps towards patriotism.

I agree with Mr. Benjamin that we have little respect for our national anthem. I also agree that the politicians are misusing it to impress and enhance their status among the people. But how can we expect the citizens to give respect to the anthem, unless they are properly educated about these things. The national anthem is not taught compulsorily in different schools and colleges in India. And if the national anthem is sung compulsorily in certain schools, then the meaning and importance of it is not known to the children. Children sing the anthem here blindly without knowing the inner meaning of it, just because the school authorities compel it upon them.

Chief Minister Bangarappa's decision to impose the compulsory singing of national anthem in schools and colleges is welcome. But it is not enough without educating the children about the meaning and greatness of the national anthem. Arrangements should be made to impart the actual meaning and its importance to the children by teachers themselves. It is disheartening that when such a commendable decision has been taken by our state Government, some people are opposing it calling it a misuse.

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