

Cheap popularity

Sir: It was shocking to read the news report 'Vande Mataram turns song of discord' (IE, Nov.22). It is disheartening to note that just because the demand for the singing of Vande Mataram in Parliament came from the BJP, some members forget their patriotism and national values and stoop to such low levels. These MP's will, no doubt, get some cheap popularity which they are expecting. But they should be ashamed of themselves for having opposed a true patriotic song. Mr. Chandrajit Yadhav, the Congress-I MP, has stated that the idea of singing 'Vande Mataram' appeared provocative and smacked of distrust against minorities. Whether minorities or majorities, they are basically the citizens of this country. A song in praise of Mother India (Bharathamatha) should be acceptable to all. The Congress Party is the culprit for having divided the country into majorities and minorities in order to safeguard their vote banks. Now the member of the same party are misleading people in the name minorities displeasure. Also Mr.Yadhav has demanded that the national anthem be sung at the beginning of the Parliament proceedings instead of 'Vande Mataram'.

I would like to mention that 'Janaganamana', the national anthem, was composed by Sri Rabindranath Tagore in 1912 in praise of the King George V during his visit to India. How can we respect such a song which speaks only of our servitude to British? In sharp contrast to this, 'Vande Mataram' speaks of the glory of this land and people. The freedom fighters during the Indian freedom struggle effectively fought the British by singing this national song. But the post independence Nehru Government rejected this song and accepted 'Janaganamana' as the national anthem just to appease the minorities.

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