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'Gains' of emergency

Sir,

Just as the voters must not get led away from the basic issues involved in the present elections by the pre-election concessions that continue to be announced by the ruling party, so too they must not get distracted from the issues pertaining to the emergency by the ruling party's propaganda on the 'gains' of the emergency.

It is not that the gains of emergency need to be refuted but they do not justify emergency. Whatever the gains they have been at the cost of freedom – a cost too high for a self-respecting nation to pay. No one, for instance, deny that similar gains accrued from the British rule but could that be ground enough for re imposing foreign rule?

Here one is reminded of a story in an English primer taught in some schools. In this story a fat well-fed dog meets a thin, lean and hungry wolf. On being assured by the dog that there is an easier way of making a living the wolf agreed to accompany the dog to its master's house. As they jog along, the wolf notices, for the first time, the collar on the dog's neck and on enquiry is told by the dog that it is just the little price it has to pay for the food and security that it gets from its master. "Little price" exclaimed the wolf, "I would rather starve than lose my freedom". And saying so he leaves the dog and goes his own way.

The pertinent question is not whether there have been "gains" during the emergency but whether emergency was necessary for bringing "gains" to the people. Is there no precedence in other countries in the World of improving the lot of the people, other than through an emergency?

The fact remains that while there are various methods for bringing about such "gains" there is none other than the emergency for flouting the verdict of the court – the real motive behind the emergency.

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