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Why Cong (I) must go

Sir:

The question posed by Rajmohan Gandhi in his article “Will there be a difference?” (IE Sep 25) – why should the Indian voter accept that a Front government will be better? – is a genuine one which is exercising every one's mind today. Rajmohan Gandhi's first answer that the voter should not easily accept the claims of the National Front and the Janata Dal is also correct. As such, any commitment that the National Front or its constituents may make today must be taken with a pinch of salt. The commitment that a political party makes at election time is not by itself an indication of how it will perform when it comes to power. We have the example of the Congress before us. Each time it returns to power there remain big gaps between its election manifestoes and its performance. The autonomy of the TV and the Radio, after the Front comes to power, may not in actual practice be the same as is being promised on paper today and the “norms panel”, as suggested by Rajmohan Gandhi, even if appointed by the Front government, may ultimately go the way of the present day *Lok Pals* and Lok Ayukts.

Notwithstanding the large galaxy of dedicated, sincere and honest political stalwarts in the opposition, many of whom have given ample proof of their integrity and of not being power-hungry, the rank and file of the opposition, (especially those who have, not long ago, been members of the Congress and comrades in crime of the present rulers), is no better than that of the Congress. Even some of its leaders are yet to show the spirit of sacrifice and come out of petty rivalries and jealousies to in still confidence in the voter and assure him/her that the change will be for the better.

The opposition has to be voted to power not so much because of the conviction that there are better people in it who are likely to provide a better and cleaner government than the present one, but because change is the requirement of democracy. The Congress has got corrupted not because it consists of bad people but because it has been permitted to rule the country for practically forty years at a stretch. Any other political party of India would perhaps have got corrupted to an equal extent if placed in similar circumstances. Change has been incorporated in the democratic set-up on the consideration that power corrupts. The fear of change holds the politician in check. The Congress must be defeated at the hustings to in-still that fear in the politician. The change will, therefore, be automatically for the better.

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