

To,

1. Hon. Prime Minister, Govt. of India
2. Hon. Home Minister, Govt. of India
3. Hon. Minister of Law & Justice, Govt. of India

Subject : Regarding imposing stringent punishment on those who issue derogatory statements on Hindu Gods, Hindu scriptures, and Hindu seats of faith; as well demand for immediate passage of a stringent 'Anti-Blasphemy Law' to prohibit denigration of Gods

Sir,

1. Prof KS Bhagwan of Karnataka is notorious for wilfully insulting Hindu Gods. He is again grabbing headlines with his derogatory remarks against Lord Shri Ram. In a programme held in Mandya, Karnataka, he is on record claiming that 'Shriram would habitually spend his afternoons drinking with his wife Seeta. Ram did not rule for 11,000 years he only ruled for 11'. These despicable statements are against Shri Ram, an incarnation revered by crores of Hindus India and world over.

2. Prof Bhagwan is no stranger to such controversies. He has been the subject of multiple FIRs across Karnataka for derogatory statements against Shri Ram. He has even been arrested and bailed out on the condition that he would refrain from making such statements. However, his recent statement violates the terms of his release. His bail must be cancelled for violating the terms and he must be put behind bars.

3. To add to this, Bihar education minister Prof Chandra Shekhar created a controversy when he called the Ramcharitmanas (composed on the life of Shri Ram by Goswami Tulsidas ji, a revered Saint) a book that spreads hate. This statement has hurt the religious sentiments of the Hindus. Moreover, he has refused to apologise and remains steadfast on his statement. This is an attempt to wilfully denigrate revered Hindu scriptures and spread hate in the community. Prof Chandra Shekhar must be relieved of his ministerial duties and stringent legal proceedings must be initiated against him.

4. Samajwadi Party leader Swami Prasad Maurya called for Shri Ramcharitmanas to be banned while insinuating that it has verses that 'call for women and people of certain castes worthy of being beaten'. He said 'such books must have been banned long ago. Such parts (verses) should be removed'. Such statements are gross denigration of Ramayan and Shri Ramcharitmanas. Swami Prasad Maurya is wilfully making such statements for political gain, and not after careful study of the scriptures that he so carelessly maligns. This seems to be an attempt to create a divide in the community.

Hindu Janajagruiti Samiti strongly condemns the Hinduphobic statements. Such flagrant denigration of Hindu Gods is in contravention of Indian laws. These and other such wilful offenders must be booked under relevant

sections of the law such as 'Deliberately insulting the religious sentiments of Hindus', 'wilfully spreading falsehood and hate regarding Hindu scriptures' and 'creating enmity between communities' and be arrested immediately.

Today, there are invisible forces that are trying to create divides along religious-caste-linguistic lines. The 'divide and rule' policy instated by the British is again being used to further divide the Hindu community. Such incidents pose grave danger to the nation's Sovereignty, Unity and Integrity while also creating a law and order situation. The freedom of speech and expression enshrined in the Constitution is being misused to denigrate and debase Hindu Gods, hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus and create a hostile atmosphere in society.

Currently, under section 295A, the Constitution has provisions for legal action against someone who outrages religious sentiments. But the State has to approve legal action against the accused. So if the State concludes that the words or actions of the individual vitiate the atmosphere of the society or that the statements hurt the religious sentiments, then action is initiated. This happens far too infrequently. This laxity has emboldened the habitual offenders. So the conviction rate for such incidents is abysmally low.

Most of these offenders are let off scot-free under the guise of freedom of speech and expression. But don't the religious sentiments of Hindus account for anything? Will the State give any thought to this or not? The constitution of India also accords every citizen the freedom of religion, which also accords Hindus the right to protect their religious sentiments. Hence, there is now an urgent need for a stringent Anti Blasphemy law that covers all objectionable statements, books, plays, movies, advertisements, poems, images, pictures, etc., which deliberately malign Hindu Dharma, scriptures, Gods, Saints, and national figures. Hindu Janajagruti Samiti requests your immediate attention to pass this law to reel in all these antisocial elements trying to divide society.

Yours Sincerely,