

## **Regarding alleged violation of Places of Worship Act, 1991**

**SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD):** Thank you, Madam.

The Places of Worship Act, 1991 imposes a non-derogable obligation towards enforcing a commitment to secularism under the Constitution. The law is hence a legislative instrument designed to protect the secular feature of the Indian Constitution which is one of the basic features of the Constitution. Non-retrogression is the foundational feature of the fundamental constitutional principles of which secularism is the core component. The Places of Worship Act is thus, a legislative intervention which preserves non-retrogression as an essential feature of our secular values. Historical wrongs cannot be remedied by people taking the law in their own hands. In preserving the character of the Places of Worship Act, Parliament has mandated in certain terms that history in its wrongs shall not be used as an instrument to oppress the present and future.

Madam, this was said in the seven-judge constitutional bench in the Judgement of Babri Masjid Vs. Ram Mandir. I demand the Government to execute the laws made by the Parliament; its non-enforcement is a violation of Parliament's sovereignty.

Madam, 12 egregious cases have been filed against masjids and dargahs to convert or change their character which includes Baba Budangiri dargah in Karnataka; Bija Mandal masjid, Vidhisha, Madhya Pradesh; and Badruddin Shah dargah in Bhagpat. The Modi Government must give a clear answer as to his commitment to implement the defending laws in Parliament. The Modi Government must file a reply in the Supreme Court defending the law in the interest of the country and to uphold Parliament's sovereignty.

Madam, I demand that this Government does not take this country back to the era of 1800 and 1900s which was a very dark period in the history of our country.

मैडम, कहीं ऐसा न हो कि लम्हों ने खता की और सदियों ने सज़ा पाई । मैं हुकूमत से इस बात का मुतालबा करता हूँ कि ऐसी तंज़ीमों की हरगिज़ सियासी तौर पर सरपरस्ती न करें, जो इस मुल्क को कमज़ोर करना चाहते हैं । बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया ।