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Secularism not aloofness to religion: SC

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN | Updated: Oct 28, 2016, 00:46 IST

NEW DELHI: Amid a high-voltage legal debate on curbing use of religion to seek votes, the Supreme Court asked on Thursday whether secularism meant complete separation of politics from religion and said it would attempt to give a pragmatic interpretation of the law dealing with using religion and caste to promote hatred during elections.

"It will be difficult to accept as a proposition that a political party should have nothing to do with religion and those who have something to do with it must cease to be political parties. Can a particular political party not say it would assuage the hurt sentiments of a religious group? Will that amount to seeking votes in the name of religion?" a seven-judge constitution bench of Chief Justice T S Thakur and Justices Madan Lokur, S A Bobde, Adarsh K Goel, U U Lalit, D Y Chandrachud and L N Rao asked.

"Secularism does not mean aloofness to religion but giving equal treatment to every religion. Religion and caste are vital aspects of our public life. Can it be possible to completely separate religion and caste from politics?" it asked.

The SC bench reserved its verdict on the mode and manner in which a court should try an electoral malpractice committed to seek votes using religion, community, caste or language. The SC is also examining how to deal with a religious leader appealing to people to vote in a particular way.

The court's remark on what constituted secularism came when senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for social activist Teesta Setalvad, argued that the SC should lay down guidelines on what would constitute a permissible speech during elections.

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I have seen sunnis, who want secularism in India. But when the

When the debate got lively, the CJI-headed bench veered away by declaring that the task before it was not to answer or lay down

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Appearing for former MP CM Sunderlal Patwa, senior advocate Shyam Divan laid bare the thin dividing line between religion, language, caste and politics in India. He read out from the constituent charter of Shiromani Akali Dal and Indian Union Muslim League to show that these parties explicitly said their basis was to further the interest of a particular religious group.

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I have seen sunnis, who want secularism in India. But when the same sunnis go to countries like saudia, they forget secularism and asks other religious people to follow what is enforced. Places like Bhudha-vihar to Ayodhya should be secular, but mecca and medina needn't be. During Shivaratri, nobody should force others to be woke up in the night. But during ramzaan, all other religious people shouldn't eat outside. Burning crackers is against secularism, but created blood rivers during eid is secular. ... [Read More](#)

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Krishnamurthy

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Hindu Bharat - Chennai - 2 hours ago

Azam Khan said in 2014, that India is only truly "secular" if he is made the Prime Minister. He applied the same "test" to Modi,

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When muslims are in minority, they follow majoritarian rule. When majority, they seek imposition of sharia. When smarthas are in minority, they still seek imposition of dharmashastras. What's the difference between muslims, smarthas, ku klux klan and the catholic state?? Religious fascism is a mental disease (irrespective of religion). Loopholes in Indian law were created by mentally ill people; with delusional disorder thinking they were spiritual people.

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What about Mayawati appealing for Muslims to vote BSP ad Azam Khan saying Muslims are in danger. What kind of secularism is that? The so called secular ut actually anti-hindu media hardly criticizes the pro-muslim communalism of these parties or congress

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Abhay Pande

16

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so majority decides if wanny namaj or. ... satyanarayan.puja. in. court complex in presence of chief justice

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