



RULING OF THE CHAIR

PROTECTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF MINORITIES

During sitting of the Senate held on 14th December, 2015 (122nd session), Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed pointed out some remarks given by CDA against the Christian community while submitting reply to the Supreme Court of Pakistan in a case, which were against the spirit of the Constitution, 1973, which grants equal status to minorities in Pakistan. After hearing the Member the Chairman ruled as under:-

“I am shocked to hear that CDA has used such language. Is CDA not aware of the constitutional provisions? There are at least 22 references to the minority community starting from the Preamble right down the entire length and breadth of the Constitution. Apart from the remarks, it is the thought and the philosophy behind them. Such remarks are appalling, is CDA not aware of Article 15 which is a fundamental right? Said Article provides that “Every citizen shall have the right to remain in, and subject to any reasonable restriction imposed by law in the public interest, enter and move freely throughout Pakistan and to reside and settle in any part thereof”.

CDA wants to curb the rights of the citizens of Pakistan to move freely, so that it can carry on its corrupt practices of land grabbing. Are they not aware of Article 23?

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Article 23, Constitution, 1973, provides that “Every citizen shall have the right to acquire, hold and dispose of property in any part of Pakistan, subject to the Constitution and any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the public interest”.

Article 24, Constitution, 1973, again a fundamental right provides that “No person shall be deprived of his property save in accordance with law”.

Is CDA larger than the Constitution of Pakistan?

Article 36, Constitution, 1973, which is part of the Principle of Policy provides that “The State shall safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of minorities, including their due representation in the Federal and Provincial services”. Article 33, Constitution, 1973, provides that. “The State shall discourage parochial, racial, tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudices among the citizens”.

CDA is turning into a hate machine, this is deplorable. I refer this matter to the Standing Committee with the instructions that by Monday next, they have one week, I want a full and comprehensive report in the House and then the House will decide what further action is to be taken against the CDA and the persons who are responsible for making these observations.”



MIAN RAZA RABBANI
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Chairman Senate