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Azam blames Cong for delaying Communal Violence Bill

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Blaming the Congress for delaying the Communal Violence Bill (CVB) for nine years, minority welfare minister Azam Khan claimed that the Muzaffarnagar riots would have been averted had the bill been passed by parliament.

"Congress delayed the bill for nine years. If it had been passed and enforced, the Muzaffarnagar riots would not have occurred. But since 2005, the bill has been on the back burner," Azam said while speaking to the mediapersons at his office in Lucknow Wednesday.

He also demanded for a special session of parliament to pass the bill.

The Communal Violence Bill is expected to be introduced in parliament during winter session.

"For the Food Security Bill, the Congress took extra measures, which affected its honour. It should also do the same for the Communal Violence Bill," he said.

Referring to Muzaffarnagar violence, Azam said soon a comprehensive relief package for the victims will be announced by the state government.

Responding to a question, Azam also targeted Gujarat Chief Minister and BJP's prime ministerial candidate, Narendra Modi, for his remarks on sadhu Shobhan Sarkar who had dreamt of a hidden gold treasure in the remains of an Unnao fort.

"Political people should not mock faith related issues. I am surprised it is done by those who committed the December 6 act of demolishing the Babri Mosque in the name of 'faith'."

For govt aid, madarsas want relief camps to continue: Report

Various madarsas, where relief camps are being run in the aftermath of the Muzaffarnagar riots, don't want the camps to close as they get hefty grants from the Uttar Pradesh government, a panel has found. The nine-member panel, headed by Shivpal Singh Yadav, senior minister and brother of SP supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav, submitted the report to UP CM Akhilesh Yadav Wednesday.

"Most of the relief camps are being run in madarsas, which are getting grants from the government. For their personal gains, the managements do not want these camps to get closed," the report, a copy of which is available with the PTI, said.

The committee, an initiative of Mulayam Singh, was constituted after the riots to investigate the

ground reality in the affected areas. SP spokesman Rajendra Chowdhury, who is a member of the committee, said the findings of the report are in the knowledge of Mulayam and Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav. Chowdhury said the state government is serious for the riot-affected people living in these camps and will do whatever is necessary for their betterment.

It s would also be useful to mention (and circulate that) most opposition parties AND allies are in support. As of now only TMC, BSP and AIDMK have remained silent...but this is an improvement on 2011.

SP and JD(U) have cautiously welcomed it as has the CPI-M with amendments and recommendations