

News

Abu Azmi, an SP MLA, petitions the Bombay High Court to dismiss the FIRs filed for glorifying Aurangzeb.



He made the contentious comments, which caused a political uproar, when he was questioned by the media on March 3 during the Maharashtra assembly's budget session.

Abu Azmi, an MLA for the Samajwadi Party, has petitioned the Bombay High Court for an order to dismiss criminal charges against him related to his contentious statements in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly endorsing Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

He had previously been granted anticipatory bail in the case by a trial court. On two of Azmi's pleas, a bench of Justices **AS Gadkari and Rajesh Patil** issued notice today asking for instructions to revoke the case's initial information reports (FIRs).

After four weeks, the case will be heard again.

When he was questioned by the media on March 3 during the assembly's budget session, Azmi made the divisive comments that caused a political uproar.

The claim that "*Aurangzeb was a good administrator*" was made by Azmi.

He added that "*During his reign, India was called 'A Golden Sparrow,' and the country's GDP was 24%, which is why the British came to India.*"

He added that India's borders with Burma and Afghanistan were extended during his leadership, and that the king did not steal a single rupee from the government.

Azmi continued by claiming that Aurangzeb's army had Hindu commanders and that his fights were not between Muslims and Hindus, as had been misunderstood.

However, his comments drew criticism for purportedly offending Hindus' religious feelings.

Azmi was suspended from the Maharashtra Assembly as a result of these remarks.

Additionally, in his media appearances, Azmi noted that the Indian ruling party was attempting to drive a wedge between Muslims and Hindus and that their activities were intended to "*destroy the Muslims in this country.*"

There was pushback to these claims. Many believed that Azmi had insulted the governing political establishment in addition to offending Hindu religious sensitivities by praising Aurangzeb, who had demolished numerous Hindu temples.

Azmi was charged with violating the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) Sections 299 (deliberate insult to religious beliefs), 302 (hurting religious feelings), and 356(1) and 356(2) (defamation), which cover offenses pertaining to defamation and religious sentiments.

The media, according to Azmi, misinterpreted his remarks and persisted in claiming his innocence. Additionally, he demanded that his suspension from the Assembly be lifted.

The High Court is currently considering Azmi's applications to have the FIRs against him at the Thane and Marine Drive Police Stations dismissed due to his divisive remarks.

According to the petition submitted via Advocate Mubin Solkar,

"The FIR doesn't reveal the fundamental components of the alleged offenses; it doesn't even hint that the applicant, Azmi, uttered the remarks with the deliberate goal of offending any community's religious feelings. The FIR is an abuse of the legal system with political motivations."

Lawread