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Several move SC against citizenship law, claim violation of Articles 14, 21

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Congress, Trinamool and several individuals on Friday approached the Supreme Court questioning the constitutional validity of the amended Citizenship Act and contended that the arbitrary law violates constitutional properties.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh filed the plea claiming the new law violates the Right to Equality by not giving Indian citizenship to persecuted Muslims from neighbouring countries. Jairam's plea stated, "The impugned enactment ex facie violates the fundamental guarantees under

Article 14 as also Article 21 of the Constitution.'

He challenged the Act on the grounds that classification on the basis of religion and geography is unsustainable.

Earlier, Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra also moved the court and sought an urgent hearing of the matter. However, Chief Justice of India S A



The impugned enactment ex facie violates the fundamental guarantees under Article 14 as also Article 21 of the Constitution

Jairam Ramesh, Congress leader, in his petition to the Supreme Court

Bobde denied her appeal and asked Moitra's lawyer to seek a fresh date.

Before Moitra, the Union Muslim League had also moved the top court chailenging the new law. IUML said the citizenship law violates the fundamental Right to Equality and intends to grant citizenship to a section of illegal immigrants by excluding another on the basis of religion.

According to the Act, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who fled religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and came to India till December 31, 2014, will be eligible for Indian citizenship.