

Demanding a ban Rushdie's India visit is outrageous: PUCL

SAP Bureau

The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) has expressed deep concern that some organisations have demanded a ban on the entry of Salman Rushdie in the country. In a press release issued on January 11, PUCL said that the present call is illogical, preposterous and untenable as the Rushdie has visited the country several times after the Satanic Verses book controversy.

Those who have called for banning his entry, PUCL said, must know that Rushdie being person of Indian origin, does not need permission from the government – a visa – to visit his home country.

“To demand an unconstitutional measure to be invoked against someone, one might not agree with is as condemnable as when some lunatic groups would demand that certain book be taken off the shelf or some painting exhibition be not held or that the majoritarian way of life should be standard for all in the country,” said PUCL.

PUCL said it believes that the present demand is self defeating and is against the interest of the community in the name of which such demands are made. Above all, demands such as these run counter to the values of a democratic society that the India is. “Those who are misguiding gullible people are indulging in politics of symbolism based on emotional exploitation of the people thereby damaging our shared constitutional values,” said PUCL.

PUCL also appealed people to see through such moves and ignore such calls.