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Title: Issue regarding alleged increase in atrocities against SCs, STs and the minorities in the country.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (PONNANI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of this great House towards the increasing number of atrocities against the SCs, the STs, the Dalits and the minorities. NCRB data shows that it is increasing in an alarming way. I recently visited Garukhuti project area of Assam where I saw that thousands of innocent people were being driven away from the places where they had been staying for years together. Similarly, we are witnessing hellish experience in other places also. You know very well the Tripura incident where mosque demolition and atrocities in the Muslim predominant areas took place. These are all very sad things. All this is used as an instrument to torture the innocent people. Recently, there took place an attack on a church in Karnataka. This is also a worrisome subject.

Sir, I will tell you the saddest thing. In an old area near Gurugram, for last two to three months, *jumma* prayer, the congregational prayer is not being allowed. This is a very sad thing.

What is happening is that vandalism is going on. What these hooligans are doing is that when the people come for offering *jumma* prayers, they attack them and try to do all kinds of cruelty. It is a story of tears. People are complaining about that. This is nothing but misuse of power. The police personnel are standing as silent spectators and are not acting when these kinds of things are going on. What these innocent Muslims are doing is that they are escaping from that place, fearing for

their lives. In this regard, I would like to say that approximately 4,25,000 Muslims are there in that area. You can very well imagine their deplorable condition when they are being denied congregational prayer. This House may seriously think about that.

Not only that, there is spreading of the hate speeches. There is an Islamophobia kind of propaganda. That is spoiling the very important secular nature of this country.

Towards the end, I would like to say that the constitutional rights are there for everybody, not for any particular religion. When that is the guarantee given by the Constitution, I urge upon the Government to do justice. Irrespective of whether they belong to the SCs, the STs or the minorities, they are the sons of India and they are the population of India. So, what I am appealing for is only justice for the SCs, the STs and the minorities.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.