

Title: Regarding rights of minority communities in India to establish and administer educational institutions in the country.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, a case is in progress in the Supreme Court regarding rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions. The learned Attorney-General of India, Shri Soli Sorabjee appeared before the Supreme Court and he has said, 'the right conferred on the minorities under the Constitution is not a concession but an entitlement considering the vulnerable position in which they may be placed....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a matter before the 11-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court, how can you deliberate it here now?

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Sir, two advocates of the Government took two different positions before the Supreme Court.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, we want to know the position of the Government...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, the Attorney-General further said, "the right of the minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice under article 30 of our Constitution is absolute and cannot be tinkered with by anybody."

Sir, the hon. HRD Minister of the country directed the Solicitor-General, Shri Salve to rebut these arguments of Attorney General in the Supreme Court. Sir, the hon. Law Minister is here...(*Interruptions*) I would like to know the position of the government. Sir, this is an important issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I know. But this is a big matter and cannot be argued and decided in the 'Zero Hour'.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is before the Supreme Court, it cannot be decided in the 'Zero Hour'.

The Minister cannot respond to it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, the minorities of this country are very much concerned about it. What is the Government's stand with regard to the rights of the minorities under article 30 of the Constitution of India? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : That is what we want to know. We are not saying anything else. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Hannan Mollah.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Hannan Mollah, do you want to speak now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Francis George, please do not obstruct him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, what is the position of the Government on this? ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot elaborate things during Zero Hour. You cannot get an elaborate explanation from the Government.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, the Law Minister is here. He should explain. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why, I said that it is not a small matter. It is a big Constitutional matter before the Constitutional Bench.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, is this House not entitled to hear the Government's view? We want to know the Government's view on this. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: One CPI (M) Member is obstructing another CPI (M) Member from speaking.

...(Interruptions)