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Title: \*Alleged attack on and killing of Christians in Orissa and other parts of the country.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, I would like to submit that the whole House should condemn the killings of innocent persons which are taking place in some parts of our country. The innocent persons are being massacred on some ground or the other. I am happy that some Members have already condemned what has taken place in Kandhamal District of Orissa. Mr. Sethi has also condemned what has happened after the killing of Swamiji. In fact, the killing of Swamiji is to be condemned first and the persons who are behind that should be brought to book immediately. If they were brought to book immediately, the other things would not have followed. Those things could have been brought down. It is very heart-rending to see that poor people who are simply living in their huts are being killed. They may be Christians or Hindus or whoever they may be. Can they be killed like that? If there is no action to bring to book the persons who are responsible for this, then what can the representatives of the people do? Should this House not rise to the occasion? Should the Central Government not come to their aid? Should the Central Government not take action? This is not a mere law and order situation. If it is a mere law and order situation, then we can say that it is a State matter. But it is much above that. It is an attack on the poor people. It is a human rights issue. It is also an issue concerning minorities. The Ministry concerning the minorities is with the Centre. If the innocent people belonging to minorities are killed on the basis of their religion or on the basis of their language, I think the whole House should condemn it and the Central Government should take immediate action.

It has been submitted here that the forces were not sent in time. If the CRPF personnel were not sent in time, the Central Government should answer for that. If the Central Government has not taken enough steps, it should answer for that. I have heard that a Central Minister and a team are going there. I do not if that has taken effect. If it is a decision, then the Parliamentarians must also be allowed to go there. I do not know whether a team from Parliament inclusive of all Parties can go to such places, especially to Kandhamal District where the situation is still not properly under control.

I would submit that the Central Government should come up with a statement on the matter which has taken place not only in Orissa but also in some parts of our country where minorities and the poor have been massacred and their houses have been ransacked. A lot of things like arson are taking place. I would submit that a true Christian will not favour any kind of forcible conversion. We condemn if there is any conversion like that. There are laws for taking action in cases of forcible conversion. You take action against them under the law. Killings cannot be a reply to the conversions.[\[R92\]](#)