

Title: Need to ensure that Christian Government employees are not compelled to work on "Good Friday".

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Thank you Sir. Tomorrow is 'Good Friday'. It is a very important day as far as Christians are concerned. I find that some of the Departments in the Government of India have compelled their employees to work on this day also. For example, the Customs and Excise Department, just to complete the target before 31st of March, has given a direction that all should come and work on these days, including Friday.

There is also an anomaly, which is found in Kendriya Vidyalayas. For evaluation, the teachers have been called, especially in Bangalore region where teachers have been called to evaluate.

MR. SPEAKER: Do we not take too many holidays in this country?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, it is a holiday and a special day. Internationally, it is a holiday and in India also it is a holiday.

So, considering the nature of the day and considering the importance of the day as far as Christians are concerned, I urge upon the Government to give directions immediately, because it happens to be tomorrow, so that, at least, the Christians may be allowed to be given off on this day. I would submit that the Leader of the House may reply to this. It is a very important subject which is concerning the next day, that is, tomorrow and the House is also going to be over today. If an immediate direction can be given, it will help the employees, particularly the Christian employees in the country.