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Title : Incidents of prosecution of Christian Missionaries in the country.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, Christian institutions and Christian religious groups are doing a yeomen services in the field of rural health, education, destitute care and care of HIV/AIDS patients. The late Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Prize for her services among the destitutes. She was the founder of one religious congregation called the Missionaries of Charities. Likewise, several Catholic and Non-Catholic Institutions are there in the country. But, Sir, persecution of Christian Missionaries is alarmingly increasing in the country. Pastor V.P. Paulos and his family members were attacked on the Easter Sunday in Karnataka, and the Mangalore Church was ransacked. Jimindra Digal of Orissa had to pay his life for accepting the Christian faith. Rev. Rana was attacked in Rajasthan. The functioning of the Emmanuel Mission, which is running 103 orphanages, 140 schools and a hospital nation-wide, is being disturbed and distorted in Rajasthan. Only by the intervention of the hon. Supreme Court of India serenity is restored. Still they are under the threat of attack.

Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to freedom of religion. It states that all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience, and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion. This constitutional right is denied in all these cases.

So, I urge upon the Government to ensure this constitutional right to the members of the Christian minority community so that a sense of safety and security may be created in them[R96].