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Title: Need to ensure justice to people affected by religious violence occurred in 2008 in Kandhamal district, Odisha.

SHRI CHARLES DIAS (NOMINATED): The brutality, murder, cruelty and inhuman treatment meted out to poor adivasis, tribals, minorities and poor people in Kandhamal of Odisha during August 2008 in the name of religion still remains as an unhealed wound. The murder of about 100 people in most cruel ways, burning of 6000 houses, schools and institutions and 300 churches, rape of poor women and even a nun and heinous crimes on helpless people remain as a nightmare even now. Many are even under fear because of the threat of religious fundamentalists.

To what extent recommendations of the National Commission for Minorities have been implemented for Kandhamal victims. How far the Fast Track Courts could provide justice to the victims? It is said that there was calculated move to destroy evidences. It has become a typical example of human right violations. Kandhamal has shown how the ugly hands of a particular fundamental group were allowed to unleash cruelties on poor people in the name of religion. After five years of the incident, Kandhamal is still weeping and the poor unfortunate brethren are waiting for justice. I urge upon the Government to look into the matter urgently and ensure justice to those who are still suffering.