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Title: Need to provide fair and impartial treatment to the Moopan community of new Boduathiri village in Lakshadweep.

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue. I am also very happy that today when I am raising this issue, hon. Minister Shri Kiren Rijju is sitting in front of me as this is directly coming under the action of the Home Ministry.

Madam, I am going to raise an issue of denial of Fundamental Right to a section of people of Lakshadweep, precisely the Minicoy Island of Lakshadweep. The Minicoy Island is the nearest island to the Maldives. Unlike other islands, the Minicoy Island shares a typical culture, that is, all the programmes are organised by villages headed by the Moopan of that village. Likewise, from time immemorial, there were total eight villages existing in the Minicoy Island, namely, Fallessery, Kudehi, Funhilol, Aloodi, Sedivalu, Rammedu, Boduathiri and Aoumagu villages. In 1924-1925, from these eight villages, a village called Bada was formed from Aoumagu village due to a difference of opinion.

Madam, you give me a little more time as I am just going to raise the issue. You are always giving me time, and I am also thankful to you, Madam.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : वह इसलिए कि मैंने लक्षद्वीप को देखा है और वहां की समस्याओं को समझा है।

MOHAMMED FAIZAL: Yes, Madam. Thank you very much. I know that you have a good concern for Lakshadweep. I should also mention here that the people of Lakshadweep also are very happy with you that you are giving me time for raising their issues.

In the 1960s, a village called Kendyparty was formed from a village called Fallessery village and in 1977 a village called New Boduathiri village was formed from the village Boduathiri. Now, the issue comes here. In 1977 this New Boduathiri village was formed, and prior to that the Lakshadweep Administration was carrying out all the socio-economic development process through this village system by calling the Moopan / leader of the village for implementing all these things in a speedy way. But I do not know what went wrong in 1977 when the New Boduathiri village was formed that only this village was not being invited for any official functions or they were treated in such a way as if the Administration was promoting untouchability. The village have very good village houses. Hon. former Defence Minister Shri George Fernandes visited there, Shri Maqbool Dar visited there and even Shri Praful Patel visited there. There are around 700 people living in that village in a peaceful and tranquil manner.

The issue that I am raising now is very touching to my heart also. I hope that Shri Kiren Rijju is listening very carefully to me. The invitation given to the Moopan/leader of the New Boduathiri village whose children are studying in Navodaya Vidyalaya in Minicoy was taken back and they were ill-treated by stating that they are not supposed to come to the function.

This village has all the rights like ration card, electricity connection, telephone connections, etc. in the New Boduathiri village's Moopan's name. When I became the MP, I wrote to the Minister of State for Home, Shri Kiren Rijju, who is sitting here. I still have the letter with me. On 2 December, 2014 I wrote a letter raising this issue, and the hon. Minister had taken it very seriously and asked the comments of the Lakshadweep Administration. I strongly believe that based on my letter, a Committee was constituted which I feel only to delay the process. Why I feel so is, because in 2002 the then Administrator Shri K. S. Mehra was there and there was a detailed deliberation/ order given to the entire people of Minicoy that no such villages has been recognized by the Administration and that it is a customary practice. So, if all the 10 villages are invited, then the New Boduathiri village should also be invited along with them. But that order was not carried out till date. Thereafter, I have raised this issue before the present Administrator, Shri Vijay Kumar also. Now, on this 26 and 27 December € National Minicoy Festival is going to happen.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, you have to come to the point.

MOHAMMED FAIZAL : Yes, Madam, I am concluding. The National Minicoy Festival is being organized, and I had invited the hon. Minister also for that festival. It is a national event where the Rajiv Gandhi rowing competition is happening, and when the entire village is in a celebration mood, only this particular village is not invited for it. I requested the Administrator to include this village also for this function. It will be a fair opportunity given to this village. Therefore, I would urge the Government and the hon. Minister to implement the order of the Administrator, Shri K.S. Mehra, issued in 2002 treating everyone equally and at par with others, which will bring harmony to the Island.

That is all I wanted to say, and I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P.P. Mohammed Faizal.