

Seventeenth Loksabha

an>

Title: Regarding concern over the rising intolerance in the country raised by Shri Adoor Gopalakrishnan and other literary personalities.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Thank you, Speaker Sir, for allowing me to participate and present to the House and to the Government through you a matter of grave concern.

The freedom of expression is the cornerstone of a democracy. The very same fundamental right is being lashed over and over again today in this country when concerns are being raised by world renowned and nationally acclaimed personalities. A veteran filmmaker, Padma Vibhushan, Shri Adoor Gopalakrishnan, he is from my Constituency, who has received more than 15 national awards, was blatantly disrespected for writing an open letter to the Prime Minister along with 48 other eminent personalities from the literary world for expressing their concerns over the rising intolerance in our country.

Padma Vibhushan Gopalakrishnan was told to migrate to some other planet when he expressed his concerns over mob lynching and rising intolerance.

Hence, I request the Government to condemn this behaviour immediately.

