

### **Regarding alleged arrest of a bishop by forest officials**

**ADV. FRANCIS GEORGE (KOTTAYAM):** Sir, in this particular issue, almost 3,000 people assembled there to express their solidarity with the spiritual leader, who out of his sympathy and concern for the people, stood for this cause. His Excellency the Bishop, Mar George Punnakottil, the Bishop Emeritus of Kothamangalam diocese participated in this very peaceful and silent march. The Forest Department has taken a case against His Excellency the Bishop and also against our hon. Member of Parliament, saying that public property has been destroyed. I can assure you that not even a blade of grass was destroyed.

I request the hon. Minister of Forest here to direct the Kerala Forest Department to immediately withdraw the cases against His Excellency, the Bishop and also against our hon. Member of Parliament.