

## **Regarding alleged harassment of nuns in Chhattisgarh**

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Thank you, Chairperson Madam, for giving me this opportunity. I rise to draw the attention of this august House to a deeply disturbing and shocking incident that occurred on 05 July, 2025 at Durg Railway Station, Chhattisgarh.

Madam, on that day, two Catholic Nuns, Sister Vandana and Sister Preeti belonging to the Assisi Church Sister of Marry Immaculate, a Syro-Malabar congregation based in Cherthala, Kerala, were attacked and fiercely accused of religious conversion and human trafficking by Bajrang Dal. Madam, they belong to my constituency, and this institution belongs to my constituency. Do you know what work they have done? They were helping the cancer patients that were terminally-ill patients and they do maximum palliative care services. They were helping a lot of deprived people. Therefore, the people of that area like them very much. They have a service all over India.

What happened in that Durg Railway Station? They along with three other women went to the railway station to board a train towards Agra. Certainly, Bajrang Dal people jumped on them and they stopped them, they manhandled them and they shouted on them with slogans. Finally, police came. We thought that police will come and rescue them because in the last Christmas period, our hon. Prime Minister went to CPCI headquarters and gave a big speech and made promises to protect minority rights and Christians' rights.

In Kerala, Madam, our BJP friends used to go to church with a cake during Christmas. They used to go with Christmas cake. But now what is happening? For the last five days, these innocent nuns are in jail without any reason. What a cruelty is this? Does our country have a banana republic? Without any reason, you are keeping them in jail. They are from minority community and that too, women.

Madam, yesterday, we sent our MPs, Shri Saptagiri Shankar Ulaka, Shri Premachandran, Shri Benny Behanan and Shri Francis George. You have to allow them also to narrate their experiences. We wrote to the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. We also wrote to the Home Minister of India. At least, these nuns have to be released. No action is taken so far.

The Chief Minister is repeating the same version. The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh is repeating the same version of the Bajrang Dal. What a shame? These types of activities are going on. Therefore, I think this is the high time to act. If the Government is not acting, the situation will go out of control because the situation in Kerala is also burning. Everywhere, agitations are happening. All nuns are in public. This is not only a Christian issue.

माननीय सभापति : ठीक है, माननीय सदस्य ।

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:** Madam, please allow me to speak for one more minute. In Kerala, these people will attack Muslims.

माननीय सभापति : माननीय सदस्य, ये विषय राज्य सरकार से जुड़ा हुआ है, आपका विषय आ गया है ।

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:** They will try to create difference between Muslims and Christians. In other parts of Kerala, they will attack Christians. At least, we need to tell them.

You are also a woman, Madam. Two nuns who were doing service are in jail without any reason and they have not committed any crime.

माननीय सभापति : धन्यवाद माननीय सदस्य । माननीय सदस्य श्री के. सुरेश जी ।

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:** Therefore, the Government has to intervene. We need a clearcut answer. The Government has to intervene and they have to release immediately those two nuns.