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Title: Need to declare Anglo-Indian community as a minority community and nominate a representative of the community in the National Commission for Minorities.

SHRI CHARLES DIAS (NOMINATED): The Anglo-Indians were the pioneers in modernization of India. They faced perils in surveying the unknown terrain, treacherous hills, malarious marshes and dangerously infested jungles to supervise laying of railway tracks, planting of telegraph polls and setting up of housing colonies in remote areas of pre-independent India. The Anglo- Indian ladies were backbone of English medium schools as well as in the nursing profession. The community made great contribution to Indian sports.

Anglo-Indians, even though majority of them are Christians, maintain a unique culture of their own with English as their language. Today, the majority of Anglo-Indians in the country are facing severe economic problems. Many of their youth are unemployed. While the constitutional safeguards are available to them, the community cannot protect their culture and move forward unless they are notified as a separate Minority Community by the President. Without their representation in bodies like National Commission for Minorities to ensure implementation of constitutional safeguards for all-round socio-economic development of the community, they cannot maintain their culture and identity.

In view of the above, it is urged that the Anglo-India community be declared as a Minority Community by suitably amending the Gazette Notification dated 23 October, 1993 and thereafter, a representative from the community be nominated in the National Commission for Minorities.