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Title: Need to declare Anglo-Indian community as an Ethnic and Linguistic Minority.

SHRI CHARLES DIAS (NOMINATED): Madam, the Anglo-Indians are clearly defined as an ethnic community as per Article 366 (2) of the Constitution of India. They maintain a unique culture of their own and identified themselves with their European features mixed with Indian, costumes, culinary habits, manners, religious traditions and above all with the English speaking nature. They were given job reservations in Central Services and Railways and also were given the facility of establishing and maintaining their own educational institutions. Some protections have also been given to represent themselves in the Parliament and in State Legislative Assemblies, as they are scattered all over the country and cannot otherwise have a chance to contest and win an election according to the conditions prevailing in the country. The generous framers of our sacred Constitution provided these facilities considering the ethnic background and the numerically small nature of the community.

Anglo-Indians, all over the country use English as their language and the few educational institutions they have are known for their traditions as the reputed educational centres which cater to the members of the community and for others. But, in various parts of the country, the community experiences difficulties from State Governments to establish and maintain schools and other educational institutions with medium of instruction in English. In view of this, I urge the Government to take necessary measures to declare Anglo-Indian community as an Ethnic and Linguistic Minority, so that the difficulties faced by the community can be overcome.

MADAM SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377, which are left, shall be laid on the Table of the House. Hon. Members, who have been permitted to raise Matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them, may personally hand over slips at the Table of the House immediately, as per the practice.