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Title: Need to impress upon Bangladesh Government to control violence against Hindus in Bangladesh.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to raise a very important issue. Though I had tried to raise it for the last four days in this House during the 'Zero Hour' as a matter of urgent public importance, but to my misfortune, none of the time it fructified in the lottery.

Islamic activists have attacked dozens of Hindu temples in Bangladesh and hundreds of homes across Bangladesh have been torched and some have been put to death. This has been reported by AFP, a foreign news agency that Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad, a group which looks after Hindu temples, has said, 47 temples and 700 Hindu houses were torched and vandalized.

Amnesty International has made an urgent appeal to the Bangladesh Government to provide its minority better protection. Abbas Faiz of Amnesty International has stated: "The Hindu community in Bangladesh is at extreme risk. They are being targeted simply for their religion. The attackers are from Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir."

The latest attack has occurred at Daudkandi at Comilla where a Hindu temple was vandalised and burnt down. A minority village of Rajganj Bazar in Noakhali was set on fire by Jamaat supporters.

According to Amnesty International, Bangladesh's Hindu minority constitutes only 8 per cent of the population and historically has been at risk of violence. They have suffered heavily in 1971 both during the liberation war and again after the 2001 Parliamentary elections when BNP and Jamaat coalition came to power.

I would urge all political Parties to condemn such violence against the Hindu community in Bangladesh.

Residents of Jamia Nagar of Delhi have expressed strongly against this violence. They have come out on the streets with placards. One girl, the student of Jamia Millia Islamia, Nuzrat, along with others have held demonstration and have said that Muslims in India are quite concerned about what is happening in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

I urge upon the Government to impress upon Bangladesh Government to control violence and also create world opinion in favour of the minorities of Bangladesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN :

Shri Rajendra Agrawal,

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal,

Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal Gandhi,

Shri Bishnu Pada Ray,

Shri Hansraj G. Ahir,

Shri Ramen Deka and

Shri Nishikant Dubey are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

