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Title: Need to provide special financial assistance for supply of drinking water in Rajasthan.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an urgent and important matter.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the sad plight of the Christian minorities living in Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, etc. and African countries like Nigeria. The Christians in these countries are facing untold hardships in the hands of the ISIS terrorists and similar terror groups. Recently Islamic State militants have abducted at least 150 people from Assyrian Christian villages in North-Eastern Syria.

Killing of Christians by beheading them, shooting and by resorting to inhuman ways have created insecurity and fear among the Christian minority community in these countries. It is reported that in the last four years more than two lakh people have been killed by Islamic terror groups. The ISIS militants have launched a wave of attacks on a series of Christian villages in Syria, burning churches and taking hundreds of them as hostages. Faith groups have continued raising alarms about ISIS violence plaguing the region.

ISIS militants in Iraq are destroying priceless Assyrian artefacts dating back to the 7th century. It is a very serious matter. Not only killing the people, the militants are erasing the cultural remains of the area. The recent abductions by Boko Haram in Nigeria including 300 girls have stunned the world.

The Christian congregations in Kerala, especially Zero Malabar Church, Zero Malankara and Roman Catholic churches are conducting demonstrations for the protection of Christians. I would like to request the Government of India to deplore such incidents to mount pressure on terrorists.

As a secular nation India should take up this issue and draw the attention of the world. If India raises this issue, the world community will listen to it and India should give the message that it is against religious terrorism. The world community should stand united against these atrocities and should give security to the affected people.

I would like to submit that the Government of India should condemn the terrorist attacks on the Christian minorities by ISIS and deplore such incidents very strongly.

Madam Speaker, the hon. Home Minister is present in the House and I would like to request him to respond in this matter.

HON. SPEAKER: Every now and then you cannot expect a response from the Government.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri P.K.Biju is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

Shri Jitendra Choudhary -- Not present