

12.03 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

Murder of a Jesuit Priest at Mokameh in Bihar

SHRI A. C. GEORGE (Mukandapuram): Sir, under rule 377 may I bring to the notice of the House a very sad and shocking news? The shocking and gruesome cold-blooded murder of a highly respected Jesuit Priest Fr. Francis Martinsek at Mokameh in Bihar has been widely reported in the Patna newspapers yesterday. Even today some of our national newspapers have carried full details of what was happening in that area. Fr. Thomas who was along with him in the dining room when the assailants numbering 25 barged in was shot at and is still in hospital with serious injuries. More than 4000 members of the Christian community from different parts of the States marched in silent protest to the Patna Secretariat day before yesterday against the rising incidents of such crimes against minorities, especially the Christian institutions. Also it is reported that Fr. Felix Farrel another Revered Priest was tied up, beaten and the mission property was looted at Amawaliva. Father Weizmiller was attacked at Sasaram and Father Mann was shot at and injured. At Mokameh Catholic Church, nuns had been target of attack. The convent was looted. Other cases took place at Basauni (Monghyr), Birlapur and Jehanabad. These are the devoted people who are running highly respected hospitals and humanitarian institutions. It is widely complained that

the concerned district authorities of the State Government have not taken any prompt action against the culprits of these heinous crimes. The murder of Fr. Rancis occurred on 24th February and in today's newspapers it is found that the police are still in confusion as to who exactly are the culprits and what exactly are the reasons. The feeling is fast spreading that the Christian priests, nuns and institutions are being systematically attacked. I request the Home Minister to take serious note and ask for immediate judicial inquiry and serious action from the State Government of Bihar, as was requested by the silent demonstration and procession to the Patna Secretariat. The State Government of Bihar may be alerted about this.

I am glad to note, Sir, that you are also a product of a Jesuit college. In that context, may I request you humbly to immediately form and depute a cosmopolitan delegation of Members of Parliament to visit these districts in Bihar so that those running these institutions, the minority community, especially the Christians, will regain a feeling of confidence and security that the supreme Parliament of this country is concerned about their welfare. There is a wild allegation that the RSS is involved; I do not know. Only after the Home Minister has enquired about that and after you have kindly thought of sending a Parliamentary Delegation to this district we will go into the details of that.