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Title : Trafficking of women and girls in the country.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (NIZAMABAD): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a very important issue relating to those unfortunate women from villages and towns who are lured by certain unscrupulous elements on the promise of providing them attractive jobs or roles in movies and force into prostitution. Such hapless young women and girls are taken away to other countries by means of force, fraud, deception, etc.

The number of cases of human trafficking from India to other countries is on the rise. A recent report of the United Nations Population Fund as also other leading sources on human trafficking suggest that countries like India, Pakistan, Thailand, China and Cambodia are the major sources of this. A majority of these unfortunate women are from India and Pakistan. They are taken to other countries using the Middle-East as the transit point.

According to a report of the International Labour Organisation, the human trafficking industry generates an estimated seven to twelve billion US dollars annually. The trafficked women are usually forced into prostitution, sex tourism, commercial marriage, and other occupations such as domestic work. It has also been noted that these women are forced into selling their organs. A large number of internationally trafficked women are from India and other countries in the South Asia and South East Asia. The estimated number of such women is 2.5 lakh.

Human trafficking violates all forms of human rights and human dignity. These women have no freedom of choice. They are forced to lead a life of indignity and social stigma. There is no respect for them in the society and they are afflicted by a host of ailments including AIDS. It is an irony that the law does not target the traffickers, pimps, procurers and brothel owners and instead, treats the trafficked women as criminals and not as victims. Efforts to rescue and rehabilitate these women are grossly inadequate in the country.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government through you to evolve an effective action plan to check such illegal and inhuman acts immediately. I urge upon the Government to set up a one-stop national help centre for this purpose where these women can get help, protection, counseling and rehabilitation. Thank you.