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Title: Need to address and tackle the issue of child trafficking in North Eastern India.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): I would like to draw the kind attention of this august House regarding the need to address and tackle the issue of Child Trafficking in Assam and North East. As the House is aware, India is a source, destination and transit country for trafficking.

Reports suggest that trafficking from North-Eastern States is high but often over looked. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, there were 5,466 cases of human trafficking registered in 2014, an increase of 90 per cent over the past five years. Activists say this is a gross under-estimation of the scale of the problem, as much of the illicit organised crime is underground. In many cases, they are not paid or are held in debt bondage. Some go missing, and their families cannot trace them. Traffickers approach the girls as placement agents, offering them work in cities such as Delhi. Police say young girls see placement agencies as a way to escape the cycle, lured by promises of good jobs and a steady income. Instead, they too often find themselves sold as domestic labour and denied wages, or forced to work in the sex industry. Police say hundreds of girls in tea districts fall victim to traffickers every year.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to kindly take necessary steps to address the issue with immediate effect by providing assistance, financial and otherwise, to the States to tackle the issue with efficiency and effectiveness. I also urge the Government to involve organisations like UNICEF in the law-making process to tackle this momentous problem.

Thank you.