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Title: Reported news about the increase in cases of Human Rights violation in Jammu & Kashmir.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH (SRINAGAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government to a pressing problem in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Often, in the fight against terrorism, we hear statements being used about 'winning the hearts and minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, providing them with a healing touch, and making them feel that they are a part of this country'. But unfortunately, it seems, in the past year, we have failed miserably in

winning the hearts and the minds of the people and in providing them with a healing touch.

I would like to draw the attention of this Government to a newspaper article, a copy of which I have circulated with my notice, which details just how badly we are losing this fight for 'winning the hearts and minds of the people'. The position of human rights is the worst in the last seven years. I would like to quote some figures for this Government. These are not the figures that I am providing, but these are the figures provided by the State's Human Rights Commission, which details 29 cases of custodial killing, 82 cases of disappearances, 65 cases of harassment, and numerous other cases. Totally, 672 cases of human rights violations have been recorded with the State's Human Rights Commission, between April 2003 and June 2004. This is against only 51 cases in the year 1998-99.

Through you, Sir, I would like to request the Government to take a long, hard look at the position of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir, to strengthen the mechanism of human rights protection, and to ensure that incidents like this do not take place.

* Not Recorded.