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Title: Need for a strong legislation to check adulteration of milk.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Hon. Madam Speaker, if there is one item, which we consume right from the time we take birth till we die, that is milk. The best part in India is that in the last 10 years, the milk production has gone up by about 60 per cent. Today, we claim to be the world's largest producer of milk.

While the quantity of milk is not a problem for us, there is a serious question mark as regards the quality of milk. According to a study conducted by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, 68 per cent of the milk available in the country is spurious and adulterated. The situation is more critical in the State of Gujarat where 89 per cent of the milk has been found adulterated. Similarly, in Jammu and Kashmir, 83 per cent and in Punjab, 81 per cent of the milk has been found adulterated. The consequence is very huge. Recently, after consuming adulterated milk, in some Anganwadi Centres of Chhattisgarh, two children have died and several admitted to hospital. Similar is the situation in Uttar Pradesh.

Madam, this act is nothing less than a serious crime, which is killing us, Indians day in and day out. This act is much more serious than the act of terrorism.

So, I would urge upon the Government to bring about a strong legislation to stop adulteration of milk and take stern action against those who are involved in this act of adulteration of milk so that people do not die day in and day out. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.

**13.00 hours**