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Title: Regarding inter-state bride trafficking.

SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH (KANDHAMAL): Sir, 90 per cent of the two lakh humans are trafficked in India every year are victims of inter-State bride trafficking. Although a majority of the trafficked brides belong to the SC, ST or lower economic classes, but their buyers are from rich land-owning communities.

Sir, most of these so-called brides are sold and re-sold four or five times by their so-called grooms and in-laws. They are even shared by the other male members in their family.

Bride trafficking is not covered by either the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act or the Bonded Labour System Abolition Act 1976, and sexual violence faced by trafficked brides amounts to marital rape, which is not a criminal offence in India.

I would like to know, through you, Sir, what the Government is doing to help these voiceless and helpless victims. Is this worst kind of torture imaginable in a so-called civilized society as ours? Thank you.