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Title: Need for strong legislation to curb selling of women and children in the country.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Hon. Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise this issue, and thank you so much for starting this new practice. May God bless you!

I am raising an issue which is of very serious national importance. It relates to the sale of human beings. As is the case in many countries, sale of human beings be considered as a crime in our country, and a legislation should be enacted to punish those who are involved with selling of women and minors. The existing law criminalizes the act of selling human beings only if it is done for prostitution, slavery or exploitation. However, exploitation is not very clearly defined and selling of people for marriage and adoption is not an offence. Certain people are taking advantage of these loopholes. Unfortunately, despite a strong recommendation by the Law Commission in its 146th Report in 1993, no steps has been taken by the Government. There exists an urgent need to extend the scope of legal provisions to cover the cases where a women or a child is sold, irrespective of immediate objective of the transaction. Selling children under the garb of adoption should be made illegal in view of operation of big rackets involved with illegal selling of children for adoption in many States. Up to 200,000 children every year fall into the hands of slave traders in India, many being sold by their poverty-stricken parents for as little as Rs.1,000.