

It is reported that four pockets of India are said to be the major recruiting grounds for child trafficking. These are: Adilabad, Kurmul and Enadi areas of Andhra Pradesh, Dhanbad, Dumka, Sahebganj, Ranchi and Purnea areas of Bihar; Murshidabad, Nadia and Jalpaiguri areas of West Bengal; and Madurai and Coimbatore areas of Tamil Nadu. The situation is acute in the 'pink triangle' of Delhi-Jaipur-Agra, and goods transport routes like Calcutta-Siliguri-Guwahati-Shillong and Kandla-Rajkot-Udaipur-Delhi.

The remedial steps that are taken by the Centre and the State Governments to tackle this problem are found to be reactive in nature, than pro-active. There is no special law enacted in this regard.

So, there is an urgent and early need for formulating a comprehensive legislation and a policy on child trafficking, which can go beyond child prostitution and address other graver forms and purposes of child trafficking.

SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention of Miss Mabel Rebello.

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI KUM KUM RAI (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

Problems being faced by Vishwakarma Community

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR (Karnataka): Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to place before the House the problems faced by the Vishwakarma Community. Being a member of this community, I have the experience of all these problems.

The members of the Vishwakarma community, known as goldsmiths, Silversmiths, Swarnakars, constitute to almost 11 per cent of the total population of the country as per 1994 Census. This community is responsible for making world-class idols and jewellery, all over the country. Rich jewellers are exploiting these artisans. They pay very less salaries to them. They do not give any other facilities to them. The artisans work in poor, dangerous, congestive and hazardous conditions. It is also not easy

for them to start a business on their own as the cost involved even in starting a petty business is quite high. Even if a goldsmith is able to start a business of his own, the problems are many. Some of them are as follows:

1. Introduction of modern machinery.
2. Competition with big businessmen in the industry.
3. Harassment by police.

The police are harassing the goldsmiths like anything. To escape from police custodial treatment, the thieves arrested in theft cases, identify some innocent smiths to whom, they say, they have sold the stolen jewels. In certain cases, ignorant purchases of jewels by a smith also provide the police an opportunity to harass them without conducting a proper enquiry. The police conduct search of the premises of those people and arrest the innocent smiths in false fabricated cases.

I, therefore, take this opportunity to request the Government to make necessary amendments to the existing Gold Control Act, 1963 and authorize a certain category of police officers to enquire into cases where the poor goldsmiths are involved, considering the facts placed above.

Sir, I want to make a request. I would like to place on the Table of the House a book concerning the problems of goldsmiths. If you permit, I would place it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you cannot do that.

Safe drinking water problem and need for checking quality of water being sold in Jars, Sachets, etc.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity, and I am grateful to my leader, a great visionary, Shri Nara Chandra Babu Naidu, who has sent me to this august House. In 1994, when I was elected for the first time to the Andhra Pradesh State Legislature, my first official appearance was in your presence, when Your Excellency visited my constituency, Wanaparthy in Mahaboob Nagar district, as Governor of Andhra Pradesh, to start Satya Ashrams.