

>

Title: Request to make sports a part of curriculum and make it compulsory for students to pass physical test before writing any exams.

SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM (SIVAGANGA): Sir, I am right behind the pillar. So, I have to pray only to Lord Narasimha before I speak here.

Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak. Olympics is to be held next year but India traditionally does not get the number of medals for a country of our size. So, I think that it is essential that we build a sports culture in our country but our educational system does not encourage sports because it is so exam-oriented....(*Interruptions*) Sir, I urge upon the Minister of HRD to please make sports compulsory as a subject and prescribe certain physical tests which a student has to qualify before writing his examination.

There are many schools which do not even have playgrounds. Schools which do not have playgrounds should be derecognised and physical education teachers must be given their due importance in schools. In most of the schools, physical education teachers are only used to pull up students who come late to class. You should make sports compulsory and perhaps come up with some criteria like running a mile within eight to ten minutes as a compulsory criterion to write public examination because parents nowadays are only focussed on exams and completely neglect sports. Unless it is made as a part of the curriculum and made compulsory that students should pass certain physical tests before you write the public exam, parents will never

encourage students to participate in sports. That is the only way in which we can encourage a sporting culture in India.