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Title: Need to take steps to develop sports and link sports with our education system.

**SHRI MARGANI BHARAT (RAJAHMUNDRY):** Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak. I wanted to speak on the subject of youth affairs and sports yesterday. Today, you have given me the opportunity but, unfortunately, the Sports Minister is not here. If he had been here, really it would have been better.

Sir, I want to speak on Tokyo Olympics 2020. As we all know, our country is the second-most populous country in the world. But it is a matter of shame for our country that in Olympics 2016 we won only two medals. Developed countries like USA, China and the United Kingdom take away most of the medals. The United States of America won almost 129 medals in the last Olympics. We have to do some introspection and find out what exactly is going wrong with our country in this regard. Winning two medals for a country of 1.25 billion people is a matter of crying shame, Sir. There is tremendous untapped potential for growth in sports performance in our country. Our hon. Prime Minister spoke about 'Young India and New India'. Is it not our priority to be number one in the world of sports also?

I would like to give a few suggestions in this regard. We have to link sports with our education system. Sports budget for this financial year is just Rs.2,000 crore. When it comes to developed countries like the USA it is almost twenty times more than that. I would request the hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India to sanction at least

Rs.10,000 crore for sports so that India can come into the top ten positions in the coming Olympics.

But I would like to say that we have to encourage sports from the village level as there is abundant talent. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I have to mention one final point. I am concluding. The indoor sports stadium should be there in every district of the country and there should be a qualified trainer.

I would like to urge upon the Government of India to plan strategically as there is nearly 28 to 30 sports which are of 40 to 50 disciplines. There are around 300 events. There are around 300 medals for the Olympics. We should aim to achieve at least 50 medals in the upcoming Olympics.

Thank you so much.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री सुरेश पुजारी ।**

माननीय सदस्य, पहली बार सदन में बोल रहे हैं ।