

Indian Olympic Association was of the view that kho kho not being Olympic or Asian discipline there was no need to immediately grant affiliation by the Indian Olympic Association to this Federation.

Acquaintance of Foreign Participants with Indian Games by Special Organising Committee of Asian Games

204. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Special Organising Committee of Asian Games is making any efforts to acquaint foreign participants with Indian Games, particularly kho kho; and

(b) whether the Committee has produced any film on Indian Games, particularly on kho kho?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no film exclusively on kho-kho, but there are films on other games, produced by films division.

Change in Decision of Status of Kho Kho

205. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Organizing Committee had initially accorded status of Exhibition/Demonstration game to kho kho; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for changing the decision subsequently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Steps against Silting in Orissa and Gangetic Belt River

206. SHRI K. C. HALDER: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the silting is the main problem with the rivers in Orissa and the Gangetic belt what steps have been taken against this and the result of each step during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the amount of money allotted for regular dredging and to ensure the required flow of waters?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): (a) Excessive sediment load in the flood prone rivers is one of the factors accentuating the floods levels. As a measure of reducing the sediment load in the rivers, the degraded land in the catchments are required to be treated to protect them from soil erosion. A Centrally sponsored Soil Conservation Scheme for river valley projects has been under implementation since the Third Plan, which includes areas in the catchments of the Hirakud, Machkund and Rengali Mandire river valley projects in Orissa. A new Centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Water Management in the catchments of flood prone rivers of Indo-Gangetic Basin was also launched during 1980-81. This scheme has been set in operation in about 63 small watersheds. In addition, soil conservation programmes are also being carried out under State sector.

(b) The dredging operation in rivers as a purely flood control measure is not a economically feasible proposition and Central Government is not aware of any such allotment made by the State Governments for such work.