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Title : Need to reschedule the dates of National Level Cricket Tournaments thereby facilitating players to represent their states in all the tournaments.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I stand here to draw the attention of the Government and, through Government, of most of the public sector undertakings who are the main employers of sportsmen and the athletes, especially those who play hockey, cricket and football. In our country, PSUs are also organizing national level tournaments and it is always the responsibility of those PSUs to see that the calendar of those tournaments does not go against the calendar of different national level tournaments which are being organized by different sports authorities.

In another two or three weeks' time, Ranji Trophy Tournament is going to be held, but at the same time – hon. Minister for Communications and Information Technology was here and has just left this House – BSNL is also organizing a national level tournament in the State of Punjab. A peculiar situation has arisen in Orissa. When the option was given to two prominent cricket players of Orissa as to whether they are going to represent their State in the Ranji Trophy Tournament or their circle in the BSNL national tournament, they had to opt to play for the BSNL because they are the employees of the BSNL. They had to seek permission from their organization, the PSU who has employed the sportsman or athlete. When these two prominent cricket players sought permission from their higher-ups, they were denied permission.

I would like to draw the attention, through the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and through other Ministers also, of the Minister for Communications and Information Technology and ask him to intervene in this matter so that these two cricket players can play in the national games, in the national sports like Ranji Trophy. Once they do not perform in it, they cannot get selected to the national team and they cannot get any grade in the national team.

Many PSUs are organizing tournaments. Railways are organizing, SAIL is organizing and BSNL is also organizing such tournaments, but their sports calendar should not contravene the calendar of different sports authorities. This is my request. I would again request the Government to impress upon the Minister to intervene in this matter.