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Title: Need to sanction financial assistance to the Athletes selected for participating in the 'Olympics for the deaf' in 2005.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI): Sir, probably you know that 20th Deaf Olympics are scheduled to be held at Melbourne, Australia from 5th to 16th January, 2005. Twelve athletes from West Bengal among many others from other States have been selected by the All India Sports Council of the Deaf, New Delhi to participate in the above meet.

But I am sorry to say that they have to bear to and fro air fare, boarding and lodging including the expenditure for attending the training camp whereas in Olympic Games all facilities and financial assistance are borne by the Government.

So, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports through you, Sir, that such facilities should be extended to these young people especially as they are handicapped physically as well as financially.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope the matter will be looked into. Shri B.K. Handique, please look into it and request the hon. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports to look into it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, I will look into it and get back to her.

MR. SPEAKER: Please help these sportspersons.

...(Interruptions)