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Title: Need to hand over the Assam Rifles Ground to the Government of Tripura in exchange of an alternative land for construction of a Sports Complex of international standard.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST): Madam, I am sure you will also support the issue I am raising here. In this House also, we applaud when our sportsperson get medals in any international event. I would like to raise that kind of issue here.

The young people of Tripura and the State Government have been requesting for making available the Assam Rifles ground at Agartala for development of multi-discipline sports complex of international standard for holding important sports events. Over 3,500 sportspersons and eminent personalities of the State had submitted a representation addressed to the then Prime Minister of India for handing over the ground, which was being used for holding important national level sports prior to the 1971 Indo-Pak war. Keeping in view the importance of promotion of sports as an integrated strategy in dealing with extremist/insurgent activities in an effective manner and channelizing the youth energy for constructive purpose, this matter was taken up with the then Prime Minister in April, 2011 and also on December, 2014 when our present Prime Minister made his visit to Tripura, the Council of Ministers had submitted a similar memorandum to the Prime Minister. So, I would like to request the Minister of Defence to hand over the land having area of 49.90 acre in the heart of Agartala city without any premium. As you know, land is very scarce in our hilly State. The Ministry is asking to pay more than Rs 300 crore. Why is the Government asking for money for development of sports complex for youth? Since this has been the sentimental issue of people of Agartala city and the State of Tripura as a whole, I request the hon. Minister to look into the matter on priority and the entire Assam Rifles Ground complex may be handed over to the State Government for building up a multi-discipline sports complex free of cost.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sankar Prasad Datta and Adv. Joice George are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Jitendra Chaudhury.