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Title: Need to take steps to deal with the plight of athlete Dutee Chand for taking part in Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been trying for the last one week, to raise a matter of national importance instead of Constituency or State subject, as has been going on.

The matter relates to how the promising career of a young woman athlete, Dutee Chand, has been trampled upon, which has come to a grinding halt after a medical test that was conducted by the Sports Authority of India, South Centre.

The Sports Authority of India was instructed by the Athletic Association that this woman athlete is not fit to take part in female events. This junior woman sprinter, whose pet events are the 100 metres and 200 metres, is now under cloud.

The Sports Authority of India says that because it is international standard, no investigation can take place on her gender. But by doing this test, she has been denied participation in the Commonwealth Games, which are going to start from 23rd of this month. She is left in the lurch. The SAI says that it was the Athletic Federation of India, who had asked for the test.

Sir, Dutee Chand has brought laurels for this country and also for our State by participating in international and national events. Nobody had doubted her androgen content then. But when the time came to go to Commonwealth Games, her test was done and publicity was made, which is illegal.

I have some papers with me, Mr. Chairman, Sir, where the headlines say: "SAI test finds woman athlete 'not fit' to take part in female event.", "Dutee Chand's career in doldrums.", "Junior Sprinter Dutee not to be left in the lurch"

The definition of a female athlete is also being questioned.

And, they ask the wrong question. This has come out in today's newspaper. Sex test of young woman athlete is actually a gender test which is banned through the world.

But I would ask this Government and also plead before the Minister, who is present here today, to specify the definition of a female athlete, as hormone contributes to physical strength. Is that a disqualification? Earlier two female athletes had been vilified, one from Tamil Nadu and another from West Bengal. Why sex test for athletes is being done on female only? Is it because the facial feature changes and it is no more feminine?

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Please try to conclude.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : This is discrimination. I would only urge upon this Government that she is competent enough to participate in different international and national sport events. Androgen can also be minimized. I would request the Minister to respond to this. Can the Government take adequate steps so that the androgen level can come down in future?

Sir, the Minister may respond now. I would request him to respond.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No. You know that is not the procedure. You get in touch with him later.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Sir, I am not asking you. This is an important issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): Respected Chairman, Sir, this is a very sensitive issue. I assure the hon. Member of Parliament that our Government will extend all possible support to make this sports person to play again in the near future at any level of sports events.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Thank you very much.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya – Not present.