

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Issue regarding discriminatory nature of Athletics Association of India towards a girl athlete of Kerala.

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SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, I would like to invite the attention of this august House relating to a most discriminatory nature of our Athletics Association of India towards a girl athlete of Kerala, P.U. Chitra. She is ranked as the number one in Asian Championship. She has the right to participate in the World Championship. In the last minute, the Athletics Association of India intimated the girl that she would not be part of the international event. Kerala High Court too intervened in this matter. It has given a clear verdict that she should be included in the list but the Athletics Association is hearing anybody. Hon. Minister is also helpless in this regard. How can the nation go on like this? She is a grassroot level poor girl from a village of Kerala. She is emerging as a national and international athlete but the Athletics Association is not promoting such promising athletes. My request to the Government is to order an inquiry on this incident to know as to what has happened and what type of injustice has been meted out to this girl athlete. Therefore, I seek an immediate inquiry from the Government so that justice is rendered to the girl. A case is before the Kerala High Court also. Therefore, I would urge the Government to please look into the matter. I think, the hon. Minister would like to respond on this matter. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and

Dr. Kirit P. Solanki are allowed to be associated with the issue raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): The case of athlete of Kerala, U.C. Chitra, is a matter of

concern. I would definitely bring this to the notice of the hon. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports for appropriate action. ... (*Interruptions*)