

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Thursday August 18, 1988 / Sravana 27,
1910 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at

Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is with great shock and distress that we learnt of the tragic and untimely demise of President Zia-ul-Haq, in an air crash near Bahawalpur yesterday.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to Begum Zia-ul-Haq and the members of the late President's family in their hour of grief.

We share the sorrow of the people of Pakistan at the tragedy that has occurred.

The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then Stood in Silence for a Short While.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Constructions of Sports Complex in Himachal Pradesh

*304. SHRI R.P.DAS†:
SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RE-

SOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sports complex is being constructed in Himachal Pradesh after felling more than 10,000 trees, thereby disturbing ecology and environment of Potter's Hill;

(b) if so, the compulsion for constructing the complex at such a place; and

(c) whether any survey was made before the clearance of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). As per information available with this Department, only about 11 trees may be affected, in the sports complex proposed to be constructed in Potter's Hill Shimla.

(c) Yes, Sir.

SHRI R.P. DAS: Sir, the reply of the Minister is very unsatisfactory. But we have come to know that Himalayas Nature and Environment Preservation Society has conducted a survey and identified that more than 10,000 trees are standing on that area where this High Altitude Sports Complex is to be constructed. This Society apprehends that a large number of trees, mainly Deodar would have to be cut down and this felling of trees would lead to extinction of wild life and flora. Therefore, this Society is of the opinion that this High Altitude Sports Complex costing about Rs. 15 crores should be immediately abandoned. I would like to know from the Minister whether it is a fact or not.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, we