

[Shri E. Ayyapu Reddy]

17.00 hrs.

In fact, we even thought this aspect of the question. If the *mens rea* is established, already section 420 is available under which he can be prosecuted. There should be no difficulty about it. But it is bound to take considerable amount of time. If the banks have to wait or the payee has to wait till he gets something from the court, then, I am sure, that the entire banking system will collapse. That is why we just wanted to find a middle way by which some kind of fear will have to be instilled in the minds of those people who issue the cheques that if we don't do it, we can be prosecuted. It is not always that they are going to be prosecuted.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI: Who will pay the expenses of the prosecution - the bank or the payee?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Actually the person who, in fact, is the aggrieved party. I don't think that the person who issues the cheque can be an aggrieved party. The aggrieved is the person who received the cheque. And after going to the bank, if he is being told that there is not enough money in his account or there is no money in his account at all, then the person, who has issued the cheque, gives a notice saying: "Though you have issued the cheque in my name, there is no money in your account. Please try to make it good."

After giving him full opportunity to make good the money which he has written on the cheque, if he fails to do the same, then, of course, he gets the right to prosecute the person. There is a higher judicial authority also. Metropolitan Magistrates have been specially empowered under this Act so that an honest person, who, somehow or the other could not fulfil all these conditions even in the court of law, is able to establish that there were very valid reasons due to which he had to issue the cheque but he

could not help it; then, of course, ultimately it is for the Magistrate of the first class or the Metropolitan Magistrate to go to the extent of almost penalising him up to double the amount and with an imprisonment of one year, separately or both. This is the power which has been given to the courts.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue next time.

17.04 hrs.

#### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

#### Dismal Performance of Indian Sportsmen in Seoul Olympic Games

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion under Rule 193 to be raised by Shri C. Janga Reddy. Mrs. Margaret Alva is not well. She has suddenly got sick. Now Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev is taking down the notes. Cabinet Minister, Mr. Shiv Shanker, will be coming. He is now in the Rajya Sabha. After that, he will take the notes.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after every Olympic games, we have a discussion on this subject in this House. What is the reason that we cannot win gold medals? Not only this, we could not even obtain entry into many games. We have constantly drawn your attention towards it. Have you ever thought how we are performing in the games? In the recent games at Seoul we could not win even a single medal out of 711 medals. Leave aside the gold medal, we could not even get a bronze or a brass medal. After all, what is the reason? We are lagging behind in the games.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: There is no brass medal.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Sports has come to such a state because myself and our Hon. Minister are not sportsmen.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): You have played many games.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: I played games in my childhood. I do not dare to play them now. After you become Minister, we have started running away.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: You are playing the wrong game.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Not wrong, we are playing the right game to bring you down.

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY (Bettiah): You are far away from the games.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: We will play such a game that you will not come to power again. We are playing such a game. You always think otherwise, play foul and therefore, you speak in bad taste in this House. I want that we should win medals in the Olympic games at least once. Asiad was held in our country. Rs. 15 crores were spent on it. What did we gain after spending Rs. 15 crores? New stadia were constructed and you turned the so called poor people into millionaires by granting them contracts. We built the Asiad village but we could not win any gold medal. We have not won any gold medal in the last 4 years. We know that India has won gold medal in Hockey eight times continuously but this time we could qualify only for entry in the next Olympics. What is the reason for this? The reason is that we are getting no results out of the expenditure incurred by our Government. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has brought new policies in the last 4 years viz, Textile Policy, Education Policy, Sports Policy etc. and he is flooding the country with these new policies. Due to the new textile policy, the cotton growers, textile workers and handloom workers are in trouble and similarly, sports men are also in trouble. It is observed in every thing. Instead of giving a

new directions to the country and the Lok Sabha, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, is taking the country backwards by formulating these new policies. He is cheating the people. What is the reason behind this? There are federations and sports councils in our country but no attention is paid in this direction. All the funds spent from the Government exchequer go waste. The Government wants to interfere in everything, including the selection of players. Hon. Minister keep on changing their guidelines for 3-4 times in a period of 4 years and send their own people to other countries. This is why our country had to face a defeat in Seoul and was let down. The hon. Minister is not present in the House today because she is feeling shame. I feel that for delivering a speech or for speaking before us

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I understand that she is running temperature of 104 deg. C. It is unfair. She will herself reply. Do not surmise like this.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: All right. A Minister is holding this portfolio for the last four years and our country's performance is worsening since then, she should at least immediately resign.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Will P. T. Usha win a gold medal if the Minister resigns?

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: No, you will win one. At the time when Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was the Minister of Railways, was he the driver of the train which had met with the accident then? This is a matter of one's principle. Shri Sanjiva Reddy who was the Chief Minister had to resign owing to the decision of the Supreme Court in the matter of Road Transport Nationalisation.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: The Chief Minister whom you are supporting, has been indicated by the High Court in 6 cases. In spite of that it is said that I care two hoots for the High Court.

[English]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Why should you bring the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh here?

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Raghuma Reddyji, I will give a reply to them. What is the reason that all the Congress Members from Andhra Pradesh try to threaten N.T.R. during their visit to Gujarat and Maharashtra? You people want to remove N.T.R. by imposing \*\* as a Governor there. If there were six charges against N.T.R. in the High Court, we will prove 16 against Shri Rajiv Gandhi in the Supreme Court. High Court is nothing. (Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have to give a reply because our hon. Cabinet Minister has himself brought the name of N.T.R. here... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: When you talk about us, you should also mind your language. Does it behave you to say "... etc.?"\*\* (Interruptions)

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: This is not so. Shikhandi does not imply "... in India but you have formulated such a scheme. The Governor is not under the Government and you want to harass the Government by keeping him there. (Interruptions) Shri Lai Bahadur Shastri gave his resignation when the train accident took place. Why did he do so? (Interruptions) My submission is that in order to save the honour and prestige of the country as well as to raise its glory in the world, the Government should rise above politics while selecting players, and send good sportsmen there. The hon. Minister of looking after this Ministry for the last four years but as regards winning gold medals, our country's performance is worsening. If our hon. Cabinet Minister looks into this matter he will come to know of it. That is why I am demanding her resignation. When Shri Sanjiva Reddy had nationalised the transport, the Supreme

Court declared that he had done so for some personal purpose. Although the court never mentioned about his resignation, he did resign... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: He was the Chief Minister of Congress, not yours.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: He may be from any party, but my submission is that what will be the fate of 80 crores people of our country if you refuse to resign in spite of such a repeated dismal performance for not once, twice or thrice but for 4 times? (Interruptions) Shri has a bright future but our own honour is at stake. We have no future. Therefore, I want that she should resign. Today, efforts are being made to governmentalise the sports and they want to keep them into their own hands. This should not happen. The Government has framed guidelines in this regard but if in spite of that our country has to loss the gold medals, then those guidelines should be changed and it should be considered as to what plan should be formulated for the future.

There are 6 lakh primary schools, 1.5 lakh upper primary schools and 70 thousand high schools in our country but there is not even a single physical instructor there, nor is there any play-ground. So what steps is the Government taking in this direction? Besides granting grants, all facilities like play-grounds should be provided by the Government. While making selection for sports, you think over it in isolation and do not try to provide facilities for sports. In comparison to other countries not even a single paise per capita is being spent on sports in our country. We find that there are no physical instructors in our schools. Out of the funds being provided by the Centre, some funds should be given to the States also. Just as the Government has introduced Hindi Courses in the upper-primary schools in order to encourage Hindi, similarly the post of physical instructor should be made compulsory in upper primary schools or at least in middle schools.

---

\*\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

During our school times, there used to be 2 physical instructors in each school but after 40 years of independence, their number has come down. Why is this so? Earlier the standard of physical education used to be good but now it is gradually declining. Efforts should be made to promote it. I would like to know the total expenditure made on sports upto the Sixth Plan. It works out to be Rs. 11 crores, which means an expenditure of Rs. 40 lakh per annum. How can this help? An amount of Rs. 200 crores has been earmarked in the Seventh Plan. Some funds should be allocated to the States also for spending through the sports federations and different sports institutions. You have spent Rs. 300 crores and out of that only Rs. 10 crores have been spent through the Centre's Sports Council, Authority or Institution. Therefore, my submission is that the entire funds should be distributed among the States and stadium should be constructed in every District. A number of stadia have been constructed in Delhi, which remain unutilized and the meetings of the Congress (I), B.J.P, Janata Party and Lok Dal are held there. My submission is that the Government should provide for the construction of a stadium in each District Centre and make sports an essential part of the primary schools so that sports facilities reach the rural areas too. In a country like Russia at least 25 per cent participate in sports but in our country with a population of 80 crores, only 5 to 6 lakh people take part in sports.

I would like to make another point that Cricket is played throughout the year and is played in only 7-8 countries of the world.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For the full debate we have allotted two hours. You have already taken 15 minutes. I have given you the maximum time.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: I would like to submit that sports facilities should reach villages and stadia should be constructed at

district and taluka levels. I also want to submit that the sports other than cricket are not given much time on T.V. Cricket has a monopoly there. Therefore cricket should be done away with. The Members who are supposed to sit in the House always remain busy in watching cricket matches on T.V. They come to the House only when there is a bell ringing. Due to so much of Cricket on T.V. and radio, the children are also trying to play it. Cricket has to be played throughout the day and thus a lot of time is wasted. Smaller sports like, hockey, volley ball, basket ball should be encouraged. We have no grounds to reach the Olympic level. That is why we lose in the Olympics. Hockey is played on an artificial grass made of plastic. There are only 2-3 such grounds in our country whereas in other countries their number is very high and the sportsmen there play on those grounds only. We have no plastic platforms for wrestling matches whereas in other countries they have such platforms numbering 300-400. At least we should have them at district level. If we want to reach the Olympic level, then a lot needs to be done and I feel that these facilities should not be limited to urban areas alone but should reach the rural areas too. Stadia should be constructed and facilities provided at district level. Since in spite of spending so much money for 4 years we had to face a defeat, I demand the resignation of the hon. Minister of Sports.

[English]

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me about 10 odd minutes on this Rule 193 discussion. It is a fact that the performance of the Indian sportsmen and women have been rather dismal. First I would highlight this dismal performance as to how our sportsmen have figured.

In Athletics, Mercy Kuttan entered the second round and finished last, Shiny Abraham, finished sixth in first round heat of the 800 metres, P.T. Usha (400 M hurdles) Seventh and last in first round, 1600 M relay team (Mercy, Vandana Rao, Vandana Shanbagh, Shiny) finished Seventh and last in



[Shri Ajay Musran]

first round. Ashwani Nachappa was the stand-by in relay.

In Archery, Limba Ram, finished 39th in the overall, Sanjeeva Singh, finished 40th in the overall and Shyam Lal Meena finished 72nd in the overall.

In Boxing, we did fairly well.

In Hockey, we were sixth, out of the 12 teams which participated.

In Shooting, Soma Dutta finished 23rd in free pistol and 30th in air rifle.

In Swimming, Khazan Singh (200 butterfly) finished fifth among seven in 1st heat. He was getting training in Australia for years.

#### *Table Tennis*

Kamlesh Mehta (singles)	-	Fourth in prelim. group
Sujay Chorpade (singles)	-	Seventh in prelim. group
Niyati Roy (singles)	-	Last in prelim. group
Mehta & Chorpade (doubles)	-	Fourth in prelim. group

#### *Tennis*

Vijay Amritraj (singles)	-	Lost in first round.
Zeeshan Ali (singles)	-	Won first round, lost in second.
Vijay & Anand (doubles)	-	Won first round, lost in second.

#### *Weightlifting*

G. Muthuswamy (52 kg)	-	11th overall
R. Chandrasekharan (52 kg)	-	19th overall

#### *Wrestling*

Rajesh Kumar (48 kg)	-	Ninth overall
Kuldeep Singh (52 kg) (others have no placing)	-	Ninth overall

#### *Yachting*

Farookh Tarapore & Kelly Rao (470 class)	-	17th overall
---	---	--------------

Now, this is the performance, which is absolutely dismal. Now, as far as the government is concerned, I will like to congrat-

ulate the government for two factors. Firstly, over the years, the planned expenditure for sports and the creation of an envi-

ronment for sports by having ASIAD INDIA 1982 an atmosphere was created in the country where all sportsmen and sports women in large numbers in the younger section should have come up. So far as the money is concerned, there was no dearth. The people who are to be blamed are we, because wherever we went including the Sports Minister - I was also a Sports Minister in a State - the only demand was to make a stadium for them. We did not realise that by making a stadium it did not improve the performance or the standard of athletes, sportsmen, players and whatever you have. So far as money is concerned, from Rs. 13 crores it went upto Rs. 30 crores; and then from Rs. 30 crores it went upto Rs. 150 crores; and from Rs. 150 crores it went upto Rs. 200 crores and now it is Rs. 250-260 crores; this has been the outlay in this Ministry over the last Six Five Year Plans. So, I do not blame the government at all. It is a very political unfortunate move to call for the resignation of the Sports Minister; and what's Mr. Janga Reddy has said is this. If the Sports Minister's resignation could improve the standard of the players, I will say that every Sports Minister should resign. But it is not so. In spite of encouragement financial job-wise and environment-wise, these sports women and men in our country have not been able to perform better. There may be some fault, but it cannot be at the government level. Look at the standard of administration by various federations and association. They are rigged with politics. Some of the magazines have said that politicians have entered the Association and spoiled it. It is not so. It is the internal politics of these associations and federations which has marred the atmosphere; and they want to bring their favourites sports women and men to represent the country outside and the best boys do not come. So, it is the Associations' and the Federations' Chiefs who should not only be made to resign but they should be sacked also; and the entire administration of the Federations should be taken over by the government.

Look at the government's contribution towards our team which went to Seoul.

97782 dollars were released by the government for their expenditure on boarding, lodging and exigency. The expenditure by the Air India was to the tune of Rs. 16,2,4980 for 47 competitors, 18 team officials and 9 IOA representatives. What was the need of sending 27 officials for 46 sports men? It is not in the hands of the Sports Ministry; it is in the hands of the IOA. When it comes to the question of selecting a team, if some genuine sports man has been left out and if the government tries to intervene, the Sports Minister - I remember for sure; it came out in the paper also - was condemned by saying that you are intervening with the autonomy of the Federation; and when the Federation chose their team, this is a dismal performance which we have just seen.

Look at the description of our team which went out. we took an athlete who had won laurels in the Asian Tournament four years ago. A stage came when Milka Singh had also said about that athlete. Now, nobody knows about athletics more than Milka Singh particularly for 400 metres; and Milka Singh had said that this athlete had reached her peak; and in spite of the fact that we took her, not only she had not passed her preliminary test but she was not physically fit and still she was taken. Because, I am told, by people who were in Seoul that the Olympic Association of Seoul had promised \$10,000 to every athlete who takes part in the Olympics and wears a particular logo. A logo is the sign of particular firm which equips and dresses these athletes. Just to get that \$10,000 the athlete went there. But, not only the athlete went, but her prime coach also went. And look at their discipline. We are talking of the Government. Mr. Janga Reddy was talking only of the Government. But look at their discipline. Shri K. P. Singh Deo, an hon. Member of this was the Chief de Mission and there was some problem as to who out of six athletes should make the relay team. I charge him with leniency. If I were in his place, I would have sent the whole lot of them back to India by the first plane and not make them take part in those games. They were trying to dictate to the Chief de

[Shri Ajay Mushran]

Mission who was supposed to be head of our team, comprising 47 competitors 27 supernumeraries who were of no use at all, and who brought these standards of performance. And what performance qualifications we have! A person who has achieved the timing of the sixth place in the previous Olympics will be taken into account. You know, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that the men's world record of 100 metres in Melbourne Olympics is equalled today in Seoul by the Women's 100 metres record. This is the progress, leaps and bounds by which the timing are being improved upon and we are adhering to the Sixth place! And even this sixth place, with timings achieved by our people who had the highest training of all sorts, all battery improvements were done and everything was done by the Government. But still they have not been able to achieve that standard the sixth place.

I will recommend to all the federations, that it should be mandatory for them and the Government should have the control that unless that standard is achieved, at least bronze medal timings of the previous Olympics a person should not be selected. And if any athlete commits any act of misdemeanour there, or misbehaves with the Chief de Mission, if any such things happen, they should not only be punished; if they have get a job in the Government - because of their being sportsmen - they should be sacked from the job, because for sportsmen discipline comes first and performance later.

And look at the amount of money they have earned. From the last Asiad at Seoul till this Olympics, for two years, I think that particular athlete got lot of money. I was the person who said the one of the trains running from that town should be named after her. Every State Government gave lakhs of rupees but this is the performance. I would have taken my hats off for that athlete, if she would have said, "Look, I am not physically fit, I am not going." But she just went because of the \$10,000. I feel very much agitated at the performance of our sportsmen and women. Why so many

coaches, and why should so many big officials go? Why should so many go? Forty-seven athletes! Why should we represent in every game in which we are going on lose?

I have some suggestions to make. My first suggestion is that all sports should be graded as major and minor and whether it is hockey, or foot-ball or athletics or wrestling or weight-lifting, wherever we are likely to do well, we should declare them as major sports and in those games where we are not going to do well, pistol-shooting, swimming where we are nowhere, we should declare them as minor.

I think our men athletes should start competing with the female athletes of East Germany and still they will not win. You can see their timing. If that is the performance, why should we send them at all?

Do not expose them to a competition of a level which they should be ashamed of going. Look at China. China has no stadium except Peking and two other cities. They have only three stadiums in the entire country just three times larger than us. They have no stadium and they have won so many medals. They have not exposed their athletes and their table tennis players to the world competition, for the last 20 years and when they entered, they entered with a bang.

So, may I suggest that the games should be categorised not by the wealth that is spent but by the actual resources of competitors which the country's population throws up in a particular game; where we can do something so far as international sports are concerned.

My second suggestion is that only a person who has been an olympian should be qualified to become the President of a particular Federation.

The sports environment in the country which had been generated by the Asian has gone in vain. We have learnt more of the ceremonies, Closing Ceremony, Opening Ceremony, Girls coming with flowers, Prize

Ceremony, and we are not worried about timings, etc. I suggest that in all national competitions, we should not have all these ceremonies, and the Chief Guest can come and say 'I declare the tournament open' and let the tournament be shown.

Grounds, pools and other infrastructure which have been made are sufficient. I am saying sufficient because whatever available had not been as I made use of. In the main stadium in Munich, Olympic Games took place. The occupancy of that stadium is 670 per cent. It means, if it has the capacity to train one hundred people on the track and the field events, then 670 people are being trained everyday in shifts. That should be the scale, at which all stadiums, play grounds and tracks should be made use of. The main thing try is to catch young people. Unfortunately a person who is considered as young. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Only when they are employed, they are selected.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: I have seen in today's newspaper that we have selected an old man of 37 years as the captain of our Tennis team. I quite understand that he has been playing for India for twenty five years. For God's sake, let him live in peace. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: I have also become old, but I can speak. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: A young man Mr. Reddy is going to speak. Please listen to him.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Sir, in olden days, all the sports men and women belong to either Universities or Police or Private sector undertakings. Railways and others came later.

I would suggest that maximum importance should be given to the sports at the school stage itself and sports should be included as a compulsory subject. Anybody

who does not achieve a particular distance or timing, should not be given Higher Secondary Certificate because that is the way you can create physical awareness, which is very necessary. So, I would suggest that at the school stage itself, we must give full concentration for sports development; otherwise the dismal performance will not be stopped. The best way to stop is not to take part in them till we are fit.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, after every Olympics, this sort of post-mortem and search for scapegoats is on. This is a regular phenomenon, which we are witnessing every year.

Sir, I fully agree with the hon. speaker who just preceded me. Who is responsible for the dismal performance? I do not think only the Madam Minister is responsible for this. The entire country is responsible for this; parents are responsible for this; schools are responsible for this; Universities are responsible for this; everybody is responsible for this. One should take the responsibility. The Sports Authority, the Sports Councils and the Federations should be made responsible. I am told that Government does not have any control over these federations. This is the most unfortunate state of affairs. I request the hon. Minister to have some control over these bodies. Only then they will be able to produce good results.

As my friend has just said, we are spending nearly Rs. 230 crores on sports. But where is this money going? There should be some accountability. The State Governments are also spending large amounts on sports. But I am sorry to say that these sports are confined to urban areas only. We have lot of talent in rural areas. But nobody goes there to search for the talent. Every year, you have Nehru Yu-vak Kendras in some of the districts. But are they functioning well? Are they picking up talents from rural areas for sports? They are not doing that job. There should be an independent authority to take up all these things. I do not think, the federations are



[Shri M. Raghuma Reddy]

taking care of these things. It is a pitiable thing that after spending so much amount you could produce only 27 people who could go to the Olympics, from among a population of nearly 80 crores. Even small is lands got gold medals. We did not get even a bronze medal. Who is responsible for this dismal performance? My good friend, Mr. K. S. Singh Deo, had gone there as Chef de Mission. I do not blame him. In some newspapers many things have appeared. I would like to quote 'India Today' of 15th October, 1988 in this connection. It said:

"First of all, P. T. Usha finished a distant last in the heat for the 400 metres hurdles... and was promptly asked to run a trial with Usha. She refused to do that despite Chef De Mission K. P. Singh Deo's threat to send her to India on the next available flight. "We have told Mr. Singh Deo if she goes back all of us go back as well", said another member of the relay team."

This is the control that we have over our players. Then at another place, it is said:

"Here we can't even respect ourselves as human beings. And you expect us to win medals?"

If this is the sort of discipline, why should you take them abroad at all? Why are you spending this public money on them? Spend this money on rural talent. There are a number of fishermen who are very good swimmers. But you have to select them. You have to give some sort of coaching to them. But that is not done. There are many brave people who can swim across the river or sea.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: There are some people who can swim between Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: But we do not select these people. That is the thing you are having.

With regard to hockey, we lost our supremacy in hockey. Sir, I will quote here from the same magazine. Ashwini Kumar said this-not now, in 1976. He said: "... we have to get foreign coaches for artificial surfaces. Everyone laughed at me. Today you see the result". This is what he said. Though we have the skill our players have the skill, but we lack some technicalities which the present day hockey requires. But you have not cared for that. What are your plans, I do not know. So, I request the hon. Minister, the hon. House to take note of these things. I am not going to ask for the resignation of the hon. Minister or others but I want that everybody should take the humiliation to heart.

I request the hon. Minister that in schools also you have to make it a regular subject. You can take it up with all the State Governments. When I was a student, there used to be some drill period or games period. But now there is no such thing. Because of these Convent schools, small kids have to carry large number of books but they find no time for sports. These Convent and private schools do not have even playgrounds. That is the state of affairs. We do not require many stadia but we require at least playgrounds for the children to play, in all the urban areas and in all the rural areas. These should be funded by the Government of India with the consultation of State Governments. If we take it up, we will be going ahead.

Lastly, about Andhra Pradesh also there was promise from the Sports Council that every district headquarter will have a stadium. But very few are having. If you are kind enough, you can sanction some matching money from the Government of India. The State Government also will give something. In all the district headquarters, where there are no Nehru Yuvak Kendras we should have a stadium, at least in the district headquarters. So, that should be taken care of... (*Interruptions*). Not only in Andhra Pradesh. The Minister says that financial resources are there. So, it can be taken up in every district of the country. That is my request, Sir.

Anyhow, I wish in the next Olympics at least we should get a bronze medal.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the one positive aspect of our dismal failure consistently in Olympics and Asian Games is the general awareness and general consciousness of our sports programme and sports needs throughout the country, whether it is inside the Parliament or outside the Parliament. And fully conscious of that, I congratulate our Prime Minister for having raised the sports allocation to a fairly high level. But then, as very rightly pointed out this is not all. There are certain basic points which we have to take into account. Some conscious decisions have to be taken at the top level so that an overall development of sports in this country could take place. I am not one of those who would run down our present athletes or sportsmen or sportswomen who may not have fared very well in the last Olympics or the Asian Games because you have to take the whole thing in the right perspective—under what circumstances were they trained, under what circumstances could they perform, what help could they get from our Government so that they could perform better. So, let us not run down what these sportsmen and sportswomen have achieved on their own. The point is if we want to plan, we have to plan for the next decade. I would broadly bring out points which should be taken into consideration. The number of competitions which are there in the Asian Games and in the Olympic games we do not have to compete in all of them. Let us not know about each one of them. Let us confine ourselves to those which suit the Indian environments and let us confine ourselves and develop excellence in those sports. After having done that, the next point is talent scouting at the age when they have already reached their peak. We are scouting them at this age when we have to do selection for the Asian Games or Olympic Games. If we want to compete with the best in the world let us take them in the age group of 8 to 10 years. Now how to do that? The National Sports Authority should be strengthened. There is no doubt about it. I strongly agree with the

views of the Government of India that it should be made a Centre subject and let no one intervene. I repeat that no one should intervene in the functioning of this Sports Body. I strongly disapprove of the degree of interference in the Sports Association. I strongly advocate a total ban on the Association and federations and all these should be taken up under the Sports Authority overall competence and I agree with the hon. Member, Shri Mushran when he said that there should be a certain level of participation of the person who wants to represent this Sports Body. I do not know A, B, C or D of a game. But through manipulation, I can become Chairman of the Association. What association and what love I have got for the sports. Let there be a level, say any person who participated at the State level let him be eligible to represent in the sports body. Let him look after the basic policy decision. It has to be taken to improve the sports. The talent scouting cannot be done by sitting here in Delhi. You have to hunt for the talents down to the village level, school level, etc. I don't why there is no school competition, at the block level, at the district level and in the State level and national level. Why should we hold a national competition or national level tournament always in different districts and in different State capitals which do not have the facilities. A poor country like ours cannot afford to build sports complexes in each State or in every district, with our meagre resource available. I strongly disapprove of the Government decision, that is, I am told that they want to develop infrastructure in every district. Let us not waste our valuable resources on this. We have got wonderful sport complexes in Delhi which we built during Asian Games. But to what capacity are we utilising it? Let us develop residential schools and colleges around their complex and pick up boys and girls at that level through talent scouts at that level. They should be brought here to Delhi and their schooling, their diet and health should be the responsibility of the State. They become the State property and then only you will be able to look after that. For instance, for say 100 metres, if you pick up one hundred boys and girls, only one of them may come up to that level of excellence. So, let us be

[Shri Digvijay Singh]

very clear-cut on this. Unless and until you develop the educational facilities around these sport complexes, you will not be able to look after them. I am told that the Sports Authority had initially some problem of language and other things. But this can be overcome. But the point remains that until and unless you adopt these boys and girls who show some kind of promise at the school level and make them State property, you cannot achieve excellence. For 1996 Olympics, start picking up talents now. For Asian Games for 1994, pick up talents now. Let us forget about 1992 Olympics and 1990 Asian Games. Forget them. We are not bothered about our participation. If you want to achieve excellence, then you have to train these boys and girls for excellence, not mediocrity.

The second point is that if you see the overall results of the last Olympics or Asian Games, genes play a vital part. How do you prove that? If you see the results of the 100 metres results of the last Olympics the earlier Olympics, the men and women, all sex were Negroes. If you see the results of long distance, all are Whites, if you see the results of wrestling, all are Whites, and if you see the results of boxing, most of them are Negroes. Therefore, I feel that the genes play a role in achieving the results in sports.

Now let us do an indepth analysis of the Indian stock that we have. We have the people in the hills, we have the people in the Central India and we have the people in the South. We should try to have an indepth analysis of what kind of stock we need for this kind of sports and let us pick up those promising youngsters from the schools and colleges for these sports from that stock. You have to do an indepth analysis of this. If you don't, then we would be faced with the results which we have had recently. Resignation of the Minister or the Sports Authority is not the solution to this problem. An indepth analysis of the people who inhabit this country is necessary. For example, tribals from Central India and Nagaland are

good in archery. They did fairly well when the Sports Authority picked up a few and trained them for archery. People from hills are naturally built over generations who can do well in long-distance running and walking. So, this should be taken into account. This is a very important thing.

Sir, incentive is the last word for excellence. If you have a proper incentive, then the sportsmen of course will do well- incentive of job, a monetary incentive or any other incentive which the Government or the Sports Authority may decide. But let us not waste money on developing more infrastructure, let us spend money in the development of a person picked up at an early age between 8 and 10 years. Then only you will be able to pick up one among a hundred.

When you want to compete with the best in the world, health and diet for the sportsmen is the most important feature. I do not know on what diet they are being fed. It is extremely important and when you pick up a prospective sportsman at the age of 8 to 10 years, monthly monitoring of his diet and health has to be taken care of by the authorities in the sports school or college.

Then comes the coaching, training and participation in the competition. This could be done. Unfortunately, initially when we became independent, we invested a lot on coaching. Then we produced a lot of coaches who have been training for mediocrity, not for excellence and they have not been able to achieve any excellence so far.

Sir, I have made my point and I would strongly advocate that we have to plan for the future now and pick up boys and girls at that level and then let us talk of Olympics in 1996 and Asian Games of 1994, and for God's sake, do away with the federations and associations which have been a curse for the Indian sports in this country.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY  
(Katwa): Sir, how less importance sports

and games have become in the scheme of things in our country can be seen today. I am very unhappy about the way we are conducting the discussion. Reverse of what is happening now, if this kind of ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: This is an aspersion on the Deputy-Speaker on how he is conducting the debate.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: No, the way we are conducting. Now, Sir, you see all these things have happened. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The man who has initiated, where has he gone? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: I am talking of the total situation. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Don't waste the time. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nobody can cast aspersion on the Chair. That is all.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: No, no, I am not doing it. With a sincere thinking I am saying this. Mr. Digvijaya Singh said that these failures have created awareness. I am sorry to say, it has not. *(Interruptions)*.

Nobody is feeling accountable. Otherwise everybody would have come here. There would have been some mechanism of bringing all the leaders of the Federations to sit in the Gallery. The Supreme House of the country is debating the dismal performance in the Olympics and there is nobody. Reverse to this, if the new goes to the people that the Prime Minister came, Cabinet Ministers came and all the Members were there, then the people will feel that we were really serious about it as we were hurt. But nobody is accountable. And the time fixed is 5 O'clock. Nobody will come to know what is happening.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Sports time is 5 O'clock, which is very convenient. We al-

ways take up discussion under 193 at 4 O'Clock. That is the usual time.

You are the people responsible. You have accepted it. This is not the point. You come to the point. You are wasting the time.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: I also wrote a letter to Madam Margeret Alava and wanted her to resign because I thought the humiliation that our country suffered the shame that hurt our country should be shared by somebody in the top. It is not that her resignation can bring us medals. But as a sincere Minister, to send a shock wage all over the country, I thought, she would do it. She did not do it. I cannot force her to resign. But the question is, nobody is feeling responsible. Everybody is taking it casually. Everybody is trying to rationalise our failures that we have this, we could not do this and that is why we failed. But then, why is that happening? What is our sports policy? We have our NIS. We have our coaching centres, just on the eve of some international event. All this isolated islands cannot bring us any achievement in international events. Our pyramid is upside down. The ground is totally weak. In the schools and colleges, in the rural areas there is nobody to take care of boys and girls who can really develop, who can really contribute to sports. Ours is a sports mad country. In the football, in the cricket, in the hockey and in other branches of sports and games, we see how people throng to see them; how much they love sports. They have talent. But they are being wasted. Sports and games create discipline; sports and games breed cooperation and solidarity. But the situation that is prevailing it our scheme of things is that these very ills are corroding our sports and games in our country. It is politicking, it is nepotism, it is favouritism that is going on. Federations are not sovereign of this country. If they are doing good work, we must appreciate them. But it cannot be that they can violate the norms, send people to the Olympics and bring humiliation for the country. They cannot do that. They are not to be allowed to do that.



[Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary]

In the rural areas, our tribal people and other different types of people are there who, if properly trained, can contribute to a large scale for the development of sports and games. But who are taking care of this. When we discuss about our performance in Olympics, we have to sincerely think about what should be our sports policy.

When I talk of nepotism, favouritism and all that, you will see that even in the limited structure that we have for these sports and games in our country, all these ailments are damaging the quality of our sport persons.

The Government as well as the President of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India have said that for Olympics, quality will only be considered. Shri Ajay Mushran has said, whoever had achieved sixth position in the last Olympics or International Championships, they will only be considered to be sent there. Did we stick to that? We did not.

Take the case of Mr. Khajan Singh.

There is another convention and commitment that whoever is trained abroad, when they come back, they will have to appear in the test in the country. But when some foreign coach certified, they were sent without these trails.

The same was the case with Miss Soma Dutt.

She scored 35. She did not have to appear for the trial. She was sent. What is the result? Shri Ajay Mushran has said all that. I am not going into it.

In the case of sports women who ran in the Olympics 40 metres hurdle relay race, their case had also been referred.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): They are women.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Are they not essentially no men? You don't discriminate. I have nothing to say about our

sports women. They have struggled hard but we have failed to train them and discipline them.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: In athletics, no man is there!

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: I am not to say anything against any individual sports person. The question is about the policy.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: There is nothing wrong with the policy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You continue.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Why did they select them when they did not reach the qualifying mark? When P. T. Usha really brought laurels for our country in Asian Games, we were happy. When she was ill, everybody knew it. She was injured. Then why was she sent? A great farce took place. I do not know who allowed this. When we came to know about this, we were shocked like anything.

You will find that discipline is required and that comes through sports and games also very much. This is a very serious casualty in our scheme of things.

We appointed the Soviet coach Mr. G. Taropan for wrestling. He said that the present batch was poor. But we insisted on that.

The way we organise our games, I think it is a waste. We just think of some international event. We set up summer coaching camps in Simla and all that and we conduct coaching for six months. But, that cannot give any benefit to us. The whole country has to be a campus for games. There have to be Sports Clubs in the schools and Colleges. There has to be proper training. Now you are asking for NCC. I have no objection. Make NCC compulsory. When in our country, 99 students out of 100 are suffering due to lack of food, how are you going to train them? Poverty is a very serious problem in the development of sports and games.

18.00 hrs.

Sir, I would request the hon. Minister not to waste even that limited scope that we have through politicking, log-pulling and nepotism. Certain things are there. If people are that qualified persons are not allowed and favours are shown to somebody, then that is very shocking for the whole of the country. I would like to quote an interview from a magazine which says:

"Eric Arnold, Australian swimming coach, in an interview with Nave Kapadia, published in SPORTSWORLD magazine, 22-28 Oct. 1988, spoke about how Anita Sood (free style) and Milin Somen (Breast-stroke) were unfairly dropped from the Indian swimming team for the 1986 Seoul Asiad by the manouvring of swimming federation of India officials especially, the coach K. V. Sharma...".

That is a big thing. You may see that though in the trials they had out-shone everybody but still they were let out and dropped from the Seoul Asiad. Then they retired. They did not have any chance for Olympics.

Sir, I am not going into the details because of lack of time. But the question is that federations are not to be sovereign in our country. There has to be power in the hands of the Government to intervene when things go bad and when there is some wrong in this field. But the question is the otherway round also. If our Government is also acting like a federation, then you cannot help it. Just by giving money, you cannot improve sports and games. What is the attitude of the Government? Please tell me... (*Interruptions*) You held the Asiad here in Delhi. At that time we demanded, that the Asiad should be organised in such a way that games were distributed among the other cities also so that the infrastructure that would be built on that occasion could be shared by the whole of the country. So many stadia have been built in Delhi. Who goes there? Shri Digvijaya Singh also pointed this out. In many big cities sports-

loving people are denied of such good facilities because the States do not have adequate money. Therefore, we have to have a good policy in this regard. Otherwise, I don't think we can improve in this field.

A question was raised. I was reading a magazine. There, I came across a question that India can produce good Poets of international fame, famous philosophers, scientists and doctors, soldiers etc. but why in the field of sports it is like this? The answer that I could think of is that people in the regions of philosophy and in the region of other excellence, in the intellectual activity can sacrifice their body at the altar of their brain. But, for the sports, if body is sacrificed because poverty is claiming, then you cannot shine anywhere. You must try to see that in the lower level and in the grass-root level people should be motivated....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. Your allotted time is already over. You have taken much time. You are very slow in running, in sports. You have to be quick and brief.

Next, Shri Brajamohan Mohanty.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY. (Puri): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not belong to the arena of sports... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: What has he got to do with Sports? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is why he wants to speak. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: That is why, I say that I do not belong to the arena of Sports. But the fact remains. As a citizen of India, I oppose some of the activities of our sports-persons. Sir, we are talking about the debacle that has taken place in the recent games. But I don't think it is a debacle. Any citizen of India, who has observed our performances in the past could have imagined that we would achieve something and gain some medals which would bring glory to our country. What happened in Los Angeles? As a matter of fact, I am very happy that now the Sports Ministry has initiated a

[Shri Brajamohan Mohanty]

new programme, a new directive, a new objective and that is what is being implemented. They got money in 1984 and they have started it. That is why, the Sports Ministry has the objective of 1990 Beijing Asiad and not this Olympics. I wish them well.

Now, I shall come to another aspect which Mr. Choudhary has made out. Today he is abnormally angry. However, I am happy about it. He is a young man and he should be angry. I fully agree with him. There should be responsibility and there should be accountability. But in this particular case, where is the question of accountability? Our infrastructure is so backward, our training is so inadequate, our food is so poor, in that background, nobody could concede and take any responsibility that our sports persons would bring glory to our country. We cannot expect that a cycle rickshaw will compete with the motor-cycle. That is your concern from the very beginning. Naturally, something is better than nothing so that our team could be sent there. My submission is that you have to think of some structural changes so that you can change the entire organizational system, so that you can give a new directive to the sports. The first thing I would submit is that let sports be a Concurrent Subject. It is now a State Subject. The Government of India, at times remains helpless. The Sports Minister complained that they had given the money to the State. But it not being spent on properly spent. This helplessness should not be there.

I come from a backward State. The sports standard in my State is much below the national standard. I would get some relief if it is handled by the Government of India so that they have an extensive hand that can give protection. Otherwise, we cannot protect ourselves. After hundred years, Orissa will still remain backward. You are thinking that no Indian could reach the international standard but I am thinking that after hundred years, nobody from Orissa or

Madhya Pradesh would reach the international standard. Our standard is such. In that background my submission is that it should be included in the Concurrent List and uniformity and coordination should be desired.

I would submit about another aspect. So far as Sports Authority is concerned, they think they are absolutely autonomous. Even the Sports Ministry does not allow the Parliament to scrutinise the activities of the sports federation. Number of times, I have raised the question here. But that has been disallowed because they claim full autonomy. We are spending money; we are giving them money. But we cannot scrutinise their activities. That should be changed.

We have got certain experiences. Six athletes were selected and sent to Seoul. But none of them was male. All were women. Why was it so? It is where the shoe pinches. Males are also interested to be athletes. You think of it. You know about our NSI - the Sports Institute. They give training for nine months, and after that one becomes a coach. And the experts who are there, it is reported, are qualified in jotting down, noting down for some foreign sports magazine. What training they will give and how the sports will improve? You think of that. This is a very serious matter. We have inadequacies and we have to improve it.

Mr. Chowdhary suggests that we are poor people, how will we compete, we will fail, our boys and girls will fail. He is hundred percent correct. But should we wait till the poverty is removed from India and then only start our programme for promotion of sports? The fact remains that whoever has the potential should compete.

Now the Sports Authority of India have initiated some work. They are recruiting talents all over the country including the rural areas. When they are picked up, they should be given nutritious food and they should be built up.

As a matter of fact, the area programme that they have set before themselves is wel-

come. It has started in right direction. It is not that everybody was concerned. We knew Olympics will not give us glory. In Hockey we have international standards; but in no other games we have. Who did not know that we will not bring any medal?...*(Interruptions)*... It is going in the right direction and we have to give it a push ahead and support the Ministry in their new efforts so that we can pick up by 1990 and show a better performance. *(Interruptions)*

Whenever you are distributing funds, what is the consideration? Are you taking into consideration the backwardness of a State, the backwardness in the area of sports? That should be taken into consideration. Accordingly, you must give priority and more funds, so that they can pick up. Not only we shall pick up the international standards, but also we have to remove the regional imbalance. That should be our objective.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): The Seoul Games is an eye opener for us. I am proud to say that I represent Kerala which is producing the best athletes in the country. But I am very sorry when Mr. Ajay Mushran Blamed the athletes for the debacle. Let us have a frank thinking over this matter.

Where was Usha? Whose product was Usha? How she became once the fame and the glory of the nation? She belongs to one village in the Calicut District. She started running through the streets in the village. Then she got a job in the Railways, somebody trained her and she became famous. Then everybody wanted her and she got to the best.

I read an interview of Usha recently. It was really very pathetic. She asked, who is there to defend her? Once she was liked by everybody and now she is thrown out. Everybody wants to put the blame on her. Let us think how she came up.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Sir, I did not mean that... *(Interruptions)*... As I men-

tioned, I was the only Member of this House who demanded in this House that the express train which runs from her house to Delhi should be named after her. I am still proud of her.

The point I was making in today's debate was that she had passed her prime and she was not in a physical state to achieve that standard which she achieved in Seoul Asiad. I never run down an athlete like that. We are proud of her.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: I agree. If that is so, who is to be blamed? The stage managers have to be blamed. She came out of her own and bring the nation pride. I know Shiny Abraham; she belongs to my constituency. I know Mini Kuttan, I know how these people are coming up. What promotions are we giving for them? If somebody comes up on his or her own and brings glory to the nation, then the stage managers who come out of politics only, who manage things because of their own way and be mere show pieces for everything, come into the picture. They are only show pieces always. They don't know the ABCD. They come because of other people's initiative. And now you put the blame on the sports people; it is very sad. We have to encourage them for the next Olympics in whatever manner possible.

Then, Sir, I would like to say that first completely dissolve the Federations and the organisations whichever you have immediately. Then you bring a policy for sports encouragement. There take into account the various important suggestions which have been made before the House. There are talents which are available in various parts of the country. You look at the Seoul. Olympics or any Olympic how Americans won these medals. They pushed Negros. How Negros came up. Negros fight in the jungles for their livelihood and they have generated such genes to fight such issues. We have got such areas of Gurkhas. They may be better in certain items. Keralites may be better



[Shri Thampan Thomas]

in certain other items because of the geographical situation there. Goans may be best footballers. When I see the football matches many of the Keralites represent Bengal team or Railways team and most of them are sportsmen. Why? There was some sort of encouragement in the schools and colleges. There was a drill period. Private sector and Government gave certain encouragement in earlier days and not now. Now it is politicking. One of my friend who studied with me in the school and upto college became Chairman of the Sports Council there. I wonder how he became Chairman of the Sports Council there. I have never seen him wearing a sports jacket. He became MLA and an officer in the Assembly but I found him become Chairman of the Sports Council there. This is the way in which we have handled the sports. Let us remove it.

We have set apart Rs. 230 crores for this purpose now. This money is very important for a country like ours. When you are spending you should have scheme and properly apply your mind and scheme in such a manner that people who deserve it get proper encouragement. All the things we did in the past were futile. Let us take the Asiad village which we have constructed. I do remember when I came to the House in the very first month I asked the question how you are utilising the stadium. I remember the Government could not answer it. At that time the stadia were locked. They were not even open to the university for practice. I think now some efforts have been made to use them.

I would like to narrate my experience of visit to China. I saw how Chinese people train their young men and women in sports. Really there is no stadium. There is no big money spent for this purpose but there is a sport culture which is built up in the minds of the people. Therefore, children and young people come to the streets and play the game. Now the biggest advantage of a sportsman in India is to carry transistor or a

pocket TV, see the cricket match and then say he is a sportsman. The body of a sportsman is built by involving himself in the activities. Villages have their own games which are similar to cricket. There are various types of sports through which they can build their body. Instead of that we have a tendency to immitate something. Perhaps cricket may not be good for all areas. It may be good for certain areas and for certain other areas other things may be good. So we have to identify those things. Wherever sportsmen are available or genes are available we have to identify them. For the purpose of identification we have not made any serious effort. For identifying what is the right age? If you make identification at the age of 27, 28 or 30 it is of no use. Identification has to be done between the age of 7 and 12. A sportsman has to be made up at that age. What are the methods we are going to use for this purpose? The methods which could be used are the schools, educational institutions, libraries and other public facilities which are available to identify the people who are having the skill of sports. You should select them, bring them together, put them in the competition, make them come up and give them the due encouragement. If such encouragements are not given and such identifications are not made, whenever we get some opportunity, we would use them but ultimately we would fail. Then, we say: We have failed and we have to console them. Therefore, one of the points is to identify the talents and select them.

I have read many articles about Milkha Singh saying: "When we retire from the sports, what is the benefit given to us?" Why should these people come to involve themselves to keep the prestige of the nation? They should have a feeling that they would be protected after their performance. They are monuments for the nation. Could we keep it?

I have also read that a football player in Olympics was not having his livelihood. The old fans-not the present fans-formed an as-

sociation. Then, they used to collect money to keep him alive. That is the attitude towards the sportsmen. Now, I don't know what will happen to P. T. Usha. If she has some reserve money, which she had got earlier, then she may have a good living. After retirement, nobody is there to look after them. There should be a system. There should be some promotion. There should be a feeling that they will be properly safeguarded. Certain people here and there, are doing all these things. On their own, they are coming up. There is no centralised projection for improvement by the Government. My submission is that the Government should take up the responsibility to look into these things at the earliest possible opportunity so that we are able to face the situation and keep the status and dignity of 80 million people. Small countries, like Coasta Rica, have won a medal. When we lose, we all feel ashamed. That should not be repeated in the near future.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we are discussing the dismal performance of Indian sports contingent in the Seoul Olympic Games, several causes have been shown and remedies have also been suggested. The House is practically of one view that the performance was very dismal and something has to be done. Unfortunately, the Government does not appear to be of that view. A starred question (No. 28) was put to them on 3rd November 1988. It was asked:

"Whether Government have made any appraisal of India's performance at the Seoul Olympics;...".

To my surprise, it has been stated in the reply that:

"The performance of the Indian sports contingent was, by and large, according to expectations, barring a few individual exceptions."

So, all this dismal performance is ac-

ording to the expectations: Not only that, it is specifically stated further:

"We were not expecting the Indian contingent to win any medals this time."

Furtheron, it is justified by saying that:

"Participation of the Indian contingent at Seoul was a part of our preparation for the Asian Games to be held in 1990 at Beijing."

So, this was the objective even before the Government itself. I submit that it is very unfortunate. The Government had itself taken a very complacent view of the Seoul Olympics as far as the sports are concerned.

Of course, the Prime Minister, when he bid farewell to the sportsmen, had advised them not to come with empty neck. But unfortunately they went, they participated and came back with empty neck. The selection of the sportsmen is the crux of the whole problem. According to me, there is a pulling in two directions by these federations and our Sports Authority of Indian or the Government.

When the guidelines were given by the Government to these Federations regarding selections, the Secretary of the General Association of National Sports Federations of India, of which 21 Federations are the Members, Air Marshal C. L. Mehta (Retired) had openly said that they rejected the guidelines formulated by the Government of India because these would undermine the autonomy of the sports Federations. When the Federations were given the guidelines, they rejected the same. There is thus a tussle between the Federations and the Government and that has to be resolved first. We can see the results of the tussle, and the question of favouritism and other things can easily come in.

Now, about P. T. Usha I do not want to enter into any controversy, but it is stated that only it was manoeuvred that she should go. In fact, it was not in the interest of the

[Shri Sharad Dighe]

sports that she should have been sent this time.

Apart from the selections, we will have to consider how the monies are being spent. It was stated that now Rs. 200 crores, or more than that, is being allotted in this plan. Formerly, it was a very small amount; earlier, we were spending half a paise *per capita* yearly. Now, we are spending Rs. 200 crores, but my information is that most of the expenditure in this plan is on the Sports Authority of India and the National Institute of Sports. These are the two institutions on which we are spending a large amount out of Rs. 200 crores. Hardly in the 7th Plan budget of Rs. 200 crores, Rs. 10 crores are available for grants to the sports Federations. Therefore, we must also be careful when we make allotment for these sports. How much really goes to the sports and how much goes to the institutions which we are creating and that has to be taken care of.

We also say that we should emphasise on the infrastructure. The present position is that we have hardly any grounds for the schools. The figures show that out of 6 lakh primary schools, 1.5 lakh middle schools and 70000 high and higher secondary schools, hardly two per cent of them have playgrounds, and not even one of the 5000 colleges or universities has a wrestling coach. No school, college or university has standard equipment for any olympic discipline. If this is the position, then something drastic has to be done.

We say that we should catch the young sportsmen at the age of 7-12 years. That is the correct approach and will have to be done. But for doing that, we should also see that the grounds are available to the schools, swimming pools are there and some such equipments which are necessary to win medals in the Olympics have also to be provided and from that point of view, I suggest that immediately something will have to be done by the Government.

Finally, as far as the diet is concerned, we are not taking any care of this factor at all. A good sportsman needs a diet of five thousand calories and an average Indian gets about 1000-1200 calories. As far as the sportsmen are concerned, for nearly 10-11 months in a year, they get diet of 1200 calories before the sports, and only for one month or so, they take extra diet of 3000 calories a day. Within one month, they have to prepare themselves and take this extra diet. This last-minute preparation is not going to give us any medal in future.

A long term plan is very much necessary. As a nation, we must take this subject of sports very seriously and prepare ourselves with a complete and long plan from the Government.

There is also a suggestion that Sports should be made a concurrent subject and it should be brought under the Central Government so that a concerted effort can be made to improve our performance. This suggestion is also worth considering. If we do not take all these steps, mere pumping of money in the name of sports will not give us any results whatsoever. Therefore, I suggest that a very serious view should be taken as far as the subject 'sports' is concerned.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, My claim in speaking on Seoul Olympics is not very high. May be, I may not be in a position to stand in any endurance examination. Since, Shri Indrajit Gupta has left, I have to speak on the subject. Any way, I will be very brief.

Now, first of all, we are all very sorry over our performance. This is the feeling of everybody irrespective of parties. Let it be clear. There are certain things which are really staring us in our face and even an absolutely non-sportswoman like me, finds the situation distressing.

The first point is about the team selection and the management of sports. There seems to be too many mis-managerial talents and too little encouragement to nurse

the sports talents. This seems to be one of the biggest reasons for the failures. Here, both the Government and to some extent the family background are responsible. A good management can improve things to a great extent.

Secondly, there is a suggestion that the money allocated for the development of sports should be utilised for the development of sports from the school level itself. There cannot be two opinions about the validity of this point.

Now there are certain views expressed by many youngsters which I may repeat here as their grandmother. Firstly, they feel that probably it is necessary to change certain things in our selection process. They feel that for the time being, those games where a greater amount of physical strength is a must, may be given less preference and these games which require more skill should be given more importance.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Like ludo, chess, etc.?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: The point I am making is a very valid one. For example, to develop excellence in the field of gymnastics is very difficult at this stage. So, we may leave it aside for the time being, say for a while. Of course, later we can develop it. At this particular stage, we must concentrate on those games which require more skill and where we can have better performance with less effort and in a short time. This point must be taken into consideration.

It is also stated by some people that there must be foreign coaches to train our youngsters. But it seems that the foreign coaches are not always familiar to our situation. Instead, our own Indian coaches would probably be much better in our situation. This step will not only be less costly, but it will also help us better.

Now I come to the aspect of qualifying standards. Qualifying standards should be declared much earlier so that there will not be any last-minute scramble as to who will go and who will not go and so on. This will also avoid a lot of heart-burning and there will be more chances of getting suitable persons.

There are certain questions which are being raised about Hockey. It seems that one of the things that we lack is synthetic grounds and because of that our Hockey standard is falling. I am giving you certain examples. After talking to some youngsters and also some sportsmen, it seems that there are some critical areas where we lack and we must immediately locate those areas and go on preparing all along the lines and not by just starting the training, etc. This is a clear indicator for us as far as improvement in the sports is concerned.

Final improvement, of course, is really what our friends have said, training our young people in sports from the very tender age and thereby creating another atmosphere altogether.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): I have a point of order. Only three Members from the ruling party are present here. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the quorum bell be rung.

Since there is no quorum, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 A. M.

18.45 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 2, 1988/Agrahayana 11, 1910 (Saka)*