

past. After retaining whatever is needed for domestic consumption, the Government will try to export the rest.

MR. SPEAKER : It should be exported.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: We will do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Indigenous cotton should also be exported.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I agree with you.

DISCUSSIONS UNDER RULE 193

17.30 hrs

[English]

(1) Dismal Performance of Indian Sportsmen in the Seoul Olympic Games—Contd.

SHRI. C. MADHAV REDDY (Adilabad): Sir, I would like to suggest that the Item no. 18 can be deferred and we can take up item No. 19.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : First let us have the reply to the discussion on the Olympic Games.

[English]

I think she is waiting for quite a long time. I have got only half an hour.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Shri, Shri Deo has gone to Seoul. So, we would like to hear him.

MR. SPEAKER: I have got only half an hour. Yes, Mr. Deo.

SHRI INDARJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Sir, you can have 15 minutes for this and 15 minutes for the other item.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it so? All right then 5 minutes for Mr. Deo and 10 minutes for her.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, I would...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak for five minutes.

[English]

This is an order, you cannot question.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): It is rather heartening to see the concern of both the Press, public and Parliament in the standard of sports in our country which is reflected by the attendance in this House where a quorum had to be called. Today, the performance in the sports field is a status symbol of a nation's quality and standard.

Sir, this was the first full Olympics after 1976 when the Africans boycotted. In 1980, the Western group boycotted and in 1984 the Eastern block boycotted. 160 out of 167 nations took part for 237 gold medals, 237 silver medals and 260 bronze medals, with 13,400 athletes taking part

This was the Olympic where the old reputations were shattered, new ones established; new stars made and unmade in a short time, where individual glory and national pride resulted in the best performance and the worst shape, where no limits of excellence, motivated and fortified by steroids and doppings, took place; where an awesome collection of stars and robots like perfection took place. The biggest casualty and the only casualty was amateurism and this is the result of the changing times. Today, the professionalism has come to stay and is the order of the day. Scientific man-

[Sh. K.P. Singh Deo]

agement of our sports persons holds the key.

Sir, it is in this background that we have to see our performance. What was the aim? What was the aim for sending 47 athletes and 19 officials to the greatest sports extravaganza of this century? Sir, the aim to my mind— I am sorry I have to sound discordant note with my hon. colleagues here was based on the Operation Excellence by the Government as enunciated on the 16th February, 1988 where Government took a conscious decision along with consultation with the Indian Olympics Association and the National Federation that they will prepare teams which will be scientifically selected by a Selection Committee and after three to four years of training they will have a short term, an immediate and long term perspective. Sir, I would humbly submit and I would like to give an anecdote here, an incident which took place in 1981 in the World Championship in Munich. A group of School boys lost to the Soviet Union in the finals of a two kilometre race by just four feet and they were happy. Their coach pulled them up and said, "You stupid fellows, your target is 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games and not 1981 World Championship." If I may reiterate humbly, our aim is 1990 Asian Games in Beijing and our aim was not 1988 Olympic Games. In this 1988 olympics, from our country four disciplines—hockey, tennis, table tennis and shooting got included on their own international standards and they did not have to qualify. Therefore, our performance should be assessed from this perspective. Also, we sent a token boxing team which has covered itself with glory. But for an unlucky injury, we would probably have won a medal. In weight lifting, one of our boys has improved on the Commonwealth Games record. The most controversial team, the girl athletic team, you would be happy to know, had proved itself beyond

doubt and although it came last in the heats, it is the best team in Asia. Once again, I would like to say that scientific training and scientific management means that they must reach a peak at time when they are expected to. It is not like a ticket-vending machine or an instant coffee machine where you just punch in something and the ticket comes out.

There has also been some criticism about favouritism in the selection I would like to say with all emphasis at my command and without the fear of contradiction that the selection, for the first time, was done on scientific lines and I must compliment the hon. Minister, the Secretary and the Director General of the Sports Authority of India and sports authorities for having cleared the team in a record time of one hour.

Before I conclude Sir, I would like to reiterate here that population has got nothing to do with medals or performance. It has to be determination, it has to be a continuous and dedicated effort. You must pick the children from the school as the German Democratic Republic does. They pick up young children at the age of seven. If they do not find them suitable from their profile, they will be sent to ordinary schools and those who are suitable are kept in the sports schools. Also, every two years, their performance is assessed.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will conclude with a quotation from Shakespeare from the funeral speech of Mark Antony:

"Friends, Romans and Countrymen,
Lend me your ears.
I come to bury Ceasar, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them,
The good is oft interred with their bones."

Sir, only last year, we had put P.T. Usha on top. Let us not denigrate and demoralise the sport-persons by saying certain things here which will affect them psychologically and which will affect our sports. Our sports-person have credited themselves well by their performance in Seoul.

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): Mr. Speaker Sir, I do not know how much time you are going to give to me. I have listened to the debate in this House which lasted for more than six hours. And now I am told that I should finish replying within eight or ten minutes. I do not think is very fair.

MR. SPEAKER : As the saying goes, brevity is the soul of wit;

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Not when so many things have been said rather unfairly at times. I would just like to say that I am not, therefore, going into the details of all the points made by different speakers. I have to just put them together. I can say only this. A number of questions have already been answered by the Chef-de-Mission.

I want to make two things very clear. There was no favouritism in selection. Secondly, the selection was made on the basis of standards which have been jointly set by the Government, the Indian Olympic Association and the Federations. If somebody comes back and says that the Government has bungled, well, I can only say that they do not know what they are talking about.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: We would like to hear about the Federations. Nobody blames the Government.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: We blame the Government.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Well you blame everything under the Sun.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : If you are going to take away my time, how can I finish in ten minutes?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why are you derailing the whole thing? Let her reply.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I just want to remind the House that the only individual medal won after Independence in the Olympics in the year 1952 was a Bronze.

After that we have never won a single medal at Olympics - an individual medal.

To say suddenly today that we must reach the top is expecting too much. I can only say that whatever has happened now, we are on the right lines as far as scientific training and preparations for the future are concerned. It is only now that a serious and scientific look at sports training has taken place and I want to say which I have said in the House before that the National Centre of Excellence for Sports which is essentially for competitive international sports has been established at Bangalore. The Soviet experts are with us. They are helping us with the training, with sports techniques and also for monitoring. Five of the experts are with us. Seven more are expected and under their guidance, we really are trying to recast many of our techniques and many of our systems for international competition. Sports today is not something which can be past time or an extra-curricular activity. If you want results, it has to be full time training and participation. But we had one Centre of Training At Patiala, for 25 years. We have six in the country for the last three years.

We are also going in for selection of

[Smt. Margaret Alva]

certain disciplines. In the past, we were trying to compete in every discipline. We have now selected 12 priority disciplines for competitions- for national participation. These twelve are the only discipline where we will scientifically get involved in training and participation and four had been kept as subsidiary disciplines. I also want to say what we said in 1986. We have launched a four year term of training plan which will show results only in the course of four years i.e by 1990. We did go to the Olympics this time. It was a participation as a country and if the selection.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : This is an after-thought. After your teams had done badly, you are saying this.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : It is not an after-thought. You can say so, I wanted to judge from the fact that the selection criteria which had been set initially by the Federation, the IOA and the Government was for the Sixth Place in the last Olympics. That was the criteria set knowing that this was the standard available. How could we expect Gold or silver medals when we are talking of the Sixth place? We had a choice between participation and no exposure. But exposure in international participation is part of the training. We have to see where we stood I must say one point about Hockey which has been discussed so much. I want to point out that when we went to the Olympics, India was ranked international as Eleventh. I want to say that in this Olympics, with the training, we have reached the Sixth place. In Asia we were the Third. We are now ranked Second. I am only saying that we are in the process of moving. I am not saying that we are on the top. Somebody from the Opposition said that this is the worst performance and the Minister should go. I do not mind their saying that.

I would like to point out that if I talk

statistically, the lowest position in the Asian Games was reached in 1978 when the Janata Party was in power. What are you talking about today? You blame the Government. I am only saying, don't keep mixing politics with the Government's responsibility. We are talking about national honour irrespective of which Government or who is doing what.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : But why don't you blame the Federation?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Secondly I want to point out that in the First Five Year Plans in this country, the total allotment for sports had been Rs. 11.60 crores. In the Sixth Plan you gave sports Rs. 13 crores. It is after Mr. Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister and the Minister for Sports that it went up to Rs. 20 crores in 1986. We have had only three years of the new budget in which the infrastructure is being created, equipment is being imported, artificial tracks and surfaces are being laid and the necessary emphasis for developing sports has started. But as I said earlier, we need or rather we have already got foreign coaches. We have got all the necessary equipments (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : If you don't want to listen to the replies, then there is no point in anybody giving replies.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Why are you giving away the Indira Gandhi Stadium?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : We are not giving away the Indira Gandhi Stadium. About the complex there which was meant for a hotel, it been decided that it should be converted into a hospital. It is not by me, but it was done earlier.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Why don't you talk about Federations which have erred? The Government is getting a bad name

because of the bad job being done by the Federations. They are not selecting properly. They are not training people properly. It is their job, not the Government's. As far as the federations are concerned, they claim autonomy as registered bodies...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why should you agree to that ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Last year, we brought the guidelines known as the Operation Excellence, so that certain selection criteria could be there, and national selection committees have been set up for the first time, bringing in the federations, the IOA, the coach, a former international player and an Arjuna Awardee and a representative of the Government to make it a national...

MR. SPEAKER : If we can amend the Constitution, can we not make amendments there also? You say, they are autonomous bodies...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Even last year, when there was this debate, the House had asked that we should take steps to see that some kind of control on federations and on registered sports bodies should be brought in. We have come in with the proposal to bring Sports on the Concurrent List, so that there can be an all-India legislation on Sports...(*Interruptions*) Unfortunately, even that is being sought to be politicised ...

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: They should be accountable to you.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I want to say that it is not something new. We have brought legislation from from about 26 countries: socialist, democratic, all types of different systems, in which coach development has been directed by an the central legislature or of Parliament. This is what we have

sought to do, and we have introduced a Bill for bringing it on the Concurrent List. I would request all the Members to support this, so that we can come up with some kind of an all-India legislation. I can only say this, that all that has been suggested in the debate—I have no time, Sir, since you are already asking me to sit down—selecting children under the age of twelve, selecting talent from special areas and giving them the necessary coaching in sports schools, have all been launched.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay take note of them.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I can hope that whether I am there or not, in the next two years, you will see the result of what we have done. Thank you.

17.47 hrs

(ii) ~~Damage due to cyclone in the States of West Bengal, Orissa and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands~~

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Kumari Mamata Banerjee: Only five minutes to you. Summarize what you want to say.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: (Jadavpur): Okay, Sir.

Recently, a big cyclone has devastated West Bengal, Andaman- Nicobar and parts of Orissa. More than 500 people have died, 800 fishermen are still missing and 55,000 cattle were lost. Forty per cent of the crop are has been totally damaged. I went to visit some areas, especially in the South 24-Parganas, Sunderban areas, Gosaba, Basanti, Namkhala, Bokhali, Kuli and other areas. I also know that some areas in Mr. Indrajit Gupta's constituency have been affected to the maximum extent. People have totally lost their homes.