

[Shri Aslam Sher Khan]

performance in the games held in Seoul and in England as to whether the Government is setting up any committee in this regard, or has it been left to the Federations to decide all these issues? These days nobody is accountable for sports in our country, because different agencies are responsible for coaching and management of sports. The result is that there is no accountability and our Government is reduced to the role of a mere spectator. Hence, today the players do not have the right outlook towards the games. It is a matter of great regret that our players are compelled to think that they have just to participate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would further say that all the Federations and Associations are bogus. I would also like to ask the hon. Minister—whether the Federations are following the guidelines laid down by the Government and, if so, to what extent? If a country like India, with a population of 80 crores lags behind small nations in international tournaments, it is very shameful. Hence, we should not limit ourselves to discussions only, but proper legislations should be brought forward, if necessary. Unless the Government takes full responsibility for sports upon itself, we shall not be able to bring about the requisite improvement in the field of sports. If the Government do not agree with our suggestion, then I think games should not be played at least for a period of ten years. Then we shall see which Federation takes what amount of interest: China had also stopped participating in games for a period of 10 years, and when in 1974, it again participated in the games, it was at the top. If games are played just for the sake of carrying on with the schemes, then it is not going to serve any purpose. When a flag of a particular country is hoisted in the international tournaments, the people of that country applaud in the one voice. This has been experienced several times.

When our team was victorious in the 1972 games at Kuala Lumpur, the people of this country, whether in Madras, Kashmir, Calcutta or Gujarat, came out on the roads in thousands and expressed their joy. Again, when we won the World Cup

in cricket, the response of the people was similar. Hence, it is a matter of regret that in spite of so much involvement of the people, such a low priority is given to sports and very little attention is paid to it.

I would say that as our dynamic Prime Minister is making efforts for the promotion of science and technology, the Ministry of sports should also, in the same manner, make efforts so that we enter the 21st century as a powerful nation. It is important to provide proper equipment to our children and youth who can improve their prospects through sports.

I would also like to submit that the Sports Ministry will have to look after the Sports Industry as well. Today, football, hockey-ball etc. are very expensive, due to which people are not able to play with them. Earlier, people could afford to purchase sports goods. Today, the sports industry is facing a crisis. It is, therefore essential to provide help to it. The question is of over all sports and we have to view it from all angles, because we all know that a country earns its reputation either in the field of sports or in the battlefield.

I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I express my thanks to you for the same.

16.18 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd.

[English]

Agreement on Conduct of Festival
of Indian and Festival of
U.S.S.R. etc.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA
RAO): With your permission, I would
like to lay on the Table of the House a
copy of the Agreement on the conduct
of the Festival of India in the U.S.S.R, and
a Festival of U.S.S.R. in India in 1987

and 1988 respectively. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3321/86]

I also lay on the Table a copy of the Protocol on the Programme and the General Conditions for the organisation of the Festival of India in the U.S.S.R. and the Festival of U.S.S.R. in India in 1987-88. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3321/86]

16.19 hrs.

DISCUSSION ON PERFORMANCE
OF INDIAN SPORTSMEN AT THE
TENTH ASIAN GAMES HELD
AT SEOUL—*Contd.*

[*English*]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam) : We are emotionally attached to sports and that is why when our cricket team wins a test we feel that we have won a battle. Similarly, when we lost in hockey to Pakistan, our feeling is that we have lost a battle to Pakistan. We are so much attached to sports and games that we love our sportsman and women.

That is another reason why when the results in the Seoul Games came we were moved. I am not going into the details of our failure in sports, but how we can save our sports. Anyhow, it is a fact that the Government of India has taken due care to save our sports and games from disaster. The Human Resources Ministry is on its way to find solutions to the problems which we find in sports.

During the 1982 Asiad recently we have spent a lot of money for building new stadiums, both indoor and outdoor stadiums and other sports-fields. Our idea was that after the Asiad these structures will become the infrastructures for the future. But it is very sad plight if you go to the magnificent Nehru Stadium. When it rains, the Nehru Stadium becomes a swimming pool. Instead of breeding new sportsmen, you are breeding the mosquitoes. My humble request to the hon. Minister is just look into this allegation which has been made by a large number of sportsmen and verify

whether all the infrastructure which was created during the 1982 Asiad, is made use of.

I will now confine only to my State Kerala which has produced a number of eminent sportsmen and women like P.T. Usha. Even though our State is very small and our financial capacity is less, we have given more concentration on the development of sports. We have got a large number of sports schools run from the State Government's exchequer. It would be of much help if the Sports Ministry can render financial help.

There is a proposal to start a Regional Sports Centre in Kerala. When the hon. Sports Minister, Shrimati Margaret Alva visited Kerala, we had made a request to her that before she leaves Kerala, she should take some decision on the Regional Sports Complex. I do not know what is the delay... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : May I just interrupt you for a moment? We want to give you the sports field, the artificial track but your government does not decide where it wants it. Every time I am reminding them to give us the place. They do not decide.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Cannanore is decided. Cannanore is the place which is suggested.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Then you are mis-informed because one says Trivandrum, one says Cochin, one says Cannanore.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Cannanore is the most appropriate place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't quarrel on this occasion.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS : There is no question of dispute regarding the place. The question of location of the Regional Sports Centre can be decided.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil) : I am telling you that the Government will