

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

[Shri T. Basheer]

immediately decide it and we will let you know. Let it be Trivandrum.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): On a Point of Order, Sir. One Member says he will let you know as soon as possible as if he is the Minister sitting in this House. How can he do it?

SHRI T. BASHEER: It is our Government, Sir.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: The hon. Minister had been to Cochin to witness the International Indira Gandhi Memorial Water Festival. It was a very magnificent festival. We know that the Government also helped to run that festival in a very successful manner. We have given a suggestion that a water stadium should be constructed and the proposal has been sent.

We are on the way of making arrangements for the national games. Already we have taken action to conduct the national games in a very successful manner. In this context I would like to suggest that we have given proposal for the construction of indoor and outdoor stadia of international standard. The Government of India has also to help us. We can get sportsmen and women only at the school level. We have to get the talent from the school life. Already in Kerala we have got sports schools. We are prepared to start a sports college where the students are picked up from schools and sports schools. So, here also the Government of India has to help us.

In our country, there are large number of rivers and backwater, just as the blood veins in our body. But we could not yet get swimmer of international standard. This is one of the items where India can concentrate. We can concentrate more on water sports like swimming and roving. A team was sent to Singapore to take part in the international roving competition. We were only second or third. In this field without spending a large amount, India can come to the top.

Another suggestion is since now the Human Resources Ministry has got Education and Sports, whatever amount is spent on education, that can be utilised for finding out the talents in sports and games. So, the colleges and schools should be properly attuned so that those kids who have got talents in sports, they have to be brought up and they should be trained very well.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI (Madras South): I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the performance of the Indian Sportsmen person at the Tenth Asian Game held at Seoul.

Our hon. Minister has said that we should not compare sports figures and I would not like to go into the details or statistics because everything has been dealt at length by other hon. Members. Our hon. Minister has said that we should talk about the general productivity, the industrial part of it and the development in this country. Our hon. Minister seems to be quite pleased, so are we when she defends the performance of our country in Seoul. When she says that on foreign soil this has been the best performance the highest tally we have ever had but we could do better, I am sure our hon. Members agree with her. We also agree with her that the performance in Seoul cannot be judged by getting a number of gold medals alone. By just a few fractions of a second or by a few points the players get second and third position. If we take into account the total number of medals, our performance cannot be called absolutely dismal or disastrous. We have achieved on the whole the fifth position.

Sir, while we take pride in the achievement of our one and only one, P.T. Usha, we do not condemn other players. We do not find fault with other athletes. (Interruptions).

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam): She is from South.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI: I do not speak for South. I speak for India. I am a person talking in the national interest. (Interruptions).

We congratulate our sportspersons. We elicitate four sportspersons. They have tried their best. But when the infrastructure, the facilities and necessary, sportive measures are important for physical fitness, are stamina, food intake and nutrition not absolutely vital? This aspect has got to be given utmost priority.

Today, countries like China, Japan, South Korea have advanced in so many areas by leaps and bounds. South Korea's spectacular performance has been as a result of the sustained scientific training of 600 days under result oriented experts. They were provided with ample opportunity for physical fitness and development.

I would like to add here that so many athletes are there in our country. There is so much talent in our country, but owing to the caste system, the talents are by passed, they are not promoted because they lack godfathers to push them up, they lack the patronage and goodwill of the officials. Favouritism and nepotism are rampant in sports also, if I may say so.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :  
Along with politics.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI : That is always there obviously. (*Interruptions*) I quite agree with the hon. Member. Politics also play a greater role in selecting the candidates. Sir, our IOA and many other federations are to be blamed for this. Everybody wants to be important. Everybody wants to hang on to his post and take decisions in the selfish interest leaving behind the national image, the will and pride that alone can save the Indian sports in the future.

I would like to know a few things. Was the Greeko Roman wrestling team trained separately for a sufficient period or is it a fact that the drop outs from the free style wrestling team were included in the Greeko Roman team just in order to oblige some of the wrestling federation coaches and officials who could be included in a big number only due to the large size of the wrestling contingent? But in this case it was not quantity, but quality. The stress was more on the quantity than on the quality. (*Interruptions*)

I would also like to point out that one of the coaches was sent to Paris for training in Greeko Roman style of wrestling and that the same coach instead of accompanying the team as a coach went as a judge/referee thereby affecting the performance of Greeko Roman wrestlers.

I would like the hon. Minister to state some of the facts on this. It does not finish here. It is also seen that at the time of the winning of the gold medal by Kastar Singh, with the exception of one wrestling coach, all other officials who accompanied the wrestling team in the capacity of coaches, Managers, Referees and IOA observers were absent. Sir, if this is true, it is definitely highhandedness and the irresponsibility of the people who made it possible for such people to go to Seoul ASIAD. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I would also like to know one thing. The important sports Federations are manned by devoted and competent persons. Do you have any system to scrutinise the *bio data* of the Sports Federation officials? Is this a fact that the NIS who is in charge of coaching the teams finally for all the international events has not produced any national level players in any game? All these details have to be provided by the hon. Minister. Here I would also like to add a few points about...

MR. CHAIRMAN : One minute more.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI : One minute only, Sir. I am not going to take more than a minute.

Sports should be an integral part of our educational system. It should be inculcated right from the primary schooling level. Children learn mainly through play-way method. Madam Montessori, the great educationist, laid more emphasis on the importance of play-way method in schools.

Discipline can be inculcated in sports. I can say about discipline because I belong to the field of dance in which discipline plays a primary part and it needs long years of strenuous training, which, unfortunately, is lacking in our sportsmen.

**SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU :** She might have been sent to Seoul, Sir.

(Interruptions)

**SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI :** "Sound mind in a sound body. Sport is a very essential and necessary adjunct of life. The development of mind and body go together. They are two faces of the coin; they are inseparable. Therefore, in our curriculum, we have to give equal importance to sports. Swami Vivekananda stressed the importance of proper development of the body which would enable the development of the whole personality. With eleven players, we could build a nation.

Sir, I do not want to speak for long time and therefore, I will cut my speech short. In the Sports Conference held in June, 1986, the members stressed the need for broadcasting the various sports meet in the country. They also wanted that our traditional games should be given their due place. In this connection, I may point out that our Prime Minister has been kind enough to make it known to the people, our country's tradition and rich culture through "Apna Ustav". Likewise, our traditional sports should be given its due place and appreciation.

Each Taluk should necessarily be provided with a stadium so that various games at the taluk level can be held in the stadium. I am very much thankful to the Government in recognising the winners in the Seoul Games by awarding cash prizes and other facilities are offered to them. I welcome the sportive spirit in announcing cash award of Rs. 25,00 for the good and outstanding coaches. The award is called "Dronacharya Award."

The subject of Sports should be in the concurrent list. Korea, Japan and China have got five year or seven year sports training programme. In some cases, they catch the sportspersons at the very tender age and training is given for 15 years or so. In our country, as we have 5-year plan for the country's developmental programmes, we should also introduce plan exclusively for sports.

The Constitution of India provides for equal treatment for both men and women. But in practice, in most of the fields, women get the treatment of second-class citizens. In recent sports, women athletes have proved that they are more than equals. It is, therefore, in the true fitness of things that we have the hon. lady Minister in charge of the subject. I congratulate the hon. Minister of sports.

**SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) :** Sir, when the Indian contingent was sent to Seoul, we all expected that they would come with laurels. We had got that expectation for two good reasons. Personally, I expected that because the team, the contingent was led by Mrs. Margaret Alva—she always carries luck with her—but unfortunately in this case it was not to be. In our country, we have spent more than 1,500 crores for building infrastructure, at least so far as the capital of our country is concerned. But, Sir, what is the net result in Seoul? It is really very shameful that we have to bend our head in shame.

This morning, we got the report of the Indian Olympics Association. I glanced through the report I should say that it is the most irresponsible report. The blame everybody except themselves. They pass on the buck. After reading the report, I got more confused—confusion worse confounded. It is because, we do not know, which is the answerable body for sports in our country. Is it the Ministry of Sports, is it the Indian Olympics Association, is it the Federation, is it the Sports Authority of India? It is very very confusing; after reading the report. We had an impression that sports was directly under the Ministry of Sports. But that is not so. Here, in this report, they go on saying that we had no infrastructure, we had no training, we had no proper equipment. All those reasons have been stated. I would like to ask the hon Minister, as the responsible body, did they not know all that when they selected the team? Were they not aware of that or has it suddenly arisen? Did they not know these things. Did they bring it to the notice of the Government when they selected the contingent of 400 members including 80 or 90 officers who accompanied the team? Have they advised the Government of India on this? So the report looks very childish.



More than that, they say—I was really amused—and I condemn what they have said with regard to the future prospects of the Indian contingents. They have no business to say that, we should not participate in 1988 Games and 1990 Olympic Games. It may be a recommendation. But what will be the reaction on the minds of the sportsmen of the country? This report, I should say, is not worth accepting. It should be rejected. They have not given proper reasons why we failed miserably. There is no use of crying over spilt milk. It is all over. I should say that Seoul is really an eye opener for everybody.

This august Body is very seriously discussing this important subject. The whole country is now thinking that we should evolve a policy by which at least in future we will fare better.

In regard to infrastructure, the hon. Minister the other day, in reply to one question, said that "We have to improve the infrastructure and in the Seventh Plan, we have provided more funds. It is Rs. 6 crores in the Sixth Plan and now we have got Rs. 200 crores." But we are merely spending funds. We should have proper organisation, responsibility and accountability. Whom do you hold responsible? You get the money. You send it to the States and States, in turn, give to the Sports Association. There is no coordination and there is no coordinating agency. Who will be responsible for all this? So, I would suggest that we should have a national sports policy. After the Seoul games, a rethinking is necessary. We should evolve a new policy.

We should not think only of the urban areas of our country. We should think of the rural areas. Give the rural people encouragement. They should also come up. You must be knowing it because you come from a rural area also. Even in the rural India, even the villagers used to tune up the radio and TV and they were eagerly awaiting the results of Asian Games. We should start building up the infrastructure on a clean slate.

First of all, you have a meeting of the Chief Ministers. Mere Sports Ministers will not do. State Government should be provided with sufficient funds. It will be an asset and a national investment. I do not think

most of the State Governments have got Rs. one crore. It is only Rs. 30 lakhs. There should be a national dialogue at the Chief Ministers level. We should evolve a policy and you must ask the Chief Ministers to take this matter very seriously and see that necessary infrastructure is built up not only in the capitals of the States but also in every nook and corner of the country.

So far as school education is concerned, among the 240 participants, there was not a single University student there. The report says it. It speaks of our education system. In the new policy, it is said that physical education and sports should be a part and parcel of the curriculum. In many of the cities like Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi, we do not have playground at all. PT teachers are appointed but they while away the time. They do not give the students physical exercise. They do not have the ground at all. So, you should discuss this matter with the Chief Ministers.

I would suggest that where there are no playgrounds, at least, the transport facilities must be made by the institutions and they should see that students are taken to the available playgrounds for sports and proper training should be given. We should chalk out our programme from now for the 1998 Asiad.

The way in which we are humiliated, it should not be repeated. I am sure you will take up this matter. I am confident and the whole House is with you. The very fact that we are discussing the subject and many Members are anxious to participate shows that the whole country is concerned with this. I hope that the Government of India will take note of this and evolve a proper practical national sports policy.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum): I participate in this debate and share the views of the hon. Members partly out of disappointment, and partly out of anguish. It is very disappointing that sports is not given proper place in our national life. Sports should not be taken so lightly. It plays a big role in the nation particularly in building the nation's character. Time is very short. Possibly I cannot express my grievances or my feelings in this House. Sir, I find everybody is blaming each other. It is

[Shri Asutosh Law]

no use blaming the Indian Olympic Association or any other Federation. This is my feeling. Actually, we are responsible. We are responsible for not getting the best talents and in not getting them when they are young. This is the difficulty. The slogan should be 'catch them young'. Our mental set up and our social structure is possibly against achieving our goals which we are now expecting. The difficulty is this: in our society do we really, or anybody in this House, want that their child should be a very good big sportsman? Do they take it seriously? In our society, if a small boy wants to become an able sportsman, do we really give him encouragement? Does he get any status in the society. Is our society built up in that fashion? It is useless to discuss all these things. Suppose, you provide all the infrastructure and all the facilities but if you do not get proper response from the society in future or best talents you will not be able to produce any sportsman are not attracted according to international standards. We find from the report of the Indian Olympic Association that they are trying to shift the blame on the Government. That is not correct: We are giving them free hand in selecting the sportsmen. The selection criterion is left in the hands of the Indian Olympic Association and other organisations connected with sports. It is not in the hands of the Government or with the Ministry. Now, the time has come. We must have some national formula, a Government body which will control and which will formulate a national sports policy. In the cities, there are infrastructures. For the last few years quite sufficient infrastructural facilities are made available. But what about the villages? Talents are not only grown in the cities. Do we really go to villages and find out the young talents? Did we give them play-grounds? They have not asked for stadia. Give them the play-grounds, modern education and modern amenities.

Sir, I want to bring another important point. When we are thinking of competing with other countries, when we are thinking of competing in the international field, we are having only one artificial turf in our country. Is it possible to achieve any good result with such poor facilities? Do you think it is possible to achieve any desired

result in the next Olympics? How will you give them the necessary training? What amenities you have given them? What is the atmosphere prevailing now? What about the provision for sports medicine? Everything has become advanced in this world. We are also talking about the advanced technology. If we go on living in the early 20th century atmosphere, we cannot expect good results in the International Olympics. Therefore, I would like to give some suggestions and request the hon. Minister to consider these suggestions.

Sir, if there is a dearth of money due to which we cannot provide all sports facilities to the rural areas, then why not a National Sports Development Corporation be made so that the Corporation will look after these things. This Corporation should be a centrally controlled one. State Governments are doing nothing. I am not blaming any particular State in this respect. So far my knowledge goes, I can speak for my State. Our State Government is absolutely callous. They are not considering this aspect. We are still in 1911 when 11 Bengalis with bare-foot played foot-ball and created history.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):** Do you know how much money the State Government is spending? Can you compare it with any other State Governments.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI ASUTOSH LAW:** Let there be a National Sports Development Corporation which will bear the cost, which will formulate the policy, which will implement and do everything.

There must be a National Sports Training Centre in every region which will try to find out the real talents from the rural areas. Also, if necessary, all types of modern facilities and modern amenities should be given.

Lastly, I would like to mention about food habits. With the existing food habits, possibly we cannot compete with international standards. We must change our food habits, particularly those who are interested in getting on in the sports world.

With these words, I conclude and I request the hon. Minister to consider my suggestions very seriously.

**SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil) :** Sir, actually we had been demanding a discussion on the subject from the beginning of the Session. Then the hon. Speaker said that we could discuss it after receiving the Report of the Indian Olympic Association. Now, the Report of Indian Olympic Association is available with us.

There can be no two opinions on the fact that our performance in the Seoul Asiad was very much disappointing. Our squad of 380, next only to South Korea and China in number, got only 37 Medals. In the New Delhi Asiad we had got a total of 57 Medals. The Report of the Indian Olympic Association is with us. I do not want to go into the details of the Report. This Report gives us an impression about the selection of the members of the Indian contingent; the impression given is that Government has interfered in the selection of the members of the Indian contingent. That was why, such a big contingent had gone and our performance was very poor. I will quote from the Report. It is said :

“...the Government’s stand on selection criteria—After some discussion it was decided to give up the earlier gold standard decision and adopt the criteria suggested by the Government.”

I would like the hon. Minister to clarify the position regarding this.

I would like to quote another thing from the Report. I am quite amazed that on the recommendation side, it is said :

“There is no need for India to participate in 1988 and 1992 Olympic Games unless it is more or less certain that for every entry we can achieve a minimum of sixth place.”

This is very confusing. I do not know what we are going to do. I would request the hon. Minister to clarify the position regarding this also.

About infrastructure, so many things have been said by my friends and colleagues. I do not want to go into the details of those. The time is very limited. Everybody will agree that the existing infrastructure is only available to our cities like

Delhi, Bombay, Madras and so on. There is no facility for our rural people. What are you going to do for this? In this context I would like to know from the Hon. Minister at least in district level what infrastructural facilities she proposes to give for our rural youth.

We know that our schools and colleges are the nurseries for our sportsmen for the future. But our colleges have no playgrounds even. Now, the Sports Ministry has become a part of the Human Resources Ministry also. I would like to know what plans she proposes for at least providing playgrounds in the schools and colleges which are supposed to be the nursery for the future of India in the sports field.

Another thing that I would like to know is about Seoul games. I have gone through a report wherein it is said that we have conducted coaching camps only for 12 items. You have to deny it or correct me. We have conducted coaching camps only for 12 items, but participated in more than that—if I am right, it is 22 items. Why that happened? About the period of coaching, I don’t want to say anything. Many friends have correctly put it that Korea had conducted coaching camps for years to make their athletes compete in Seoul Asiad. Here, hardly our poor athletes got 60 or 67 days coaching. So, what do you propose for the future at least?

Kerala has submitted a proposal for creating infrastructural facilities in the State. The Central Government must approve it and release sufficient financial assistance for the project.

The next point that I would like to make is about Sports Organisation. In this context I would like to know whether Government of India spends anything and what is its role. Many friends have said that Indian Olympic Association is autonomous, federations are supreme; but what is actually your role? They do the selection, they do other things, then how the Government of India could come in the picture? You must of course think over it.

I wish to submit, some friends have put it correctly also, that sports should be brought in the concurrent list, even if some

[Shri T. Basheer]

legislation is required; then only the Central Government could come in this. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether her Ministry is proposing something like that. Also, I would like to say that there should be a restructuring of the sports organisations. Everybody knows, I don't want to go into details, that something is rotten there, groupism and nepotism, everything is there. A complete restructuring of the organisation is necessary and there should be a permanent agency, it might be a Sports Authority of India or something like that. But there should be an organisation like that. The Central Government and that organisation should work together and formulate the programmes and must go forward; they only we could do something in this regard.

17.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—*Contd.*

[English]

Notifications under Customs Act, Central Excise Rules and Customs Tariff Act

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, on behalf of Shri B.K. Gadhvi, I beg to lay on the table of the House the following papers mentioned at Item Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of the supplementary list of business for today, the 27th November 1987

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :

- (i) Notification No. 470/86-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to withdraw the concessional rate of basic customs duty of 25 per cent *ad valorem* on components of fuel-efficient cars of engine capacity exceeding 1000 cc.
- (ii) Notification No. 471/86-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1986 together with

an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 314/86-Customs dated the 13th May, 1986 so as to provide auxiliary duty of customs as a consequential change to withdrawal of concessional rate of basic customs duty.

(iii) Notification No. 472/86-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to withdraw the concessional rates of Customs duty (basic and auxiliary) for goods to be used for manufacture of components for use in fuel efficient cars of capacity exceeding 1000 cc. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3322/86]

(2) A copy of Notification No. 456/86-Central Excise (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to withdraw the concessional rate of excise duty of 25 per cent *ad valorem* for fuel efficient cars of engine capacity exceeding 1000 cc issued under the Central Excise Rules 1944 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-323/86]

(3) A copy of Notification No. 473/86-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1986 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to enhance the export duty on black pepper from the level of Rupees 3 per kilogram to Rupees 5 per kilogram under section 10 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3324/86]

17.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, November 28, 1986/Agrahayana 7, 1908 (Saka)*