

14.07 hrs.

DISCUSSION ON PERFORMANCE OF
INDIAN SPORTSMEN AT THE
TENTH ASIAN GAMES HELD AT
SEOUL

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati) :

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to raise a discussion on the performance of the Indian sportsmen at the 10th Asian Games held at Seoul. I feel that my performance would be no better than that of the Indian athletes at Seoul, because the discussion was to be raised by Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia and in his absence I am now to take the burden of raising the discussion and without adequate preparation, I have to take the responsibility of the opening bat.

The Seoul event has come to us as the greatest disappointment to the country. One of the largest contingents was sent to Seoul—400 athletes and 37 officials which constituted almost one-third of the total contingents of all the countries in Seoul. But what did we achieve in Seoul? In terms of number of medals, our country gained 5 Gold medals—thanks to the performance of one lady Miss P.T. Usha...

14.08 hrs

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI
in the Chair]

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) :
Because she is a lady !

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : 9 Silver and 23 Bronze. As against that, if you look to 1982, we had 13 Gold, 19 Silver and 25 Bronze. Not only that, for the first time in the history of Asian Hockey, India could not even enter the Finals. At one point of time in 1951 we were the Champions in Football in the Asiad. I remember, in 1951, we won the Asiad Gold in Football by defeating Iran by one goal. If we go back three years, in the 1948 Olympics, India played brilliantly and went down ultimately to France, one of the top-ranking countries in international football

by two goals to one after failing to score the two penalty goals. I had the privilege of editing one sports magazine. I interviewed the Captain of the Indian Olympic Football Team of 1948, Talimeran Ao, who was Captain of Mohan Bagan and who came from Nagaland. He said that the team created some sort of a sensation in the London Olympics because some of their players played barefooted and the sports scribes went and examined them whether they had any plastic covering or not. In 1956, if I am not wrong, we went to the Semi-Finals of Football in Olympics. I am not saying that Olympics depicts the highest standard in football, because the professionals go elsewhere. But still it maintains a certain amount of standard. Four years later, we could win the Merdeka championship in Asia. But today we are nowhere in the international map; we cannot think in terms of competing in international football, Olympics; we are nowhere in the map of Asian Football. We have been beaten by all the countries, including a new country like Brannie.

In final events, none of our athletes except Kartar Singh could win a medal in gold. Of course, ladies fared better—P.T. Usha and Shiny Abraham; and Shiny Abraham was unfortunate to lose a Gold because of a technical fault. Often we tend to ignore the fact that our performance in sports is not only a mere performance in sports but it has a certain bearing in uplifting the morale of this country. There is no other field where we can find out where we really stand. There is no competition in the literacy field to find out whether an Indian writer is at the top or at the bottom. That is judged to some extent subjectively. But in the field of sports, our standard in the international arena is judged by a clock, by metres, by certain goals or wickets, and when we win an international event, the youths get galvanised, they get a new impetus, that we can be the world beaters. When we lose, we not only lose and our heads hang in shame, but the youth get demoralised and that has happened after the last Asiad. You can feel a general demoralisation in the youth in the field of sports, and it has a cumulative effect in the other sectors also.

Apart from this, sports play a very important role in another aspect. Today we have millions of unemployed youth in this country, and these millions of unemployed youth want something in which they can spend their energies. One reason why the youths in some states have often not behaved in an irresponsible manner like some of the youth in the other States is because the youths in the other States have always remained very very sports-conscious. If you can create in the youth of this country interest in the field of sports, that will inculcate in them some spirit of discipline also. In fact, the country lacks the spirit of discipline today, and sports is one field through which you can inculcate the spirit of discipline. Therefore, greater emphasis should be given to sports. But what do we find today? It is a tragedy that the Indian Olympic Association is talking in terms of not participating in future Olympics. Can there be a greater tragedy for our country today than this? After we had held the Asiad four years back and after so much of infrastructure has been created, we are not thinking in terms of going ahead. On the other hand, we think in terms of retreating, not only retreating to the side-line but retreating outside the side-line. There cannot be a greater tragedy for Indian sports. In fact, the Indian Olympic Association had done the greatest dis-service. Olympics has two mottos; one is to win medals—no doubt—but another motto of Olympic is that participation in Olympics is greater than winning medals. In fact, Madam, there is a saying that when a great scorer will come to write down the score against your name, he will not ask how much you have scored, but how you have played the game. Therefore, it is important to win medals, but it is equally important to play in the spirit of the game. I think to think in terms of retreating from the Olympics or from the sports' field means not only a demoralisation; but also a retreat from the great field through which the sporting brotherhood is generated.

It is no use now merely dwelling or repenting on the past. What are you going to do in future? We often talk in lament that in a country of 800 million people we have not been able to produce one Olympic gold medalist; but the question remains as

to how many of these 800 million people really involve themselves in sports. How many of our younger generation youths run, wake up in the morning and run for miles together really to physically trim them for international competitions? What type of infrastructure do we have in this country to really help these people? What type of security we have been giving to the youngmen to see that a father can say that he likes his son to be a sportsman rather than taking any other avenue? I will not like my son to be a sportsman because I know that except for cricket where he may earn some money, his future is bleak and therefore, right from the childhood he is not encouraged to go in for sports. He is dissuaded from taking to sports as a career.

I had the privilege of going to GDR immediately after GDR created a record of occupying the second position in Olympics, I think in 1972—even beating a country like United States of America. What type of infrastructure they had! GDR is a country which compares with my State of Assam in terms of population as well as in terms of territory. In Assam we do not have one full-fledged swimming pool which can compete with International standard. GDR had more than 600 fully equipped swimming pools ready to meet the requirements of international standards. A country like GDR which is suffering from lack of population had more than one lakh physical instructors to train their youths. In the morning it was a sight to see not only youths but also men and women jogging in the streets for miles together and thereby creating an environment and an atmosphere of sports.

Have we done it here? Our infrastructure is probably the poorest. We created some infrastructure for the purpose of Asiad. But our youths cannot come here to Delhi and practice. The potential Olympians, the potential champions of the world do not come from Delhi, they are created in the villages and in the towns. How many of our schools and colleges today can boast of a field which—not to speak of international standard—can at least meet the national standard? I find that most of the schools and colleges do not have any infrastructural facilities. What is the amount that we spend?

[Shri Dinesh Goswami]

Mrs. Margaret Alva, I hope, will perform better than Usha in managing the sports in the next few years. She will say that sports is a State subject. But the question is how much do the Union and States together spend for this purpose. It is no use saying that it is a State subject because if our sportsman fail, we cannot tell the international community that look here, we have failed not because the country has failed; but the States have failed. The failure of our sportsmen is a failure of the country. Therefore, we must see that we spend more money and if the States have not been able to spend more money because they do not have resources, or inspite of the fact that they have the resource but they are not spending, then obviously a more serious dialogue is necessary. I think, the total amount spent for the purpose of sports at the union level is a few paise and the same even in the State level. But a country like Korea is spending much more. I would like to get the figures; some of the figures have come, but I don't think the authentic information. I will like to have the information. Some of us who are associated with sports know that sports is not merely a game. It is something like highest defence preparedness. I saw a film 'The Games'. There an athlete was prepared by a coach and on the top of the film it was written "Every four years they meet at a war and they call it games". Sir, every athlete is almost turned into a robot because it is a matter of seconds that decide the final outcome. Even in GDR in 1974 when I went there in a place, a particular physical training camp was going on for gymnasts. I asked them as to which competition they were preparing and I was told that those gymnastic events were to come two years hence, namely, in 1975. These girls were picked up from their parents and kept in camps and for two years trained and conditioned to attain the international standards. We know that gymnast Nadiad Comenecei was taken away from her parents at a teen age and was coached for years and she later on created history. In our country what do we do? Just before an Asiad or Olympics we bring forth certain number of athletes and try to give them coaching and that coaching sometimes instead of improving retards their progress. Coaching at an advanced

age also retards the progress. So we must pick up boys and girls at the age of 3-8 if we want to coach them.

Sir, some of the Government departments and the public undertakings take credit that they have given security to our sportsmen. But security to whom! Security to Sunil Gavaskar means nothing because he has already become Sunil Gavaskar by his own effort and after he has attained international reputation, you have given him a job. But the point is that these athletes have become athletes by their own efforts. Therefore, if the public sector undertakings or private bodies want to take credit then they should be able to say that here was a boy whom they picked up from the street and made him a national asset. That is what was done to Pele. Pele was picked up from the street by the Manager of Sontos Club of Brazil when Pele was playing with beer cans. This gentleman was passing by that side and he found Pele was almost weaving a pattern with his foot by playing with beer cans. He picked up the boy and gave him training and took him to the famous Sontos Club and told them that he was offering them an asset.

Therefore, if the public sector undertakings want to help then it is not by giving recognition to those who have earned national or international fame but by going down to the school and college levels to pick up boys with potential. A person who wants to be an athlete he must have some inborn talent. Everybody cannot be a sportsman of international standard. Now he must be a boy with potential to develop that talent. Secondly he must have security in life so that he may not be worried about other things and thirdly he must get international exposure. We are lacking on all these fronts.

Sir, we have got a number of bodies, namely, Indian Olympic Association, the Sports Authority of India, NIS Patiala Institute, etc. and nobody knows which one is functioning and what are the fields in which they are supposed to function. Everything seems to overlap and whenever we ask about sports Government comes out with an answer that the federations are autonomous and under the Olympic Charter they cannot touch them. To a

certain extent it is correct but I asked a question two years ago which has remained un-answered even today. The Olympic Charter applies not only to the democratic countries it also applies to the Socialist countries including Soviet Union. In a country like Soviet Russia or GDR, sports is highly controlled by the State, but they do not violate the Olympic Charter. How do they control sports as well as they do not violate the Olympic Charter is something which should be studied by the Government of India and about which the country should be told.

We know what is going on in the federations. I do not want to discuss that, but we know that many of the federations are in such a sorry state of affairs that you can not only expect that they cannot create any sportsmen, but anybody who goes by their side loses its own potential. P.T. Usha has given us four golds, but I have not forgotten that there was a controversy, as to whether Nambiar should be allowed to go with P.T. Usha or not. One-athlete one-coach theory was rejected by our sports federations and other bodies. Luckily, P.T. Usha stood her ground, otherwise I do not think, she would have got four golds.

In fact, for the Olympics, we have had three outstanding personalities upto now, who have proved their mettle; one is Milkha Singh, the other is Ram Singh, again a product of one coach, Ellis Babbar, and the third P.T. Usha. We should at the moment have a greater study of the federations and the different organizations and should either earmark their areas of activity or, if not, a total reorientation of these is necessary.

What labour the standard of the athletes that we choose? This time the Indian Olympic Association President, V.C. Shukla, had to complain that he felt that some of our athletes went to ASIAD by probably using dopes here and thereby showed that they had raised their standard. Later in the ASIAD, they could not maintain their standards. Some of the substandard athletes were taken on the ground that they were not going at the Government expense. On whose expense? At the expense of the public sector or

or at the expense of the public. And when they failed, they not only failed themselves, they failed also the country. Therefore, we should be very careful in the selection of athletes. I have one suggestion to make to Mrs Margaret Alva. The only athlete on whom we can now bank upon for the next Olympics is P.T. Usha. Kindly do not ask her to participate in four disciplines; she is likely to fail. She can only participate with credit in one discipline in the Olympics and that is 400-metre hurdles. For the next two years from now, if you want that we should try to win one gold medal, we should concentrate on that. That also will be very difficult even if she beats the present olympic record; there would be somebody else to create a new record, but let us concentrate on that. Therefore, I would like to know what criteria are we adopting regarding the selection of athletes and the selection of equipment?

In the other House a complaint has been made that one of the horses which were imported had some fractured leg. But I do not know the factual position. There are two complaints. One, our athletes are to compete even with substandard equipments, but the other complaint is more serious that even if we give them standard equipment, we give them at the last moment. They do not have opportunity of practising for months together. It is a matter of a fraction of a second in the international events that decide the final outcome. You cannot really give your best unless you acclimatise yourself with the climate and the equipment. Therefore, these athletes who are not potential world beaters, but potential world competitors should be given sufficient equipment and other things. In fact, the Government of India should really apply at this moment their mind as to what can be done.

I would not like to take much of your time, as I said, I am suffering from one difficulty. This debate was to be initiated by Shri Ramoowalia and I am speaking absolutely *extempore*. In fact, I would have liked to come with a certain amount of preparedness.

I have one more suggestion. Two international competitions are ahead of us,

[Shri Dinesh Goswami]

We think in terms of competing only in olympics and world cup events. But we should compete in many other international competitions so that our competitors and athletes get international exposure.

We have now before us 1988 Olympics and 1990 ASIAD. The only event in which we can hope and pray to win a medal is hockey. But the tragedy is that, for the first time, we are out of Asian Hockey and we have occupied the last position in the last World Cup Hockey. This is something which we probably could not have dreamt even two years back! That is why, we should concentrate from now on. Let us not try to participate in all the disciplines. We must concentrate only on two or three disciplines in which we can do well in international field. From now on prepare those athletes.

I remember, Madam, exactly I am not able to recall the year, after competing in one World Cup, the entire English hockey team was disbanded and a new team was formed because the same hockey team after two years would not have been able to repeat the performance. The age factors comes in. Therefore, let us really prepare our team from now onwards for 1988 Olympics and 1990 World Cup events.

My second suggestion is with regard to the officials. In all these international meets, a large number of officials go. For what purpose, I do not know! Instead of sending the officials, I will suggest to you to send some of the potential young teenagers to these Olympics and other events, so that they can get a feel of an international event. They can know what an international event is, with what ferocity one has to compete in these events, what great national pride is generated when an international event is won and how a team reacts with tears when they lose in an international event. So, instead of sending the officials, let us send our young boys and girls. They may not be in a position to compete in the 1988 Olympics, but we can think in terms of picking up plenty of young boys and girls who may be able to compete in the 1990 Asiad or 1992 Olympics. Let them have some international

exposure if not by way of participation in the games, but just by visiting and watching the international competitions.

My last point is that sports must be made a subject in our curricula. Sports and physical education must be made a optional subject in the curricula not only for the purpose of developing sports, but also for the purpose of developing discipline in this country. Why cannot we earmark certain marks to a good sportsman? That would encourage me as a father to allow my child to go in for sports. If he does good in sports, he will be doing good in his examinations, which will help him in getting a job or some security of life. Unless, we completely depart from the traditional thinking of sports, go in for an attitudinal change and adapt ourselves to the new tune in which sports are sung in other countries, we will not be able to stand upto the mark.

I believe that though Shrimati Margaret Alva may not be a P.T. Usha in the field, in the Ministry and in Parliament she will be another P.T. Usha to galvanise the Indian sportsmen.

PROF. MADHU, DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Do not run away fast, Minister!

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Madan Chairperson, I congratulate Shri Dinesh Goswami, the sports loving MP for having raised this very important discussion today. In the absence of Shri Ramoo-walia, he gave us a very thought-provoking impromptu speech.

Madam, we have had a number of discussions here in this very House. I remember in 1968, when we lost the hockey gold medal, Dr. Karni Singh and Prof. Hiren Mukherjee had raised this discussion at that time. Subsequently, whenever we have lost a hockey medal, we have always been agitated.

This time, it is a distinct improvement that apart from the performance in hockey, the whole country, the whole nation, the sports world and our members of Parliament both in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha are agitated over the standards of sports and our dismal performance in the 10th Asian Games.

Dr. Karni Singh when he moved his Resolution had said :

“There is more politics in sports and less sports in politics.”

I am afraid, what he said in 1968 and what my friend Shri Dinesh Goswami, when he gave his points, said was only reiterating what had been said in 1968 and subsequently Government have appointed many Committees, starting from Field Marshal Cariappa, the Hockey Inquiry Committee and many others. There had been umpteen number of clinics, seminars, meetings held by the then Education and Sports Minister, Prof. Nurul Hassan in 1973, where one was presided over by our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, where all the Education Ministers, Vice-Chancellors, Sports Ministers, Sports Administrators, representatives of the NIS, the Laxmi Bai National College of Physical Education and various other voluntary organisations participated. Those reports are still with us; probably they are gathering dust in the various Ministries and Departments, for the simple reason that the Central Government does not have the authority of doing whatever it can for sports. Here, I would like to refer to my friend, Shri Goswami's point, that he does not want the Minister to say that sports is a State Subject. But the fact of the matter as of today 27th November, 1986 is that sports is a State Subject. Unless, it is made into a concurrent Subject and the Centre has a say, just like the Environment and the Forest Conservation Act, we will only be debating, we will be giving vent to our anguish, we will be giving vent to our sentiments, emotions, and we will again and again be discussing the same by saying that there has been very dismal performance by our athletes in international forums and in international competitions. As he rightly pointed out, sports is a media or is a vehicle which is looked upon by various countries with various view-points. In the socialist countries, it is a vehicle of bringing in discipline, national pride, national well-being and an *esprit de corps*. In a capitalist country, it also tries to show that sports can thrive as a private enterprise. Now, we must have an ethos of our own, neither can we follow *in toto*, what is being

followed in the socialist countries, whether it is the Soviet Union or China or G.D.R. or Cuba or what is being followed in the Federal Republic of Germany or the United States. We must find an Indian solution to our Indian problem. We have on the one side nearly 800 million people—impoverished people—from which we have to choose our sports people and, on the other side, we have schools and colleges which have no facilities whatsoever. We have no facilities of classrooms, leave alone playfields.

As the IOA Report has brought out the majority of sports infrastructure is in the cities. India lives in villages. 82 per cent of our people live in the villages in the rural areas. The IOA Report has drawn everyone's attention to the Sports Federations and the Government, that more facilities must go to the rural areas. Therefore, Madam, I had referred to the minutes or the Report of the 1973 Education Ministers' Conference, where all these things had been gone into and all these Education Ministers, then had agreed that no school or colleges will be given recognition unless physical education was an integral part of education and unless they had play-fields. I have a high school in my own State, in my own constituency, which is the second oldest high school in the whole of Orissa. It does not have even a play-field. There are so many universities, even in Delhi University, under our very nose, we don't have adequate gymnasiums or adequate swimming pools. It is only after 1982...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Mr. Singh Deo, that school has sent its students to the Parliament.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Unfortunately. It was only in 1982 that sports was given a big fillip, when we took the challenging decision; and the challenging decision was taken by our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi to have the Asian Games in a time of 18 months only, whereas other countries usually take six years to prepare. Even these stadia are now being started to be utilized.

Prior to 1982, what did our sports persons—men, women and athletes—do ?

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

My hon. friend Shri Goswami said : P.T. Usha is a self-made person; our Shri Ram Singh is a self-made person. (*Interruptions*) Milkha Singh is a self-made person—he did not get the backing of the Army. Sri Ram Singh got the backing of the Rajputana Regimental Centre. You may say that P.T. Usha got it from her State or her community. But no sports federation, Government or anyone can take credit for the performance of these people.

Like one swallow does not make a summer, by enumerating these three athletes, we cannot improve. But we can learn from the lessons of the past; and today we are not only doing a *post mortem* of what has happened in the 3rd Asian Games, but we should take this opportunity of preparing for the 1990 Asian Games, because most countries take more than 3 to 4 years to prepare. Under a particular coach, a number of people have to take training at a very impressionable age. Physiologically, they have to be fit, because it is fitness which counts, in this competitive world. If we send people who are 27 or 28 years old, physiologically they are totally unfit to compete with others who are 19, 20 or 21. Today, the entire training schedule—coaching as well as the entire mental set up, the psychological set up, with the induction of sports medicine—is so scientific that we cannot afford just to have 16 weeks of training, and then go in for a competition like either the Commonwealth Games or the Olympics or the Asian Games; and then expect to do as well as other countries.

Can we compare ourselves with South Korea? South Korea, many have said, had a freak result, and that we should not compare ourselves with South Korea, but that we should compare ourselves with China which had the same standards 40 years back, when we had become independent, and they also became independent. Today, there are at least 50 million people in China who take part, or participate in sports events. They have about 100,000 sports meets throughout the year. They have half a million sports groups in China. And China has the same problem of population, diversity and large areas and like India, it has communication difficulties.

But over the years China has assiduously developed stadias and playgrounds. They have 20,000 sports schools where at least a million schools children get advanced facilities for training in various disciplines of sports. Can we compare ourselves at all, can our schools and colleges compare at all with the facilities available in China? There, the people have the same eating habits as we do. Like us, they are rice-eaters. Their climate is also not very different from ours. So, here we have to do a lot of introspection and see how we can attract our young people, specially from the age of 3, 4 and 5 or even upto the age of 7 when they are impressionable. Then they can be moulded, and we can see whether we can have mass physical training, whether we can have calisthenics in various schools, and whether we can get people to be involved not only in sports of excellence, but sports in general, for the well-being and health of the nation.

And it is only by having a wider base that we can have a choice of picking and choosing for excellence. If we have a narrow base, naturally the apex of the pyramid also becomes narrow and we shall never be able to participate or compete with the leading sports nations of the world; whether they are from Asia or Europe.

Now, India is a country with long sea coast; it has got mountains and rivers; it has got roads; it has rural areas. But three or four main disciplines which get medals or which have a large number of events are athletics, gymnastics, swimming, rowing, yachting, wrestling and boxing. These were sadly neglected earlier. But now government can act as a catalyst and get these sports federations, the various organisations, that is Sports Authority of India, the National Institute of Sports, the Society for National Institute of Physical Education and Sports and to find out whether there is any coordination between them, whether there is any talent spotting, whether there is nursing of talent, whether there is perseverance of talent, whether schools, colleges and universities have a system by which they can spot talent, whether they can persevere with them, cultivate them and can look after them.

Now, there are various schemes; there is a national sports talent scholarship scheme; there are national sports talent schemes, but we do not really know how many of these sportsmen have reached a national or international level. I am told that there were only four people in the entire squad of 400 in the Tenth Asian Games who can claim to be university students or from the educational institutions. If we compare with the rest of the participating countries we find that a majority of their people are not from the armed forces or police or para military forces; the majority of them are from the schools, colleges and universities.

Take swimming. Internationally, people reach the peak at the age of 14 and 15; by the time they are 18 and 19, they are passed off from the peak. Now, we cannot defy the law of science; we cannot defy physical considerations and genetic considerations and so on. Therefore, we shall have to keep the scientific and technical aspect in mind not only in spotting talent but also in training and coaching them. Let us have look at our coach. What is the status of a coach? Does he have a say in the coaching and selection and training of the athletes? Is it only sufficient for him to be associated with it for 15 days and then go to the competition and produce miracles? Therefore, the coach and the athletes are something like in the armed forces where a man and his arm become an integral part, the personal weapons which he uses are an integral part; therefore, a horse and rider are an integral part, an oarsman and a boat are an integral part. Therefore, the coach and the athletes must be an integral part. You cannot have some one for coaching and some one for taking them abroad just for going for a jaunt and you expect him to deliver the goods.

So, these are things where government must come in. I agree with Mr. Goswami that it is not sufficient for government to say that sports federations are autonomous, every one is autonomous, so we cannot do anything, this helplessness must go. I am sure, the feeling in the country; the feeling among parliamentarians, the feeling among sports bodies is that government must come in an effective way and act as an effective

catalyst; if necessary the government must empower itself with constitutional authority to delve into this, because it is not a question of a few federations or a few sports men, it is a question of the country's prestige, because when an athlete or a sports man or a sports women goes abroad, he or she does not go to represent himself or herself, he or she represent his or her country; he or she holds the country's flag and he or she is the country's ambassador; whether it is in the play field or outside because the motto of the Asian Games is "friendship and fraternity and ever onwards." The motto of the Olympic Games is "altius, fortius, citius," higher, stronger and faster. That is the question of achieving excellence. This is a question of achieving excellence. It is not a question of only winning medals. But medals are definitely a reflection on a country's ability and capability to achieve certain things. But we have to do an introspection to see if our athletes improved on their performances since 1982. Have we given them the wherewithals to improve? This is where the Government can come in.

I must congratulate the Minister of State for Sports and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, that this was the first time, in this Tenth Asian Games where athletes could go, whether rightly or wrongly, they were cleared at a time when they were to go. Otherwise ninety per cent of the athletes and the officials who have to accompany them, the coach, whoever it was, ninety per cent of their time and energy were spent in battling to get a seat in the aircraft with the result that by the time they reached the destination, only ten per cent of their energy was there to compete.

But, unfortunately our athletes have not done as well as we had expected. We have to be selective now on the events in which we have to participate and we must give them the integrated training. It has to be a systems approach. This 10 weeks, 16 weeks or eight weeks—this is all right for bureaucratic and financial control. But for an athlete, in such a highly competitive world of sports where one has to reach his peak performance at a particular time, it is not enough.

I want to mention an anecdote. In the 1981 World Rowing Championships in

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

Germany in Munich, a British School Boys' crew rowing in the championship, came second to the Soviet Union by only half a canvas, that is only eight feet over a distance of two kilometres. They were bubbling with enthusiasm, they were very happy. When they got out of the boat their coach rebuked them saying: "Your target is not 1981 World Championships, your target is 1984 Los Angeles, you were supposed to get a feel of the water. You were supposed to get a feel of the competition. You have to develop the temperament for a peak. You have to reach your Peak in 1984. Because once you reach your peak at a time earlier than usual, it is very difficult to maintain it and reach that peak once again."

So, India's training has to be very very scientific, and a very very calculating thing. It is like fighting a war, strategy and tactics; everything is now computerised. Even things like, how much liquid an athlete will take, how much milk he will take, how much water he will take, how much salt he will take, and how much jogging he will do, how much skipping he will do, how much weight training he will do, how much exercise he will do, and will he progressively increase it so that he reaches his peak from around the semi-finals stage. These are things which cannot be left to 16 hours, 18 hours and eight weeks training and then within three months you prepare the athletes to go and compete in an international competition where people have taken four years.

Someone, I think Mr. Goswami, referred to South Koreans. Immediately from Delhi in 1982 the South Korean Equestrian team went to France and they were camping there till the games.

In my own discipline, Rowing for four years they had impressive training with the same crew. China also did the same thing, the crew which had taken part here in 1982, the same crew had participated in Jaipur, it participated in 1986 also, they have been going from strength to strength because they have been coaching them, training them, they have been living with them while training them together and the essence of coaching and training is, you are supposed to dream the same dream, together, though it is not

practicable, or possible. But the ethos is you have to train in such a way, that you dream the same dream. Of course, that is carrying it to the extreme Limits.

This is what we have not been doing, may be due to paucity of resources. May be the Government has the responsibility but does not have the authority to go into it. During the selections also we are supposed to have an NIS representative while selecting the teams and whether those selections have been proper, whether the coaches have been prepared properly. On this I do not know, how far or how strong the monitoring is, how effective is the monitoring, how regular is the monitoring. Therefore, we must have a systems approach if we have to make a significant impact in the sports world and if we have to reach the peak and win the medals. Medals may not be the only criteria. But medals are a reflection on our ability and capability and there is no doubt because so much public money is invested whether by the State Governments or the Central Government. The people have a right to expect results and it is all very well to expect the best in sports. There are two aspects. One is the excellence of sports in which we take part in international sports and competitions. This has to have a different ethos, different attitude and approach. The other is the broad-based sport to get material ready for people to get into action. So, these are the things which, I do hope, the hon. Minister will reply to us.

The infrastructure is one thing which I would like to emphasise. Government has, of late, from the Seventh Plan onwards, in fact, from the last two years, been giving liberal grants to various State Governments for having rural stadia and gymnasias. 50 per cent subsidy is given and 50 per cent matching grant is also given. I do not know whether there is any feedback on what is the effect of these grants, whether there is any utilisation certificate for the grants which are given, whether these grants are properly utilised, because at this time the limit has been raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs for rural stadia. Even in sub-divisional towns and in block headquarters, at least I do not see much of evinence of these stadia coming up. I would want the hon. Minister to take us into confidence and tell us how effective has it been; how effective is the

monitoring to see that the money which has been allocated has been rightly spent; how have the States Sports Councils and district Sports Councils reacted. What is the interaction between the Schools' Games Federation, University Games Federation, district, state and the Ministry at the Centre? What is the coordination, communication and interaction between them? Because, otherwise, it becomes an exercise in futility. Here we debate once in four years or two years or after every Asian Games or Commonwealth Games or Olympic Games and then lament over the fact that we have not done too well.

Now that in the new education policy, sports will be an integral part of general education, I do hope the Central Government will be in a position at least in their Navodaya schools, Sainik Schools, and Central Schools, to make a dent and make an effort to see that qualified coaches as well as sports fields and adequate facilities are given.

Even the Armed Forces, the Police and para-military forces, which had been, at one time, the nursery for Indian sportsmen, have started slumping in spite of the fact that in the Defence Ministry there was a proposal for having a Rs. 20 crore project for having nodal institutions for various disciplines, whether it is hockey, football or other disciplines. This has not seen the light of the day. I am sure, the hon. Minister can act as a catalyst and see that in the Armed Forces and para-military forces, these nodal institutions do come up.

Our technique along with the infrastructure, we have equipment in our training institutions which are quite antiquated and medieval. We have to have contemporary and modern equipment which is used today in the European theatres or even other countries in Asia, if we have to compete with them or have a fair chance of competing with them. We cannot send our athletes ill-equipped and ill-trained.

15.00 hrs.

The last word is the role of the federations. The Federations of the Indian Olympic Association and all that, according to the Olympic Charter, are supposed to be

autonomous. There has to be interaction between the Government, the federations and the IOA because there are certain guidelines which the Government has put forward from 1972—many of the hon. Members from this House including myself are signatories to those guidelines—and there are federations which are flouting and even defying the Government guidelines of having a particular structure. As was mentioned by Mr. Dinesh Goswami, if in other countries it can be enforced without impairing or without treading into the autonomy and the Olympic Charter of the Sports Federation, Government can enforce that we must have a structure in which there is accountability. There is no accountability today. Today we are discussing here in the highest legislative forum of the country about sports where no one is accountable. We cannot hold the Minister accountable because she is neither in charge of training or coaching, nor of selecting the team. She is only footing the bill of those who only qualify up to third place and from 4th place to 6th place, or God alone knows what other places where certificates of merit are given. Everyone goes. Even people who have been violating the guidelines have somehow managed to go abroad on different pretexts and there is nothing that the Government has been able to do. We cannot expect the Government to be that helpless because after all, it is the Government which is answerable to Parliament and it must empower itself adequately to be accountable and it must get accountability and must fix responsibility on the IOA and the Sports Federation and all the bodies, whether it is under the Ministry of Education or whether it is under the Ministry of Sports. It is the public money which is being utilised.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I would like to conclude by saying that this has to be a systems approach where all the federations, the IOA and the various bodies in charge of these institutions must come together and the Government must equip itself with adequate powers. Thank you very much.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : Madam Chairman, the discussion which has been initiated by hon. Goswami Ji and what Mr. Singh Deo Ji has spoken on the

[Shri Ajay Mushran]

subject, not only I fully subscribe to their views but I would like to go a step further, not to bring back the ugly memories of our performance in the Tenth Asian Games, but discuss the causes of such performance, the reasons for knowingly resulting into such performance and what can be done to cure it. Just to give an example in the Ninth Asian Games held in Delhi, so far as hockey is concerned, we lost by 7-1 to Pakistan and I was one of the unfortunate spectators to that misery. We all know that so far as hockey is concerned, it is not only a game, particularly when we are playing against Pakistan, it becomes a matter of national involvement. In that team, anybody who saw, there were a couple of players selected who were not only ill-trained but who were physically weak also. The only qualification of one of them was that he was related to a member of the Selection Committee. Immediately after that tournament, our team went to Australia and in that Australian tour one of the players who was not selected, who was sacrificed for the sake of the selector's son was adjudged the best right out of the world. I am referring to Jalaluddin. The matter was brought to the notice of the Sports Minister by me. He belongs to Madhya Pradesh. Then I was the Sports Minister in Madhya Pradesh. But nothing happened. The hon. Minister wrote to the Indian Hockey Federation and the Indian Hockey Federation said that in the matter of selection and training they are autonomous. Now today for us to blame or to say that the Government should do this or the Government should do that is, I think, out of context because even when the Government was not doing anything, five years or ten years before, our performances were not anything much to write home about. Today the Government is doing so much, crores of rupees have been spent on the Ninth Asian Games to create an infrastructure and to create an environment of sports in the country. It has gone down the drain, in my humble opinion, because of continued corruption in Sports Associations and Federations. To-day we blame our players and athletes who were selected for Tenth Asian Game—that their performance was dismal. In my opinion their performance was magni-

ficeet. Why I say magnificent because when you select second grade and third grade competitors, you cannot expect first grade result. When you select some one who has achieved a third or fourth position in timing or distance in athletics in Ninth Asian Games to represent the country in Tenth Asian Games after four years. In the Tenth Asian Game, by the timing and distance of the Gold medals of Ninth Asian, no one has won gold or silver medal; we knowingly selected people who attained third and fourth position. Why? Not because we are great lovers of sports but because out of 400 sportmen more than 100 officials will go there. Who are the officials? What is their involvement to sports? What is their involvement to the selection. It is only to the tune if fifty athletes go, fourteen officials will go. If 400 athletes go, one hundred officials will go. In that case my number will also come. This is what they keep in their mind at the time of selection. This is the main theme of selection. Under the garb of autonomy this has been going on for a very long time. It is unfortunate that poor Mrs. Margret Alva has to face all this. In fact she has nothing to do with it—neither with the selection nor with the training. On the contrary when the case was initiated for Jalaluddin, she got a snub from the Indian Hockey Federation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Each Member will take only ten minutes. Time will be restricted to ten minutes for each Member. Please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : My first suggestion to the hon. Sports Minister is that the sports should be made subject on the Concurrent List and secondly the autonomy of Associations, whether it is Indian Olympic Association or it is any Association or Federation, their autonomy should be scrapped. They should be autonomous only to the tune of ensuring that the money given by the Ministry is properly spent. But so far as the selection of the national team is either concerned the Government should take over or there should be National Sports Selection Committee for each discipline.

We make sports policy and the policy maker is this House. We are going to approve sports policy. But we have no say in its implementation, in monitoring. We will have no right to put our foot down when the selection is wrongly made.

What happened in Tenth Asian Game ? There was a shooter who was selected in the last Olympic and this Asian Game. He is the son of a very big VIP of an Association. Every time before the Asian or Olympics his photo appears in papers as a medal prospect. But he always comes 27th, 46th, 16th in actual competition

At selection stage lay pigeon is released at a lower speed than the stipulated speed of the Asian and Olympics. He gets more time to aim, but when he goes in the international competition, when the release of the clay pigeon is done according to the international timing, he is nowhere, he is way down and then they say, the environment did not suit him. And every time he is selected ! And then we cannot say to Government to create more infrastructure because whether you create any amount of infrastructure or not, unless selection and training is in the hands of either the Government or a National Sports and Training Committee, nothing will improve. You will be surprised, Madam, that the South Korean team in the IX Asian Games was last in hockey. Now they won the gold medal in Tenth Asian Games. Immediately after that debacle here in 1982, Korean team was selected within six months and for the next 18 months they were subjected to commando training of the Army, nothing to do with that hockey, they did not see a hockey stick for 18 months and then they were brought on ground and for two years the same team was playing hockey together. I do not subscribe to the hon. Goswamiji's suggestion that the teams must be changed, the younger people should be exposed to the international environment. It is very dangerous, like hon. K.P. Singh Deoji has said that if you achieve the peak, before the tournament the sportsman burns out, by the time the tournament takes place at the semi-final or final stage. In the same manner, Madam, if you expose a youngster to an international meet prematurely, it can demoralise him to the extent that he will never reach the stage

of an international player. So, one has got to do this—selection and training, which is the work of the Federations and other associations, methodically. Actually, the only autonomous body should be the Sports Ministry. I am very glad that the hon. Minister is taking so much interest, but nobody should have autonomy over the Government and when our players are selected on merit, nothing will go wrong with them. Look at the Army, Navy and Air Force boxers, our wrestlers and our equestrian team. I think they have done very well in the X Asian Games in spite of their horses being wrongly disqualified because of their serum inspection. Although we took absolutely raw horses, still we got the silver and bronze, if I am correct. It is a great credit. The same way of training should be given to other people. Not like foot-ball and hockey. We were first, then we became second, then we became sixth, in the world championship we became 12th. I would suggest that to boost the morale of our hockey team we should make a SAARC hockey championship, in which only Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma etc. should take part.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : No Pakistan ?

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : And we must make sure that Pakistan is excluded. Otherwise there is no hope in hell if Charanjit Kumars keeps on getting selected over Jalal-d-dins. (Interruptions)

Madam, another big suggestion is about these Snipes and NIS. How long will he be kept as Chairman of the NIS, who has been there for 25-30 years ? God knows what is his age ! There must be some organisational change done even at the top level. I have had the honour of visiting this Institute and I personally feel it is more of a *tamasha* than any particular serious training. In three weeks they try to train a national team, in six months they try to train a national coach. What is this joke ? National coaches should be of the level like we have our national musicians and our national scholars. How much they are respected ! To our national coaches not even an Under Secretary of the Sports Departments speaks and we are talking of national coaches. And they are trained by NIS and controlled by Snipes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is why I think some standard is left.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Now we are making a lot of stadiums. Government has got less funds. My suggestion is that instead of the stadiums we should make more play-fields, we should make more and better tracks because stadiums can be used for purposes other than sports also.

Now, another thing which Mr. Goswami has also told is this. I had the occasion to go abroad. Madam, I saw when the school games took place in the 3rd grade and 4th grade school students, when they had the tournament or match, their parents flocked the ground and cheered up the children. Here, I can assure you, all of us are sitting. Let us not tell lies. How many of us have gone and encouraged our children when they are playing in the 3rd grade and 4th grade teams. We do not go. We first try to find out, for a tournament opening or closing ceremony—

[*Translation*]

—whether P.M. is going there or not.

[*English*]

We first find out—

[*Translation*]

—if Margaret Alva is going there or not.

[*English*]

If we find the Minister Sahib is coming, then we go and attend the opening and closing ceremonies. These opening and closing ceremonies of the championship should be banned, because 60 to 70% of expenditure is wasted on these ceremonies which have no relation whatsoever with the disciplines. You give the money to them and the photos are published in the papers of the federation chairman standing by the side of the Minister giving away the prize. But what is the timing, what was the distance thrown in the shot put, nobody is bothered. They only want the opening and closing ceremonies. Unfortunately, from

the 9th Asian Games, we have not learnt the habit of going faster and farther. We have learnt the habit of how to organise the opening ceremony and closing ceremony.

About the Armed Forces, I will give you an example. In 1962, the Indian Athletic Championship was held in Jabalpur. The Madhya Pradesh Athletic Association gave an estimate of expenditure for running the tournament and it was exorbitant. Then, the tournament was given to be run by a mere Signal Training Centre located at Jabalpur. They ran it with 1/4th of the expenditure with 4 times efficiency. It is because, there were no garlands and such like wasteful expense.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member's time is up. Please conclude.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Madam, I have just started. Madam, in conclusion, I want to say only two points. I want to share a secret with you all my hon. friends. India is the only country in the world which plays all games. There is no country in the world which plays all games. And to our credit, we are the only country in the world who are not champion today of any game. Now, my humble submission is, we must select some games, some disciplines... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't disturb him.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : We must select some games and some disciplines which suit us, according to our climate, our physique and our temperament. There are some games which require calorie strength more, which either we should develop or we do not develop, we should try to give those games second priority. And we must highlight by giving finances and other resources on those games which suit us. It is not necessary that all games should be taken up. If I was the President of the Volley Ball Association and I had failed to win the Association election, I make another Association—direct Volley Ball Association. When there also, I am chucked out, then I make it, Throw Ball Association. Madam, these games have come up and you give the same amount to these games—may not be you—because

you have no right on sports. The States give, because you say that it is the State Government which should take care of this. Sports is like an orphan but that is not even accepted in the orphanage. The Minister says that it is the responsibility of the Federation and Association. Federation and Association say, we only give directions to our State units. The State Governments only give financial assistance in the beginning and middle of the year. They have got the List of Federations of the State who are given money, Rs. 5,000, Rs. 10,000, or Rs. 20,000. What happens to that money? We cannot say anything because they are autonomous. This autonomy is the main enemy of our sports development.

My suggestion is that so far as the national games, national teams and national athletes are concerned, they should be directly controlled by you. For example, hockey. There is the Indian Hockey Federation. There are two Federations in Bhopal. Hockey is very popular in Bhopal. There was a split in Bhopal Hockey Association. Two federations came into being in hockey due to politics. One federation got recognition from the Indian Olympic Association and that federation sent the team for the nationals and Bhopal team lost by 44 goals.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I suggest "Allow him 15 goals."

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : This laughter directly reflects our condemnation of the performance of Federations and Associations. That is why I am asking the hon Minister to do something about this. If necessary, change the law because tomorrow you cannot keep on heaping insults over us in hockey. Leave aside football. Our men's football team should enter in the international women's team.

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) : Why are you insulting women's games ?

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : I only impress upon the hon. Minister that they should be brought under Concurrent List. Otherwise, a national selection organisation should be made and we must declare some games and some athletes as national property. After all, Pele was declared as national property of Brazil. Maradona was declared the national property of Argentina. Gavaskar is virtually our national property. Declare Usha as national property. We are proud that you are a lady. She is a lady. I am given so much chance to speak. I will be quite happy to be a lady in my next life.

DR. T. KALPANA DEVI (Warangal) : It is true that the performance of the Indian sportsmen at the 10th Asian Games held at Seoul in 1986 was not only very very poor but sub-standard and shameful. The inaugural Asian Games were held in New Delhi in the year 1951 for the first time. These the leader of our country Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India, gave a call to play the games with the spirit of the game which was a watch word of the Indian Sports Administration in the years to come. At that time, India was placed second behind the champions of Japan in the games. Again in 1982, after a period of 31 years, 9th Asiad was held in New Delhi with an expenditure of Rs. 1,000 crores in spite of many protests from many corners. The country was then under the leadership of our late Prime Minister Srimati Indira Gandhi. In that game, we won 57 medals including 13 Gold medals. We must remember that at that time, P.T. Usha's contribution was not there.

Again in 1986, within a period of four years, in the 10th Asian Games, India won 37 medals including 5 Gold and 9 Silver, under the leadership of our young Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Within a period of four years, South Korea surprisingly gave a hot chase for the supremacy. They ran neck-to-neck with the Chinese and they won. Even Japan maintained its status. But the only country India has failed to achieve any success. It was far behind in spite of the improvement. There is deterioration in their performance.

It was a national shame. Our nation which consist of 70 million population,

[Dr. T. Kalpana Devi]

could not compete with a small country like South Korea. This is the progress India achieved in the field of sports right from the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Shri Rajiv Gandhi's time. I would like to know from the hon. Minister is it due to the fault of the players or due to selection of players or is it the fault of the Government or the fault of the bureaucrats? Whom shall we blame now? At least I am proud to say that out of 5 Gold medals, 4 Gold Medals and 3 silver medals were brought home by our women athletes. We are grateful to Miss P.T. Usha who saved our face to a certain extent.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda) : That is why the women Minister is holding this portfolio.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Madam Chairman, what Kalpanaji wants to say is that where men athletes failed, women athletes saved our face. Now find out, who is the man among them.

[English]

DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : I feel that this is due to the lack of proper infrastructure, planning and lack of foresight, lack of training and coordination. The biggest mistake India committed was by way of sending such a big incompetent contingent of 400 including 97 officials. When the other countries could improve their standards by leaps and bounds within four years, why not our sportsmen achieve something. Practically, there was no improvement within this four years, except P.T. Usha who never won a gold medal in the IX Asiad. But, she has won 4 Gold medals in the 10th Asiad. I don't think any sportsmen of our country are incompetent. But the only thing that I can say is that they have no proper training from the beginning and no proper assistance to the players has been provided during these four years. They need coaches who understand their psychology and they must be able to teach them the latest techniques in the games. Many talented youngsters

can be seen around. No one is born as a champion. Champions are made out of a lot by training, encouragement from the very beginning of their life.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many Indian boys and girls are encouraged by these sports bodies and given intensive coaching at the Government's expenditure. Except the queen of the Games P.T. Usha who bagged 4 gold medals out of 5 gold medals and a handful of others, the rest of the Indian Team performed just below the average. Obviously, it shows the lack of proper techniques, inadequate preparation to sustain Asiad standards. Not only that. There is a total lack of knowledge of the standards prevailing in other countries. According to the Sportsteam, they say that they have been left far behind to keep pace with the developments in other countries. Further they say that they have no financial backing or equipment to compete with the Japanese or the Chinese or the Koreans.

Sports and games cannot be learnt in a day or two; training is needed for many years. Selective training to suitable persons should be given right from their childhood.

The Indian contingent was the largest ever sent by a country, that is 400 including 97 officials. The most surprising thing was that one out of every ten participants in the Games was Indian.

Now, we should think of the future. The Tenth Asiad should serve as an eye-opener to us. The first and fundamental step to be taken is that we must have the proper infrastructure. Government must encourage sports and games from the primary school onwards. The boys and girls must be trained selectively and in selected games with an aim to participate in international games; they must be trained with competitive spirit; we must create confidence in them, right from the grassroot level, that is from the rural areas.

Even after four decades of independence, to our surprise, there is no stadium in

many big towns. I request the hon. Minister to note it. At least in the Seventh Plan we must have some more stadia. I request that one stadium should be established in Warangal also. Steps should be taken to establish sports institutions. Voluntary organisations must be encouraged. National teams must be prepared to participate in international competitions. Proper selection—without any interference of politics or politicians—should be ensured. Qualified coaches should be provided for better results and for the best performance in future.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
—Contd.

[English]

Delhi Declaration Signed by Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and H.E. Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between India and U.S.S.R. and note on Consular Convention

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) Delhi Declaration signed by the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and His Excellency General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev on principles for a nuclear-weapon free and non-violent world.
- (2) Agreement on economic and technical cooperation between India and USSR; and
- (3) A Note on Consular Convention between India and USSR signed by me and the Soviet Foreign Minister.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3320/86]

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

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 6th November, 1986, when my Starred Question No. 43 on this very subject of our disappointing performance at the Asian Games in Seoul was there and when I was called upon to put a supplementary question by the hon. Speaker, I prefaced my remarks by saying that the overall result at the Asian Games was a matter of shame for India, and I remember, the whole House at that time joined me in that. Genuinely this was the feeling of all Indians and this was reflected in the various editorials that were written by the newspapers at that time. It is but natural because a country which is close to having eight hundred million people could gather only five Gold Medals and could secure only the fifth place in the whole of Asia whereas China and South Korea could gather 94 Gold Medals and 93 Gold Medals, respectively. Even this small success which we got is the result of the performance of a few exceptional individuals such as P.T. Usha and Kartar Singh, who got a gold medal in wrestling. The general rise in the number of high quality performances in a wide range of sports was absolutely lacking as far as these games are concerned.

In the past, as has already been referred to, in Hockey our predominance was acknowledged throughout the world. Now we have suffered traumatic decline in that game also. The one matter of concern is that future also looks very bleak at the moment. Many of these present participants may not be available for participating in the next Asiad and we have not still planned to change the situation as far as the future is also concerned.

In this House and throughout the country also everybody is of the opinion that international sporting success very much matters as far as a nation is concerned. It is always legitimate and very important source for nurturing nationalist feeling and pride.