

(vii) Need to accord approval to the proposal of Sikkim Government for construction of a Stadium in the State

[English]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim) : The attention of Union Government has already been drawn that Sikkim does not have a proper stadium with the required facilities to organise variety of sports activities. Every year, Sikkim hosts tournaments participated by teams from different parts of the country but organisation of these tournaments causes considerable inconvenience to visiting teams and the general public in the absence of required facilities for such tournaments. Availability of proper stadium not only will reduce the inconvenience and hardship of participating teams and the people but will enable the State Government of Sikkim to invite greater participation and encourage local talents also.

The State Government of Sikkim have also made a request to Planning Commission and also submitted detailed projects to concerned Union Ministry for construction of a modern stadium and a gym complex at Gangtok in 1987 but so far no action has been initiated in the matter although more than eight years have passed.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider the long pending request of Sikkim and accord necessary approval to the proposal made in this regard so that hidden talent in sports amongst youth of Sikkim could be exhibited in future National and International sports events.

(viii) Need to write off loans of Farmers of Indira Gandhi Canal Project area of Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pucca Water Courses have been constructed in Indira Gandhi Canal Project area but for this, dual policy has been applied. For the first phase of construction of Pucca Water Courses, the farmers have been asked to bear the expenses in the shape of loans, whereas the expenses of the second phase have been borne by the Government itself. This dual policy is not pragmatic and justifiable.

In a short-period, Pucca Water Courses constructed in first phase have got damaged due to water logging, whereas, in the meantime, the loans of the farmers have multiplied five times. I would also like to say that the cost of construction of water courses constructed by neighbour State Governments, has been borne by these State Governments and not by the farmers.

In view of the above facts, I request the Central Government to take necessary action for writing off these loans of the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.23 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-Three Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

**GENERAL BUDGET-1995-96
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**

Ministry of Defence - Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall commence our business. Shrimati Girija Devi.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharajganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is the third day we are discussing the budgetary provisions of the Defence Ministry. In the present circumstances, we cannot separate Defence Ministry from Finance and External Affairs Ministries. We can manage the affairs of Defence Ministry with the inter-relation of the other ministries. We have faced many wars. At that time, though it was not a peace period and though our foreign policy was not on sound footing, it became clear who was our friend and who was our foe. Despite our extending the hand of friendship, either through SAARC or by visiting foreign countries, we have not been so successful because of our faulty foreign policy. The Central Government has not formulated any policy regarding our defence preparedness. Our defence perceptions have been belied during the last three years. We relied on Russia but that country has been crippled. We have to go all alone in defence preparedness. We have to make our own defence strategy. All our agreements, whether these concern economic policy, commerce policy or our Finance, have failed our old conventional defence strategy. We have borders with Pakistan, Bangla Desh and China. There is large-scale infiltration from these borders in India. We fought many battles but what benefit we got from these battles? We sent Indian Peace keeping forces in Sri Lanka and our jawans suffered heavy casualties but even then our relations became strained with that country. We should not consider any neighbouring country our friend or foe for ever. Instead, we should be so much strong that no country may dare to cross our borders. We fought for Bangladesh. We faced unprovoked wars in 1962 and in 1965 and we helped our neighbour also. But we should have a policy as to upto what extent we will extend our help to other