

appropriate action. In the case of the remaining federations, the Sports Authority of India is requested to use its good offices for remedial action.

**Provisions of Playgrounds in Schools/
Colleges in Urban Areas**

*209. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 80 per cent of the total schools, colleges and universities do not have their own playgrounds, especially in the urban areas;

(b) if so, whether Government, in consultation with State Governments, would take up a programme launch 'more playgrounds movement' in this International Youth Year taking the advantage of Urban Land Ceiling Act, Rural Land Ceiling Act and if necessary, by normal acquisition of land for sports purposes; and

(c) the number of stadia and playgrounds available in each State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c). According to the latest All India Educational Survey (Fourth) brought out by the National Council of Educational Research and Training with the 30th September, 1978 as the reference date, 52.74 per cent of the 6,34,144 schools in the country had playfields. Of these, 77,271 schools were in the urban areas and 55.86 per cent out of these had playfields. According to a survey conducted by Association of Indian Universities in 1978, there were 112 universities and 874 colleges in the country. While the percentage of universities and colleges having playfields is not available, it would be seen that when the universities, colleges and schools in the country are put together, the percentage of the educational institutions having playfields would be a little over 52. These figures underline the need for provision of more playfields in our edu-

cational institutions.

The Government Resolution on National Sports Policy adopted by the Government of India with the support of the State Governments and laid on the Table of the two Houses of Parliament on the 21st August, 1984 states, *inter-alia*, that no programme of promotion of sports and physical education on a large scale can succeed unless the minimum sports facilities such as playfields, etc. are provided in villages and towns alike for the general public, industrial workers and in educational institutions. The Resolution also provides :

"PRESERVATION OF PLAY-FIELDS AND OPEN SPACES : The Central and State Governments should make efforts to ensure, if necessary by suitable legislation, that existing playfields and stadia in rural and urban areas are preserved for sports purposes and progressively more existing open spaces are made available for sports and physical education activities".

The expectation is that in consonance with the above policy statement, the State Governments would take appropriate steps for providing more playfields in educational institutions and also generally. The Union Government has, on its part, invited the attention of the State Governments to this need in the context of the National Sports Policy and has urged them to take suitable steps for progressively making more play-grounds available for sports purposes.

With a view to assisting the State Governments for providing stadia and play-fields, the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports operates a scheme of grant of financial assistance to State Sports Councils, local bodies, etc. on a sharing basis. An allocation of Rs. 247 lakhs for this purpose has been proposed in the budget for 1985-86. While the number of play-fields and stadia in the whole country is not available, there were 125 stadia in districts headquarters in 1982. It is proposed to assist the State Governments for providing each district headquarter with a stadium during the Seventh Five Year Plan.