

compared in the last 2 or 3 months. The A.P. Express, a super-fast train has been running late by about 2 to 3 hours daily, both ways. Will the hon. Minister enquire into the reasons for this delay? It may be more beneficial to go into the reasons for the delay in each super-fast train.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We are constantly monitoring the chronic late runners; and I could not catch the name of the particular name which the hon. Member mentioned.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : It is the A.P. Express.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I will also be looking into this. There are these chronic bad runners, which are being looked into. The A.P. Express is also one such train.

Allocation of Funds for Establishment of Rural Sports Centres

*523 **SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the States which have been allocated funds for the establishment of rural Sports Centres;

(b) the Central assistance given to the States so far for this purpose; and

(c) the number of students from Maharashtra, who have been granted scholarships under the 'Sports talent scholarship' scheme during 1986-87?

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) : (a) and (b). On the basis of proposals received, financial assistance of Rs. 15.19 lakhs has been rendered to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh for establishment and maintenance of Rural Sports Centres during the year 1986-87,

(c) During 1986-87, a total of 384 students from Maharashtra have been granted scholarships under the Sports Talent Scholarship Schemes.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : The Government is giving much importance to rural sports centres. In view of the fact that some of the applications of the rural sports centres sent to the Government of India through the State Governments are not forwarded in time, or are not forwarded at all—with the result that those sports centres are deprived of Central Government grants—if the rural sports centres send their applications to the government being recommended by the Members of Parliament—of course, a copy is being submitted to the State Government—will the government consider those applications and given grant to them?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : The sports centre scheme is operated on a 50 : 50 sharing basis. Therefore, when we receive applications, any number of centres from the State can be funded by us provided the State also makes a commitment that they will put in 50 per cent of the grant. The suggestion made by the MP has been discussed with the State Government and they are not prepared to allow us to decentralise it to the extent of directly funding the district.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I have not asked for decentralisation. I am asking for consideration of the application. It may so happen that the State Government never considers some applications in time. When such applications are being received by the Centre, will they forward them to the States for due consideration? What amount has been given to the State of Orissa, for how many centres and how many students have been given scholarship in 1986-87 under the sports talent scholarship scheme?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : As far as Orissa is concerned, we have given them Rs. 1,22,860 for 269 rural centres. As I said that this is only 50 per cent; the other 50 per cent is put by the State. The suggestion made by the hon. member that we should directly fund is something which we are prepared to take it up with the State Government again, because it would also make it easier for us. I have got the total

of the scholarship; State-wise break-up I do not have. I am prepared to give it to you; I will try to give the exact number.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what disciplines do they include in Sports Centres and in what particular fields the assistance is given to the State Government? Will he give some direct grant for the development of play-grounds in the rural areas so that we could recommend such play-grounds and send the proposals to him? Will he make some separate provision for the development of play-grounds and sports centres?

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I had a couple of months ago, written to all the Members of Parliament informing them that we had introduced a new scheme by which we are giving Rs. 1 lakh per year per district for development of rural play-fields and that they should get District Collector to send proposals through their State Governments. Here again we have been in touch with the State Governments because very often the proposals from the district do not come to Delhi in time because the State Governments take their own time to forward them. We have called a meeting of the State Ministers of Sports next month to discuss the possibility of decentralisation; that if a certificate from the Collector is attached saying that the land is available and could be developed, we may directly fund the district so that there are no difficulties.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANAND SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems that India is trailing far behind in the field of sports. During the last few years, we have seen that we are sinking to the bottom in sports, whether it is cricket or hockey. In view of all these things, I would like to know whether Government would consider increasing the scholarship? Secondly, as our country continues to be predominantly rural, will the hon. Minister consider framing some radical policy so as to encourage the talent in sports and also to develop the sports in rural areas? If the

Government gives them adequate scholarship, we can make tremendous strides in the field of sports.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I am glad to inform the hon. Member that we have increased both the number and the value of the scholarship over the last one year. There has been a three hundred fold rise—three times we have increased the number and the annual amount has also been increased three times as far as the value of this scholarship is concerned, and I would like to tell...(*Interruption*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : How much is it?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : It is Rs. 3,600 a year and there are two types of scholarships one at the State level and one at the national level, those who reach the national championships and those who receive...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Three times or three hundred times?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Three times means we have increased it three fold both in value and in money, which is three hundred per cent.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Reddy is very much particular about the percentage.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : It is Rs. 3600 per year, it has gone up.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : May I know from the hon. Minister, how many rural sports centres have been opened so far in the country?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : In West Bengal.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Not in West Bengal, but in the country because he has already mentioned the amount sanctioned for the rural centres but he has not mentioned about it.

MR. SPEAKER : It is 'she' not 'he'.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : She has not mentioned about it. She has mentioned

about the amount sanctioned, not the centres and the number actually opened. And, who is executing this scheme, whether the Sports Councils are entrusted with the execution of these centres or any other authority? Also, may I know from the Minister whether she has received any proposal from the Government of West Bengal? She has not mentioned about West Bengal. How many proposals has she received from West Bengal? (*Interruptions*) What? No proposal?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I can answer if you sit down. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that as far as the entire country is concerned...(*Interruptions*) I am sorry—the hon. Member.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He was mistaking her for 'he' and she mistook him to be a Minister!

MR. SPEAKER : Look at the difference between him and her.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : He was talking so much about West Bengal that I made a mistake...(*Interruptions*). We have opened 3,111 rural sports centres in all the States totally and the outlay has been Rs. 10,14,826. I must tell the hon. Member that we have no pending proposal from West Bengal. In fact, in our list there are no centres from West Bengal at the moment and West Bengal probably have not sent us any proposal as yet.

I would also like to tell the hon. Member that we do not directly give it to the District Sports Councils. The proposals come to us from the State Government and it is up to the State Government to decide which agency will actually execute them in that State.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : If we send direct, will you process it?

SHRI A. CHARLES : The answer given by the hon. Minister is that financial assistance is being given to the States. I am sorry that Kerala has been left out. You know the contribution made by Kerala to uphold the honour of the nation in the field of sports. Two projects have been sent by

the Kerala Government including one for a stadium with synthetic track. May I know from the hon. Minister whether in view of the special case of Kerala these projects will be processed as expeditiously as possible and a favourable decision taken?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I would like to say, that if there are no sports centres sanctioned under this scheme, it is because we have not received any proposal for this particular scheme from Kerala, but I would like to tell the hon. Member that all the three proposals which were received from the State of Kerala have received special attention and grants up to Rs. 2 crores have been sanctioned to Kerala for all the proposals which have come from Kerala.

Opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas in Maharashtra

*524. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to open a large number of Navodaya Vidyalayas in the Maharashtra State during 1987-88;

(b) if so, whether the sites have since been selected;

(c) the details of the locations where Navodaya Vidyalayas are likely to be opened in Maharashtra;

(d) how much land has been provided by the State Government for this purpose; and

(e) when these Vidyalayas will start functioning in the Maharashtra State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (e). The number of Navodaya Vidyalayas to be set-up in Maharashtra during 1987-88 is yet to be decided.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of State for