

ther the Government is going to manufacture the iron bars so that they may supply the same for the construction of the dialling equipment in the rural areas.

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH: The whole matter, as I have said, needs material and financial resources. Therefore, the Government has set up a Study Group for it. I am expecting that the Study Group will go into the entire matter and will submit a report to the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you now hear?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No, Sir. It is not working.

MR. SPEAKER: We must look it up. Before the House starts its business, this should be checked.

Mr. Netam,

Asian Games 1982

*3. **SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Games 1982 will be held in New Delhi;

(b) how much financial investment is involved; and

(c) the details of preparation made upto now?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration.

श्री अरविंद नेताम : अध्यक्ष जी, मंत्री महोदय ने जो जवाब दिया है, वह काफी अपर्याप्त है। एशियन गेम्स 1982 में नई दिल्ली में होने हैं, इस के लिये दो साल का समय रह गया है और इन दो सालों में जितना बड़ा स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स बनाना है, मैं समझता हूँ दो साल पहले से ही उस पर निर्माण कार्य शुरू हो जाना चाहिए था। इस सम्बंध में एशियन गेम्स फेडरेशन के प्रेसीडेंट ने आशंका व्यक्त की है कि 1982 में जो एशियन गेम्स होने हैं, वह मामला अघर में अभी

तक लटका हुआ है, और अभी पिछले दिनों में इस सदन के माननीय सदस्य श्री बूटा सिंह के नेतृत्व में एक डेलीगेशन माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी से मिला था और प्रधान मंत्री जी ने आश्वासन दिया है कि 1982 में एशियन गेम्स होंगे। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि 1982 में एशियन गेम्स होंगे या नहीं यह कम से कम पहले बता दीजिए ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand the anxiety of the hon'ble Member and his interest in sports. It is natural that the people—especially the sportsmen of this country are very eager to see that the Asian Games are held in 1982 in India but the hon'ble Members must be aware that it is not so easy to say whether it will be held or will not be held in India as it entails so many considerations. The cost of building the sports complex has shot up considerably high. Then, Sir, we are to see that the holding of the Asian Games is a success. It is not merely doing something in a hurry. But I would like to say that Government is very seriously considering the cost aspect of the games and the matter is under earnest consideration of the Government.

श्री अरविंद नेताम : अध्यक्ष जी, पिछले दो तीन सालों में सरकार का जो रवैया रहा है, वह वैसा ही था जैसा कि श्रीरंगजेब बादशाह का संगीत के प्रति रहा था। मैं नई सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि एशियन गेम्स कमेटी जो बनी है उस को वह बदलने जा रही है और यदि हां तो कब तक बदलेगे ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the question is not clear in the sense that there are many committees, namely, steering committee, organising committee and various other technical committees at various levels.

श्री अरविंद नेताम : मेरा मतलब आर्गनाइजेशन कमेटी से है।

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Changing of organising committee is not in the hands of the government. It is an elected body independent of the government.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, is it not a fact that several years

ago this commitment was made on behalf of our country that the Asian games will be held in India in 1982. May I know from the government as to on what basis or for what reasons we are re-considering the matter. The hon'ble Minister has indicated that the matter is under consideration. After having made a definite commitment to hold the games what are the reasons and basis on which the matter is being reconsidered? I would also like to know whether reason given by the former Prime Minister about wasteful expenditure etc. is one of the grounds on which the present government is re-considering the matter or are there other grounds? I would like to urge upon the government to make a specific declaration about holding or non-holding of the games so that the uncertainty about it is removed as quickly as possible as it is very damaging, not only damaging to our image but also for the sports in our country.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I never meant, while speaking with reference to the cost aspect of the game; that it is a wasteful expenditure. I never said that. I don't subscribe to any thinking of that sort. We never said that.

Sir, hon. Members must know that the bidding of the national games was done on the condition that the Government had a right to withdraw from the holding of the games. Well, in the beginning, estimates were made to the tune of Rs. 80 crores after the bidding took place. But when Government considered it, the Government tried to bring it down to the level of Rs. 40 crores. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is being looked into.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Finally the Government thought, if it could go on with the.....

MR. SPEAKER: A bit louder. Members have not got hearing aid. You

may speak a bit louder. You are a Sports Minister.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I will be louder. But I cannot shout. But, the financial commitment of the Government has been doubled since the bidding of the game. Naturally the Government should give its thought to the financial aspect of it, the financial commitment of it. I cannot say at this time as to what will be the financial commitment and financial implication on the part of the Government in this regard. Things will be settled very soon.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the holding of the Asian Games in 1982 is a national and an international commitment. We have made this commitment. The whole world knows it. The whole of Asia knows about it. Now, at this stage, to say that the matter is still under consideration is not correct. I would urge upon the Minister to consider that the expenditure that is going to be incurred on these Asian Games is not wasteful. They are going to build up certain permanent assets.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I never said wasteful.

DR. KARAN SINGH: What I am saying is, they are going to build up certain infra-structural facilities which will be a permanent asset to Delhi, and Delhi is the capital of a great nation. If we back out from these Asian Games at this stage it will not be correct. You may recall that there was difference of opinion even in the previous Government and we made it very clear that backing-out at this stage will really erode the image of India in the world. I would urge upon the hon. Minister not to take the Finance Ministry too seriously in this matter, but to reiterate the national and the international commitment made to hold these Games.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I am sorry if my statement has given any

impression to Members that we are backing out. My statement in the House does not indicate that we are backing out at this moment.

DR. KARAN SINGH: A very lukewarm statement.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: The statement of the hon. Minister is not very clear. This commitment, as has been pointed out, dates from the days earlier than 1976 when the Government of India and the Representative of the Indian Delegation made a commitment of this at Montreal Olympics. I really wonder whether there is time now to have any reconsideration. The Asian Games at the earliest has to take place in 1982. In 1981 it was agreed that a full-dress rehearsal would be made. I want to know whether the stadia and the swimming pools, the stadium for the track events and other things have been constructed, at what stage of construction they are and whether they will be completed by 1981.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: To put the facts straight, I should say to the hon. Member that we did not make any commitment at Montreal.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: What is the stage of construction of these things?

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the next question.

Food Production

*4. **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the food production in the country in the years 1977-78 and 1978-79;

(b) whether this production has shown increase over the food production in the preceding two years; and

(c) if so, what were concrete factors responsible for this increase?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The production of foodgrains at the all-India level has been 126.41 million tonnes during 1977-78 and 131.37 million tonnes in 1978-79.

(b) The production of foodgrains during 1977-78 marked an increase of 5.38 million tonnes over the level in 1975-76 and 15.24 million tonnes over the level in 1976-77. The production of foodgrains during 1978-79 marked an increase of 20.20 million tonnes over the level in 1976-77 and 4.96 million tonnes over the level in 1977-78.

(c) Apart from the favourable weather conditions during 1977-78 and 1978-79, various development programmes which were intensified during the years contributed to realising higher levels of foodgrain production. These, among other things, included extended coverage of high yielding varieties, increased and balanced use of fertilisers, extensive adoption of plant protection measures, intensive training of extension workers and farmers, identification of suitable varieties for different situations through mini-kit programmes and timely planting of high yielding varieties of rice.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Before I come to my supplementary I would like to submit to you about the procedure of framing the question. I never asked a statement to be laid on the Table of the House. It is not such a big statement. He could have read it. If he had read it, the Members would have known the figures.