

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Thursday, August 20, 1987/29 Sravana,
1909 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

India's Performance in Seventh Athletic Meet at Singapore

*351. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to inquire into the casuses of India sliding down in the medals tally in the Seventh Athletic Meet held at national Stadium, Singapore;

(b) if so, by what time it is proposed to be done; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take to improve India's performance in athletic?

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) No, Sir, as Government consider the performance as satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Amateur Athletic Federation of India has prepared in consultation with Government a project Report for preparation of Indian team for the Asian Games to be held in Beijing in 1990. A detailed programme for the coaching of athletes and their participation in domestic and international events in the next 3 years has been drawn up. All efforts are also being made to provide necessary equipment for the training of these athletes.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very much surprised at the answer given to Part (a). When I had asked whether Government propose to inquire into the causes of India sliding down in the medals tally in the Seventh Athletic Meet held at National Stadium, Singapore, the reply was, No, as Government consider the performance as satisfactory.

Now, India which had come second behind China at the last Asian Track and Field meet held in September 1985 at Jakarta slide back three positions in the medals table in the meet held at National Stadium, Singapore. The Indians had garnered 21 medals at Jakarta including ten gold, five silver and six bronze. This time, the nine member squad could only come up with seven medals - three gold, three silver and a solitary bronze. India had ended fifth behind China, Qatar Japan and South Korea. In view of all these results, do you still consider our performance as satisfactory.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister... (Interruptions) I am very sorry Sir. Slip of the tongue.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: When he is going to be there?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: She has revealed the plans of reshuffle.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I am very sorry. I apologise.

In the last meet, we had sent forty two players and won twenty one medals in the meet at that time. Forty two participated. Out of which, it is true that twenty one medals were won by us. But such standards have since then changed and it was felt that in order that our preparations must be at a much higher level, only those who qualify in the last Asian games at Seoul should be sent this time so that a higher level of training is insisted on right from the beginning. Therefore, according to the qualifying marks that were set and according to the last meet in Jakarta and the last Asian games in Seoul, only nine had qualified. Therefore only nine were sent. And the 9 member team won 7 medals. This is part of our scheme to raise the standards and not to allow any one to participate at the last time level. That is why, higher standards were set for the training itself.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Send one and win one hundred per cent victory.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVPAO SCINDA): Send P.T. Usha and win for us.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: I have also put a Starred Question No. 43 on 6th November, 1986. The reply to both the question and the supplementary given by the hon. Minister, had shown that 'now in this plan Rs. 200 crores have been allotted as against Rs. 15 crores in the last plan for sports'. Apart from the complacent view Government has taken, I would like to know whether any scheme has been prepared regarding Rs. 200 crores so that infrastructure can be provided in the States and particularly any scheme for revision of this practice of selecting the sportsmen for sending to the international meets?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: To the

first part I would say that it is true that we have now got an allotment of Rs. 200 crores for the whole plan. During this plan period several schemes have been worked out for creating infrastructure. I would like to mention particularly five regional centres which are now coming up in Imphal, Calcutta, Bangalore, Gandhinagar and of course, in Patiala and Delhi - besides two sub-centres in Gauhati and Aurangabad where the necessary international standard infrastructure with synthetic track and play fields are being provided.

As for the selection processes, I am glad to inform the House that now guidelines have been finalised and they are coming into effect from 1st of September in which much more broad basing committees of selection both of national coaches of teams as well as supervising their training during the next three years have been provided.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: In any scheme for improvement of India's performance in athletics, national coaches will occupy an important position. Is the Government aware of this fact? And is the Government going to improve the term and facilities for these coaches?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: We have realised this and the new guidelines are providing not only for a special status but also for a special allowance from the SAI to those who would be recognised as national coaches.

SHRI T. BASHEER: Is it correct that while speaking in a conference in Bangalore, the hon. Minister said that there were lot of complaints regarding the selection of athletes to the international meets? If it is true, does the Government propose to evolve a new mechanism for selecting the athletes to the international athletics meets?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: It is true that I said this and it is a fact that we do get repeated complaints about selection processes. To overcome this, we have had detailed discussions with the federations,

coaches and others. We have now worked out a system by which the selection of these athletes or sportsmen will not be left entirely to the federations. We want that there should be an observer from SAI. And broad-basing selection processes should take place. In fact, camps have already started and as we go along, these selection committees will identify people and the rest will be dropped out till the final selection is made in 1988 for the Asian Games. This also applies to other events also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it not true that a good sportsman is a good soldier also and *vice versa*? The desert soil of Rajasthan is famous for bravery. In order to select talent from these areas, why necessary arrangements are not made in Jaipur so that people belonging to these areas can also participate in the national sports events and serve their motherland as they do in the battle-field? Will the hon. Minister take any action in this regard for the benefit of the people of Rajasthan?

MR. SPEAKER: Keep in view their height and physique. See their large heartedness.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, we do realise that Rajasthan has a great deal of sports talent. But I would say that we have it also in many other parts of the country and we are not selecting any one particular area for the infrastructure development. We have already given a sports hostel to Jaipur. We have also given the rowing centre to Rajasthan. We have got several other schemes also. I am sorry, this is in the Ramgarh Lake which was also used. The Ramgarh Lake was also used during the Asian Games and it is being developed into a national centre. But, Sir, besides that I would like to say that schemes are available to all States. It is for them to come forward with proposals and we consider them and release the money accordingly.

[*Translation*].

Withdrawal of Private Buses from DTC Operation

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*352. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD:
DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR
TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private buses withdrawn from the Delhi Transport Corporation operation during the last four months;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation has engaged other buses in lieu of the aforesaid buses; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b). On account of low operational efficiency and involvement in fatal accidents, the DTC removed 33 P.O. buses during the last four months. Besides, 71 buses were withdrawn by the owners themselves.

(c) and (d). Offers for engagement of 78 new buses have been finalised and eight buses have already joined the fleet.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the reply it appears that more than 100 buses have been withdrawn. The people are facing considerable difficulties on account of this. It seems as if the private operators are not satisfied with you nor you are satisfied with them. You do not have adequate buses to meet the requirements of the public. Do you want to start a three route system?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr Speaker, Sir,