

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to promote hockey in the country.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Madam, I would like to quote just three lines from the letter written by our hon. Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik to the hon. Prime Minister of India on the issue of Hockey.

This is the first line. In 1948, as a new born nation, India witnessed the glory in London when the National Hockey Team won the Olympics Gold Medal. A nation of 33 crore rejoiced as the Gold Medal was won by India in London by defeating the Great Britain.

This is the second line. Prior to 1947, the Great Britain avoided playing against India for many years fearing embarrassment to lose against its colony in India.

The last line of the letter is this. I am not going to read the entire letter. As you know, the next Hockey World Cup will be held in Odisha in November 2018. Hockey truly deserves to be notified as our national game.

Madam Speaker, many of us did not know till we saw the letter of hon. Chief Minister of Odisha that hockey has so far not been declared as the national game. This was further corroborated when an RTI application was filed and the Union Sports Ministry had stated that it is more of a national sentiment. When we can have a national bird, when we can have a national animal, why cannot we have a national game?

I would like to say how Odisha is replacing Sahara in promoting and sponsoring men's and women's hockey in India for the next five years. It is the first time that a State has come forward after Independence to have association with a sports body in order to promote youth, to promote sports and more particularly hockey in the country.

Madam Speaker, I would like to personally invite you as well as all the hon. Members of this House to come to Bhubaneswar in November 2018 and see for yourselves the World Cup Hockey and see how Odisha is moving ahead on all fronts under the dynamic leadership of Mr. Naveen Patnaik.

Before I conclude I would request you, Madam Speaker, to kindly give a direction to the concerned Ministry to declare hockey as the national game before November, 2018 when World Cup Hockey is going to be held in Bhubaneswar. Thank you.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष:**

कुँवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चन्देल और

डॉ. कुलमणि सामल को श्री रवीन्द्र कुमार जेना द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।