

Meetings of National sports Federations

992. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings between the Ministry and the National Sports Federations held during last one year;

(b) whether the Government propose to hold such meetings frequently and consult the Federations regularly;

(c) whether any consultative machinery between the sports departments and the Federations exists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) About ten meetings, both formal and informal, were held between the Ministry, Indian Olympic Association and some National Sports Federations during the last one year. In addition, Presidents of various National Federations have also been included in the various Committees of the Department which meet on a regular basis.

(b) Yes, Sir, as and when required.

(c) and (d). There is no permanent consultative machinery between the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports and the National-Sports Federations, but such consultations take place on a continuing basis, especially through the Sports Authority of India for preparation of Long Term Development Plan.

Special Train for Bangalore

993. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during December, 1991 a special train for Bangalore was introduced;

(b) if so, the total expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) whether the special train was given priority over other trains by adjusting the timings of the regular trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) In December, 1991 a special train was run for Bangalore.

(b) No separate account of expenditure by individual train is maintained on the Indian Railways. The said train was an Inspection Special, classified as Departmental train.

(c) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Litigation Cases Filled Against Andaman and Nicobar Island Branch of I.C.M.R.

994. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of the Andaman and Nicobar Island Branch of I.C.M.R. had filed legal suits against the said branch in the past;

(b) if so, the number of such suits filed; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard keeping in view of the such large number of cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have informed that Nine such suits have been filed during the last ten years which have been/are being defended by them.

[English]

Special Area Games Scheme

995. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVISINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the Special Area Games Scheme was introduced;

(b) the main objective of the scheme;

(c) whether any review has been made on the implementation of the Scheme in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the Scheme effectively in other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) The Special Area Games

was introduced in the year 1985-86.

(b) The main objective of the Scheme is to scout and nurture natural talent for modern competitive games and sports from tribal, hilly, rural and coastal areas of the country. The Scheme also envisages tapping of talent from indigenous games and martial arts and also from regions which either have some genetic or geographic factors advantageous for excellence in a particular sports discipline.

(c) Yes, Sir. Talent scouting has been conducted in Madhya Pradesh, and Orissa in Athletics, Archery & Gymnastics and in Bihar in Hockey & Archery.

(d) A total of 45 boys and 31 girls have been selected in 3 disciplines and are undergoing training. In Athletics, 12 children have been selected from M.P. for the assessment coaching camp.

(e) Besides Bihar, Orissa and M.P. talent has already been scouted and selected from Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, A&N Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, H.P., J & K, Manipur, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab & Sikkim. A total of 304 boys and 144 girls are undergoing training in 16 disciplines.

[Translation]

Environmental award

996. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have instituted any national prize in the field of environment;

(b) if so, since when; and