

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Senior Hockey National Tournament

2986. SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Hockey Federation has held any Senior Hockey National Tournament (except once) since 1995 to select players for representing Indian Team for International tournament;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the criteria adopted by Indian Hockey Federation for selection of players to represent India at International level; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the standards of Indian Hockey Team in International tournaments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Hockey Federation conducted Senior National Hockey Championship during 1997-98 at Bangalore from May 14—30, 1997. During 1998-99, they are conducting Senior Nationals at Hyderabad from March 10—26, 1999. This Championship would, perhaps, be one of the biggest held so far in which as many as 42 States/Units and Associate Members' Teams are to participate. Championships of this kind provide an opportunity to locate new talent as well as to popularise and broad-base the game and to improve the standard of performance. The Selectors, consisting mainly of ex-Olympians would be watching the Senior Nationals to spot talent and will be selecting number of players for each spot, so that we have a large pool of players who will be put into Coaching Camps to tone their skills.

(c) This Department has asked all the National Sports Federations including Indian Hockey Federation to prepare Long Term Development Programme (LTDP) plan proposals for 1999-2002 covering all aspects & indicating their requirements. All efforts would be made to ensure

effective implementation of LTDP so as to improve the standard of Indian Hockey at International level.

Fencing of International Borders

2987. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to re-start the fencing work and flood-lighting at international Border in Jammu sector;

(b) if so, the latest position thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for upholding it;

(d) whether the fencing was to be done in Kashmir Valley also;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the latest position of fencing/flood lighting in Rajasthan with regard to balance work since 1st March, 1997, till date?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Erection of an obstacle system comprising fencing and flood lighting alongwith an Intruder Alarm System has been planned. Government will take up this work at an appropriate time.

(d) and (e) Fencing along the Line of Control in Kashmir Valley is not feasible because of rugged nature of the terrain, gaps due to rivers, nullahs & streams and inability to keep such an obstacle system under continuous observation and domination by fire.

(f) Fencing/flood lighting in a total area of 282.3 Kms. 261 Kms. has been completed since 1st March, 1997. Now only 36 Kms. of the International Border in Rajasthan remains to be fenced which will be completed by December, 1999.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

2988. SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mid Day Meal Scheme in Government Schools has been abandoned;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of schools covered under the Scheme;