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Title: Need for formulation of a National Sports Policy.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): I wish to raise the matter 'Politics in Sports' . It is very aptly said that 'Healthy body has a healthy mind'. In order to make India a healthy nation, a lot has to be done. Small nations of the World are excelling and winning medals at the international sports events whereas Indians perform poorly at such events. In spite of having a huge population, we are unable to produce good sportspersons and win laurels for our nation.

One of the basic things which we will have to do is to groom our children at a very young age i.e. toddler/school stage. A systematic and well-planned scheme has to be worked out. A lot of funds have been allocated and spent on the development of sports but nothing tangible has been achieved. So one wonders as to where the funds are going. There are reports of apathy towards sportspersons and non-availability of food, food supplements, equipment, sportswear, training facilities, coaches, hostel accommodation, sponsorships, etc. But there is involvement of many agencies for the development of sports and a lot of vested interests have crept in and as a result politics have come into the play.

When the sportspersons see infighting among the various sports bodies how can the development of sports take place?

But the Yoga programme started by our Prime Minister is a step in the right direction towards achieving this goal. To make India a sporting nation 'Skate India' project will be a good booster and will help in achieving the goals in a shorter span. Given the prevailing scenario of sports in the country, for the future development of sports and for making India an emerging sports nation, there is an urgent need to formulate a 'National Sports Policy' and implement it meticulously.