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Title:Regarding recent incident of suicide in SAI hostel in Alappuzha in Kerala.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Madam, I thank you very much. I would like to raise one important point in connection with the suicide incident which happened at the SAI Hostel in Alappuzha.

It is exposed that there is lack of infrastructure facilities and counselling centres in the institutions and the hostels meant for sportspersons. In the unfortunate incident at SAI Hostel in Alappuzha, one female athlete has already passed away. Aparna lost her life and three other students were admitted in the hospital where they still are in a serious condition.

In connection with the incident, the Director-General of SAI visited Alappuzha. I was also there on Saturday. I visited the athletes' hostel and medical college hospital. The Government has already declared some compensation and also distributed it. There is a demand for giving job to a member of the deceased's family. I am taking it up with the Government to do such things. The police have been enquiring the case.

The incident has shed the light on the pitiable condition of our sports hostels. SAI, being an apex training centre for our emerging athletes in the country, has contributed much to the development of sporting activities in the country. However, many of the sports hostels lack basic infrastructure facilities, which is a serious concern. The athletes going through vigorous training in these training centres, also undergo a lot of mental agony and tensions. It has to be noted that a successful athlete should be healthy both in mind and body. A distressed mind cannot produce an accomplished athlete.

It is highly painful to note that in many of the sports hostels in the country, particularly, in SAI hostels including in Alappuzha, no counselling opportunities are created. It puts the students under extreme mental tension, and they cannot bear the hardships on many occasions. This lack of counselling has led them to take extreme steps like committing suicide like the one that happened in SAI Hostel, Alappuzha.

Moreover, these hostels also lack basic equipment and other infrastructural facilities. It is shameful to note that the SAI Training Centre in Alappuzha, despite the fact that it has produced National and State-level champions, lack major sports equipment and facilities. The Centre in Alappuzha that is focusing on water sports activities should be equipped with necessary facilities. Furthermore, I would request the Government to take steps to make SAI Centre in Alappuzha as a Centre of Alappuzha.

Madam, the other day also we had raised this issue. We seek a response from the Government because it is a very serious incident. So far, the Government has not responded to it. Therefore, I am requesting a response from the Government also on this issue.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri M.B. Rajesh,

Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher,

Shri P.K. Biju and

Shrimati Kavitha Kalvakuntla are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal.