

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I am not moving:

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 3 was added to the Bill

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting formula and the Title stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

17.00 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Dismal performance of Indian sportsmen in Seoul Olympic Games — Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we go to the next item — further discussion on the dismal performance of Indian sportmen in the Seoul Olympic Games, raised by Shri C. Janga Reddy on 1st December, 1988. Shri Viridhi Chander Jain.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Sir, I was almost on my legs the other day when the

question of quorum was raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then you begin first and after you, Mr. Jain will speak.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in fact, the other day I had not started speaking but technically my name was called and then the quorum was challenged.

17.01 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

Sir, we are discussing our performance in Seoul Olympics. There has been a prolonged discussion and very important and significant points have been made by hon. Members from both sides of the House. I do not like to join the long queue of those who take a very critical view against the Government in this matter because performance, dismal or good, has to be judged by as to what expectations we went there. In no Olympics, up to the Seoul Olympics, had we have been considered a very strong country in sports. We had not been able to get any individual championship or individual gold medals since 1952. Of course, team events like hockey have been there with occasional sparkling achievements. The question is whether in the Seoul Olympics we had done our best and if we had done our best as the saying goes, the best cannot be bettered. I do not like to agree with the criticism that we have done out best. Certainly we have not done our best. But then this only indicates that there is some promise for us in the future. Let us take the example of South Korea. If we look to the post history of world sports, South Korea has done a miracle. In the economic field also, South Korea has done a miracle. Within these few decades, South Korea, a small country compared to our vast country, has come up at such a level economically and otherwise, and we can follow its example. Particularly in the field of sports, this country has been able to sponsor the twenty-fourth World Olympics and it has got its own justification by winning gold, silver and bronze medals in different catego-

[Sh. N. Tombi Singh]

ries in certain very important events. If we look to other countries also, for what they have achieved today, they had struggled for that, they had worked for that, they had made efforts to come to the level at which they are today. They did not achieve that level overnight. India is a vast country. When we are saying that we have shown a very dismal performance in Olympics, certainly we are judging ourselves in the context of our vastness. We are a vast country, a big country and that way we have rich potential in the field of sports also. but I have to make this observation that we have not made our best efforts by way of patronising sports in different sectors of the country. When this discussion started, in the midst of the discussion, an observation was made, perhaps, by my honourable friend, Dr. Digvijay Sinh. He mentioned that the infrastructure for the sports should be centralised. He made his points specifically that the infrastructure for the sports and athletics events should not be everywhere, but then we should see that certain minimum level of infrastructure should be provided in the State capitals, in the district headquarters and also in the big cities and urban areas where people can go and practise. Then it will be easy for us to pick up young talents.

Now, about patronage, the Police organisations of the States, C.R.P.F., Assam Rifles, B.S.F. are doing well. Similarly the banks, the Indian Airlines, the Railways. F.C.I. and other organisations are doing well by patronising the talent and taking them in their own teams. There is nothing like the Government coming directly into contact with the individual sportsman or athlete. The Government has to act through patronising organisations and the Government departments. But these organisations have to pick up the young talents. It is an accepted principle that in sports and arts, talents must be caught young. In order to catch them young. We have to involve the schools in various parts of the country. We have yet to get the maximum benefit out of the school tournaments and the national level school games,

festival of different sports at all-India level. There are tournaments going on at the school level like the Subroto Mukherjee cup and all that. But we have to see that more and more of such tournaments are held which can be utilised as forums for picking up all young talents. We can channelise these young talents by handing them over to the various organisations patronising them at their grown up stage. We can channelise these talents to the organisations like Assam Rifles, the Police organisations, the Banks and the public sector organisations for patronising these young talents. As we look back to history of our Sports in the country, we come to know that the Princely States produced more sportsmen. Let us take the case of Polo game, for instance. This is one item which originated in my State. Now, the encyclopaedia is giving different views. But the fact remains that in my State, people are still playing this game as an indigenous game in a primitive way. There can be no evidence that it originated in my State, Manipur. It is being played in Jaipur, in Delhi and in England better than it is played in its place of origin. It is a very expensive game. A lot of patronage is required for this game which we cannot afford.

Similarly, there might be other indigenous games in other parts of the country awaiting being picked up level and patronised at the national level. What I wanted to say is that the patronage should not be merely encouraging them by word of mouth. When I say patronage, what I mean to say is that sportsmen should be picked up in an objective manner so that they will be free from regionalism, politics, casteism and communalism. So patronage should not be on this basis. I do not want to go into the details because I would like to look at the sports from the broader angle objectively. Within our own limits, we should produce the best performance in every discipline and remove elements of favouritism in any form. In the selection of sportsmen, regionalism, casteism or politics or any kind of favouritism must not at all be allowed. I would to emphasise the need for discipline among our sportsmen and the Sports Authority.

For example, I will mention an incident relating to a football tournament which took place at the Ambedkar Stadium between a Korean University team and some team from Punjab a few years back. That match at one stage was spoiled by a foul play committed by a Korean player. The play had to be stopped and the resumption of the play became difficult. In that situation the Korean coach came out and slapped the boy supposed to have committed the offence in the mid-field. This had a sobering effect on the whole crowd including the player of the other side. This only shows that the relation between the coach and the player, between the leader and other players, is still maintained in the other Asiatic countries and it is like our *guru-sishya* relation. I do not mean to say that we should do the same thing in our context. But I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister to a news item which appeared a few days back. A girl cyclist, a gold medalist, one Miss Medha, has gone to the press complaining that her coach was behaving like an eve-teaser towards his own girl trainees and many of the cyclist trainees, those who are practising, are being pushed in and pushed out at the mercy of the chief coach, as the report goes, on the basis of the acceptance or non-acceptance of his advance, immoral advances. Such a situation is very very intriguing and disturbing also. We should see that at least the relation between the coach and the athlete is cordial and moral. They are not after all a religious association. Even so, that relation should be maintained. Now, the question is who should get the benefit of doubt after the athlete had gone with such boldness to complain against her own chief coach. I do not know whether the Government will abide by the bureaucratic explanation of the chief coach or give the benefit of doubt to the complainant. But he should be punished and if he says that the girls are not also behaving properly, then who is responsible for that? What I would like to say is that the benefit of doubt should be given to the athletes who have gone to the press with such a complaint risking their own career that the coach has misbehaved.

I will now conclude in one minute. Al-

though we cannot cover the entire sports aspect of the country here. I would like, by taking advantage of this debate, to suggest to the hon. Minister that in certain parts of the country, as I have mentioned in the beginning, some indigenous games should be encouraged. To mention a few from my State there are games like Mukna, Khong Kanjei, Kang, Sagol Kanjei and yubirakpi. 'Mukna' is the Manipuri style of wrestling which we presented in the Moscow-India Festival and the international community liked it. There is also Khong Kanjei, which is a Manipuri version of hockey. I am proud of belonging to a State which has produced good hockey players as well as good swimmers, good archers and good cyclists of the international order, without any infrastructure. They have the natural talent. I understand that the Government of India on a special consideration has started a Patiala model of institution in Imphal recently. It will go a long way in picking up talents there and getting them good training in different disciplines. But this institution is only in the offing and it has to start its actual practical programmes. Let me hope that this will have not only a good start, but also a meaningful contribution to the sports of the country.

My State in the entire North-East has been leading in the field of sports. The natural talents are available there and side by side the indigenous games are developed like, as I have mentioned, Mukna, Khong Kanjei, sagol kanjei and yubirakpi. There is another indoor game known as kang which is played under some cover on the floor only. This is a very interesting and scientific type of indoor game and the Sports Authority of India have got an occasion to see a few demonstration matches in Pune and other places. This is my information. so, kindly pick up these indigenous game and encourage them so that they can be brought to the national arena.

Similar may be the position in other parts of the States but I do not have much knowledge about them.

With these suggestions, I thank you and conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Virdhi Chander Jain

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): I have a submission. Mr. K.P. Singh Deo, who was our *chef de mission* of Olympic is here. He did not speak last week. We do not know when he is going to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the other Members speak. Let him observe what they have got to say. Then, he will speak.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: I thought, he is not going to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Don't have that presumption.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, India is a great country. When this great country of ours participate in g sports events like the Olympics, we see that the records of its achievements have been very disappointing from the very beginning to the end. We participated in the Seoul Olympics and there we had a dismal record which has an adverse effect on the entire country. While I was delivering an inaugural speech at one of the functions in my district, the students voiced their concern as to why did India participate in the Olympics? Why our players were sent there when our position was not good? They suggested that only when we are fully prepared to stand the competition, we should go there to participate in the events, otherwise we should not go there. China did not participate in the Olympics for a long time. They came to Olympic fields only when they were fully prepared to compete in the international sports events. I am of the view that similarly we should also not participate in the Olympics. Only standard teams should be sent there. We can never tolerate that our self respect is impaired by our poor performance in the events.

I would also like to tell that in order to increase the sports activities in the country,

the Government of India has created a separate Ministry, but the Minister of the said Ministry should also be of the Cabinet rank. If we want to promote sports activities in the country and participate in the World competitions of sports and join the Olympic games, our Sports Minister must be of the rank of a Cabinet Minister and he should have full knowledge of Sports. Of course, the present hon. Minister is a very efficient person and has full knowledge of sports, but in spite of all this, she can work very effectively if she is given the rank of a Cabinet Minister, otherwise she cannot work effectively.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Why do not you say that she should be elevated to the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: This discretion lies with the Prime Minister and I cannot use that discretion.

I want to say that there should be a Minister of Cabinet rank to improve the standard of our sports. In all the states, the present situation is that a Minister who has no significance in the Cabinet is entrusted with the responsibility of the Ministry of Sports. Even Rajasthan is no exception. I have seen other states too. Such persons who are not capable and cannot be entrusted with the responsibility of any ministry, are made ministers. Such incapable persons are given the responsibility of the Ministry of Sports. Therefore, it is essential that if we want to promote sports we will have to improve its status. You will have to make higher provisions for the same in the Budget also. If we want to improve the standard of our sports, we will have to provide 10 times of the sum which has been earmarked for sports during the Eighth five Year Plan. I also want to make a mention of it that all the sportsmen who take part in sports events are Government servants who discharge their duties along with their participation in the sports events. Just due to this state of affairs, at time, they are not successful as they have to bear the anxiety of their livelihood and also then the burden of participation in sports. These players cannot be successful under

these conditions. The Government will have to provide all facilities if we want our sportsmen to take part in Olympics. They should not have any financial difficulties because with it they can never be successful. If you accept my suggestions and implement them, then in fact, we can successfully compete with other countries.

I will also like to avail this opportunity to bring it to your notice that the standard of games in our colleges and schools particularly in the village schools is going down. The first thing is that there are no games at all. There are no playgrounds in many secondary and higher secondary schools and left with no other option with them, the students join the R.S.S. and happen to develop anti-national views, which goes against our secular policy. Therefore, it is necessary that we should provide grounds for sports in secondary and higher secondary schools in rural and urban areas in all the states. The Central Govt. should direct the Rajasthan Government and other state governments that they should acquire land for the provision of playgrounds if there is none. I also want that the Central Government should contribute 50 percent of the expenditure to be incurred on this account and there remaining 50 percent should be provided by the State Governments so that all the schools may have their own grounds for games. But the present situation in Rajasthan is that though there is provision for academic part of education but they have no provision for physical education for which they have no physical education instructors. Under these circumstances, how can we make a stride in games? Hence what is required at present is that for the active participation of students in games, we should make provision of the playgrounds and make selection of the sportsmen from amongst the students to prepare them for the Olympic. The bell has gone now. Therefore, I want to say that the Central Government should accord priority to the games and pay special attention to it so that whenever there are Olympics in future, which are due just after four years, we take part only in those games in which we have excelled and maintained high standard of performance

and we should return with at least 10 gold medals to our credit. Only that will add to the prestige of our country.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA (Jorhat): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I had the misfortune of visiting Seoul. I had the misfortune of sharing, with the hon. Minister, the shame of India's dismal show there. Sir, I didn't go there to see India winning medals because the Olympic Motto is "Great is Triumph". But still greater is noble combat". Therefore, I went there to see the noble combat. I had the misfortune of seeing how our hockey players put up a dismal performance in the match against Great Britain, in the pre-semi-finals. It appeared as though our players were some low-grade village players came to a small town to play a game. Therefore, I would like to say that it was a very dismal performance, as far as our hockey match against Great Britain was concerned. Even when we saw the other track events, we almost lowered our heads because of our Indian contingent's poor show.

Sir, Shri, K.P. Singh Deo and the hon. Minister for Sports Smt. Margaret Alva could have managed something better, could have done something more, attractive. I intended to see a lot of games there, thanks to Shri K.P. Singh Deo's indifferent and Mrs Alva's total indifference. There were only four or five Members of Parliament. I was one among them. We could not see much of the games because we have not been provided with tickets, despite our request. We did not get any tickets. But, sir, we gained quite a lot of experience. South Korea is a very small country less than one-tenth of our own country in size. But, in the events, they could surpass Japan; they could surpass even China quite a lot in the games. How could they do that? It was because of their strict discipline; it was because of their strong dedication and also because of some many other things. How could our team put up a very poor show? In this connection, I

[Sh. Parag Chaliha]

would like to say that I am not going to blame the hon. Minister for that. I was a player all through my life. I was in Sports Organisation. I know certain things. There is no use blaming the hon. Minister or anybody. But, we shall have to advise something, as far as sports are concerned. What is the advice? The point is that sports and politics certainly do not go together. but, in India, under your Ministry, this is what is precisely happening. Politics always enters the field of sports. Politics is the dirtiest game. One who can have some pull in Delhi, only he succeeds in getting a place. As I told you earlier, I am not bothered about India winning a medal. But, certainly, I bother about the dismal performance of Ms. P.T. Usha. We have all great regards for her. But, what happened in Seoul? She was the 8th in the eight-line track in the heats. Just running at least 3 - 4 feet ahead of us, we saw, that great American Lady Ms. Joiner. The moment she came out always first in record time, the first thing that she did was to touch the ground. It might seem a very small insignificant thing. But, from that act, there is a great thing to learn. It shows the dedication of a sports-person. This speaks a lot about the dedication. I am not asking for the resignation. I will be the last person to do that. But be dedicated any try to do something tangible, try to do something sensible, something positive and something effective.

Why are there so many bodies for controlling and guiding sports? I entirely agree with the views expressed by some earlier speakers. Therefore, Mrs. Minister, do something about these so-called bodies. Someone who knows about sports and who is above politics should man this body. Therefore, I would very much ask the Minister to do something tangible because she is interested in spending Rs. 200 crores for the development of sports in this country.

In Wimbledon, there is a very big sign board in the tennis arena which said: "Triumph and defeat are the two impostors. Beware of them." Our Minister seemed to be

engrossed in that adage. Therefore, there should be one sports authority the SAI. But in order to be effective, there has to be some effective person to man it. Perhaps, that is not there.

Now I will come to some specific suggestions. Catch them young. I think, we are not at all concerned about it because the attendance in the House is hardly 30 out of 540. How many of us have heard about Nadia Komaneci, the 13 year old Rumanian wonder who could achieve something impossible, something unheard of in the Gymnastics getting ten points out of ten on three out of four counts. If she can do the impossible, why not anyone in a country of eighty crore population do something. In this respect also, Government has done well in organising Talent Search competitions. But here also, politics crept in. There was one boy from my own State. He was 12 years old. He scored the highest number of goals 23 against U.P., Punjab and Tamil Nadu. The SAI official also congratulated him. But ultimately when the list came out, his name was just thrown out. I wrote to the Minister about this some three weeks back.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): I have asked for the details.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: In the Talent Search competition, politics is again dominating. I would say this. Just select 400 young talents. Give them all facilities, give them all paraphernalia so that they may not have to bother about their parents, meals, clothing all that. Train them up with modern sophisticated technique. I advise: if possible, decentralise it not in a political sense but for finding certain special disciplines in select areas like football in West Bengal, Punjab and Goa. Start decentralising the culture of sports- I don't mean political decentralisation. If you want 200 athletes, you don't divide them among 26 States; I don't

want that. I want a division only sportswise or gameswise; say, Football in West Bengal, Goa, etc. We should confine ourselves to 10, 12 or 15 disciplines; not all. Select different areas specialised in particular fields. The State Governments and the State Sports Bodies should be entrusted with picking up the best in these specified fields. I suggest this sort of a sports decentralisation.

Hon. Minister, for the development of sports kindly do another negative thing. Let us not idolize cricket to be the only area of competence. Whenever we open up TV, we see Gavaskar or Ravi Shastri. Can you cite a single instance where some coaching is done for foot ball and athletics? In the media also emphasis is always on patronising cricket and glorifying the cricketers and not other sportsmen. Only cricket has become our national game whereas it was a game of Nabobs. In my State there was a cricket match where the Nawab of Pataudi played. The youngsters there emulated what he wore as shoes and not how he specialised in batting. I don't say that we should do away with cricket. But let us reduce its importance and distribute the same in some other sports and games, where we could show our competence. The media and TV should do some regular feature on athletics like running, jumping and other games like foot ball, volley ball and badminton. The TV and the media people also have got something to do in this regard.

Now I come to the question of scholarship. Even in the field of sports scholarship politics has crept in. There also real budding talents are almost excluded. Only some people having pulls from MPs and Ministers get scholarship. I besiege my Hon. Minister to do something tangible, bring out some real budding talents and give them all facilities. If you have 400 boys, give 400 scholarships. I think it will be worth much more than spending Rs. 20 crores or more. That is my feeling.

There should be sports library in all the schools and colleges. I know from my experience as a Principle of a college for 38 years

that in my college library of forty thousand books we could hardly find one hundred books on sports. You should organise some sports libraries in different areas so that the budding talents will know about different sports techniques. Select some special libraries devoted to sports alone.

Now-a-days sports are related to the use of sophisticated materials and equipment. So provide these facilities to select sports organisations. In Portugal and Great Britain they use computers for yachting and boating. I don't say that that we should go in for these disciplines. Confine only to some select disciplines. We should give more emphasis to rural sports. We confine ourselves to big towns and cities; but the real sportsmen come from rural areas, because they are naturally sturdy and healthy. So pick up boys from the rural areas.

Merely having one coaching centre in this big vast country would not do. Therefore coaching centres are required in plenty and there should be really effective coaching. Merely having a 15 day or 20 day coaching does not help. Coaching should be a continuous affairs.

Lastly I would say there should be proper monitoring by the Sports Ministry. I would request the hon. Minister to do something for monitoring. The motto should be 'to patronise and not politicise; to glorify and not deify'.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanyharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel really sad at our poor performance in Seoul. How should I say that we have bent our heads in shame but we no doubt have become a laughing stock. Our dismal performance at Seoul has reminded me of the Chinese invasion of 1962 when our general had sent our soldiers to the Himalayas to fight against the Chinese which had resulted in a great disaster which is still alive in our memory. Similarly it appears that we had gone there to take part in sports without our full preparation for that

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

or say, we went there for mere amusement but whatever happened there, has pinched each and every Indian at the depth of his heart. We should learn a lesson from this defeat and the Government should bring in a comprehensive sports policy so that our country may have its right place in sports. There is a saying in villages—(Padhoge Likhoge To Banoge Nawab, Kheloge Koodoge To Banoge Kharaab)

Thus the game have been denigrated from the very childhood. We will have to change the entire mentality and tell the country that games are as important as studies. What has actually happened or how it happened at the Olympics will be stated here by Shri K.P. Singh Dev or the Hon. Minister. As per the press reports, P.T. Usha was not in full form for the races. A few days back, it was shown on the T.V. that she had some trouble in her legs and she was taking massage treatment. In such a situation she should not have been sent there. We also came to know from the newspapers that kits for our hockey players reached Seoul very late and as a result of it they could not have sufficient practice and thus lost the ground. All these things should be objectively investigated. Blaming an individual won't do. People should take interest in games in the real sense. In foreign countries they pay special attention. There are about one lakh coaches in the small country like G.D.R. whereas we have only 8 thousand of them. Thereby we can imagine how much importance is given to the games in other countries? Sportsman are given rigorous training under the military observation in some countries so that they may attain a particular standard to compete. We do not have such ways in our country. In all such countries, which have made an advancement in the field of sports, sport talents are spotted or picked up at the age of 10 to 12 yrs. or upto 14 years of age. P.T. Usha was also spotted at the age of 12. In United States of America, the coaches of universities and colleges visit junior schools to spot the sport talents. Thereafter, they are given rigorous training and provided all facilities.

Unless we also go that way, we cannot accomplish any thing. Otherwise, We will keep on delivering the speech here to close the chapter there and sit in wait for the next Olympics and leave everything to the Providence. We should realise how much humiliation we have to face. Unfortunately by the word Sports we mean only cricket in this country. As regards even the game of cricket, even those persons who do not know the ABC of the game, keep their transisters on or keep on sitting to watch T.V. so that others do not feel that they do not understand cricket. In our student days—I come from the rural background, people used to give great importance to the game of football and football teams used to come from different places but now-a-days when D.C.M. football matches are shown on T.V. even a child does not want to watch it because he feels that there is nothing in soccer. This mentality needs to be changed. I will urge upon the Government to stop the telecasting of cricket matches on T.V. throughout the year. Instead they should telecast hockey matches or any other matches. We should educate the people that other games are as important as that of the cricket. Games should be given more importance in the rural areas where they have spacious grounds. This will bring in a sense of discipline. I frequently go round the villages these days. I have observed that no games are played there. Previously they used to play football which used to infuse the spirit of discipline in the teams. Not only the concerned teams but the entire school was enlivened with that spirit of discipline. For the present state of indiscipline in the schools and colleges, the main thing which is primarily responsible is that we have never paid due attention to the play grounds. In foreign countries business houses spend a lot of money for the promotion of games. Even in our country these business houses should also come forward. But our Government should give income tax rebate on the amount incurred by the business houses on games and as I have already said that the sportsmen should be given preference in all matters to give the sports their due recognition. Even in China the sportsmen were given priority in ration,

service and all other things to promote the cause of games. I want that the same sort of scheme should be started in our country as well so that the sportsmen may get a social status and preference every where, especially in the matter of employment.

Another point which I want to make is that the role of the Ministry, the Sports Authority or the Federation should be clearly defined because a lot of confusion is being created on account of that.

Finally, I would say that not much damage has been done so far. Our country is very vast. It is making progress in every field and is becoming self-reliant and our capability is acknowledged by the whole world. We have made substantial progress in every field, whether it is the field of education, science and technology or any other field, and there can be no reason for not doing the same in the sphere of sports as well. What is needed is a strong will-power. But more than that we need a proper sports policy.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we never had much expectations from the Indian teams sent to participate in various Olympic games held in Seoul. It was, however, a common view that India will at the most manage to win one medal and it would be in hockey. But the crushing defeat which our Team suffered in hockey disappointed the whole country. Our performance in the Seoul Olympics has given rise to this feeling in our minds that we are incapable of making any achievements in the field of Sports and therefore we should abandon this field. After observing the performance and achievements of Korea in the Seoul Olympics, it makes us feel and the entire intelligentsia also feels that we should emulate the example set by a tiny state of Korea which is a part of the Continent of Asia like our country and which has succeeded in earning so much of fame in the field of international sports within a limited period of 15 to 20 years. If Korea could achieve it, why cannot a vast country like India do the same? If we compare our failure in Seoul with the

achievements of Korea and then consider the manner in which Korea prepared itself first for the Asiad and thereafter for the Olympics, and if our country also prepares a scheme for the next 15 to 20 years and start preparations accordingly, then undoubtedly we shall also be able to give an outstanding performance in the Olympic games. We should not prepare ourselves by only keeping in view the next Olympics but we should keep in view the games which will be held 15 to 20 years later and impart high class training to our sportsmen accordingly. If we do so, our country could also match the performance of Korea and other such nations which have won laurels in these games and established themselves in the sphere of international sports. For this purpose, not only the Ministry of Sports, the Sports Authority or the Federation need to make preparations but the entire nation has to transform itself into a preparation committee for sports. Until a favourable environment is created in the whole country, nothing will be achieved. If we think that the Sports Authorities, the concerned Ministry or the Federation connected with different sports etc. Will be able to do wonders and complete this uphill task, it will not be possible to do so. For this purpose, the whole nation will have to prepare itself. Keeping in view the humiliation we suffered and also in an attempt to remove that stigma, if we start preparing ourselves for the future from now onwards, the hon. Minister and the Government will have to take an initiative in this matter. When the Government takes such an initiative in it, the whole country will definitely cooperate in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many of hon. Members have given very useful suggestions. I want to submit to the hon. Minister that we come to know about the players and start recognising them and expecting a lot from them only when they play at the national level and make achievements. Actually it should have been otherwise. We should have started training them from their very childhood. We should have had the information about their aptitude for Sports when they were studying at the primary or

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

the middle school level and selected them accordingly. Thereafter they should have been kept in sports hostels in different zones at the district or at the state level and imparted proper training and the entire expenditure of their training borne by the Government then we could have had some expectation from them and if they would have not fulfilled it, we could have through that there are some serious shortcomings in the sportsmen. The fact is that there is no shortage of sportsmen. When P.T. Usha showed marvellous performance in the last Asiad, it enhanced the prestige of our country as well as of our women and inspired many people. I think that even then victory of the Indian Cricket team against West Indies could not provide so much of inspiration as was created by P.T. Usha's outstanding performance in the Asiad and thereafter in the Olympics. We had some expectations from P.T. Usha and began to believe that she would remain powerful like Hanuman and Bhimen for ever and would never cease to give wonderful performances. This will not do. Every sportsmen has limitations of age and as soon as they attain a certain age their decline starts. Similarly, P.T. Usha's no longer growing to achieve heights but is on decline. Under such circumstances we cannot expect much from P.T. Usha or from players of her age. Despite that she deserves to be congratulated for her achievements and the standard which she has set. However, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that in the different zones in our country, People take interest in different sports and the Government should take steps to encourage and protect those sports so that our sportsmen can do will. It is not necessary to participate in every game and it is also not necessary to take part in every event in the Asia and in the Olympics. We can take part in select items and out of them also the particular games which are popular in different zones and parts our country,

should be taken up and after selecting the players who have aptitude for those games, they should be trained accordingly. A national perspective plan covering 15 to 20 years should be formulated for this purpose and the Government should bear the burden of the entire expenditure in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to submit it to the hon. Minister that most of the huge money which is extended to the States for the development of Sports facilities, is being spent by the State Governments through their Education Departments, but most of this amount is spent on holding regional and other rallies and on the pomp and show associated with them. I want to submit that if these funds are extended to every district for the construction of sports stadia, sports hostels, and for the training and selection of fresh graduates who are at least state level players, will benefit more than merely by distributing funds indiscriminately.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to submit one point more. As regards our Sports administration, many of our hon. friends have criticised the functioning of the Federation. But I do not think that it is necessary to nationalise it. This is a matter of individual experience. Perhaps their experience may have been such that they were compelled to express their displeasure with it. But we have noted that wherever nationalisation has taken place, its immediate effect has been good but the long term effect has not been good. The need of the hour is to make our Sports Federation, Councils, etc. accountable and make necessary amendments in their constitutions to ensure that only those people should be included in them who go there not for playing politics but for serving the cause of Sports. This is very essential.
