

many big towns. I request the hon. Minister to note it. At least in the Seventh Plan we must have some more stadia. I request that one stadium should be established in Warangal also. Steps should be taken to establish sports institutions. Voluntary organisations must be encouraged. National teams must be prepared to participate in international competitions. Proper selection—without any interference of politics or politicians—should be ensured. Qualified coaches should be provided for better results and for the best performance in future.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
—Contd.

[English]

Delhi Declaration Signed by Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and H.E. Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between India and U.S.S.R. and note on Consular Convention

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) Delhi Declaration signed by the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and His Excellency General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev on principles for a nuclear-weapon free and non-violent world.
- (2) Agreement on economic and technical cooperation between India and USSR; and
- (3) A Note on Consular Convention between India and USSR signed by me and the Soviet Foreign Minister.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3320/86]

DISCUSSION ON PERFORMANCE OF INDIAN SPORTSMEN AT THE TENTH ASIAN GAMES HEAD AT SEOUL—Contd.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 6th November, 1986, when my Starred Question No. 43 on this very subject of our disappointing performance at the Asian Games in Seoul was there and when I was called upon to put a supplementary question by the hon. Speaker, I prefaced my remarks by saying that the overall result at the Asian Games was a matter of shame for India, and I remember, the whole House at that time joined me in that. Genuinely this was the feeling of all Indians and this was reflected in the various editorials that were written by the newspapers at that time. It is but natural because a country which is close to having eight hundred million people could gather only five Gold Medals and could secure only the fifth place in the whole of Asia whereas China and South Korea could gather 94 Gold Medals and 93 Gold Madels, respectively. Even this small success which we got is the result of the performance of a few exceptional individuals such as P.T. Usha and Kartar Singh, who got a gold medal in wrestling. The general rise in the number of high quality performances in a wide range of sports was absolutely lacking as far as these games are concerned.

In the past, as has already been referred to, in Hockey our predominance was acknowledged throughout the world. Now we have suffered traumatic decline in that game also. The one matter of concern is that future also looks very bleak at the moment. Many of these present participants may not be available for participating in the next Asiad and we have not still planned to change the situation as far as the future is also concerned.

In this House and throughout the country also everybody is of the opinion that international sporting success very much matters as far as a nation is concerned. It is always legitimate and very important source for nurturing nationalist feeling and pride.

[Shri Sharad Dighe]

In the present circumstances, when we are craving for unity and integrity of the country, the success in sports also would have contributed much to that goal of ours. I still remember that when I was a Member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and was returned from one of the constituencies from Bombay, at one time there were caste riots in my constituency and they could not be controlled even by police. The very shrewd police officer thereafter arranged sports and games between the two castes and immediately, one or two days later, the whole atmosphere came down.

So, sports have not only this particular place in the country, but from the point of view of national integrity and unity of this country also, it occupies a very great and important place. From this point of view also the Government should take great care and responsibility in making further progress as far as sports is concerned.

At that time it was told to the House and before that even the Minister concerned viz, the Minister for Human Resources had also given an interview wherein he had said that they were waiting for a detailed report.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : I said that "we were waiting".

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : I am only referring to your past statement. As the Hon. Speaker has put, or allowed this discussion today, that report must have been available to the Ministry. So, we are very much anxious to know the report and those who had gone and participated.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : It has been circulated Sir.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : I am sorry, I have not come across that. Therefore, I would like to know that after having got the report whether Government has decided to take any long and short measures. There has been sufficient discussion in this House. As far as I am concerned, I would say that the ills besetting Indian sports are only

four. The first one is—reference to this has already been made by earlier speakers—nepotism and corruption among administrators and selectors. On this perhaps the hon. Minister may say that these are autonomous bodies and this is a State subject and, as such, in a way they are helpless. But this is a national problem and, therefore, it is no use merely saying that these bodies are autonomous and the Central Government is unable to take any effective steps to improve the situation.

Sir, as far as sports are concerned we as Members of Parliament are very much concerned about the subject and I hope and trust that such an answer will not be given and concrete measures would be placed before this House as far as these things are concerned.

The other ill which is responsible for this defeat is the lack of adequate infrastructure at all levels. This infra-structure does not properly exist at all and that is the main reason for our defeat. Even in schools and colleges in cities like Bombay playgrounds are not available. Some guidelines to the State Governments may profitably be given in this respect. For a certain proportion of population certain playgrounds must be there.

The third ill which I would like to mention is lack of professionalism among coaches and trainees. The fourth one is inadequate incentives to sportsmen and women including assurance of employment after their career is over. This is most important from the point of view of encouraging the sportsmen who wish to take part in sports.

As far as talent is concerned it does exist in rural areas and poor people and that has to be found out. I still remember in my childhood we used to learn a particular example. In Cricket the great Indian bowler at that time was formerly a peon in Gymkhana. Therefore, good qualities also exist in rural areas and among poor people and some machinery will have to be established whereby these people can be found out.

Lastly you must have undertaken indepth analysis of the report which you have received and we are anxious to know

the short-term and long-term measures which would ensure better performance in the next Asiad games.

SHRI JAIDEEP SINGH (Godhra) :
Mr. Chairman, I am very happy that we are discussing matters concerning sports today. For years I have been in this House and I have always found that general interest in sports has been very discouraging. No wonder if the highest body in the country does not have any interest in this particular subject then how will the Government make any progress.

First and foremost, I do not entirely agree with the views that have been expressed about our dismal performance. I do not think it was a dismal performance. We did not do as well as we had expected, but there is nothing dismal about it. Being a person connected with sports for many many years, I would say that we did not think of competing with South Korea or Japan. In fact, I think, we were lucky that the North Korea boycotted the games, otherwise we might not have beaten them also.

Good or bad performance is a matter of comparison. With whom do we compare ourselves? Were we comparing ourselves with Japan or China? I do not think so. We never did than even before. I think we were short of our expectations by about four or five gold medals. That is about all. Two or three gold medals, as you know, we lost because of certain circumstances not in our control. That apart, the sport performance of India has not been good. That, of course, nobody can doubt. It is true that our performance has not been good, but there are so many things which are involved to make it good. We have to brush up all those various factors before we can get any results of the kind we are all expecting.

The main problem is of the infrastructure. I have been connected with the games for a long time. In sports now the science has advanced a lot and every game, more or less, has technical things like implements, play fields, grounds etc. which are no more the old ones that we were using. Because of the Asian games here in 1982, we got some kind of an infrastructure

at Delhi, but our is a very big country. We always talk of our country being the country with 800 million people. Where else is the provision for them to play except at Delhi? They have not been able to provide this basically because we have had the shortage of funds. This is where I want to draw the Government's attention to the fact that unless in India we are able to give a higher priority to sports, we will not be able to give necessary money from the Plan allocation to the extent that we require. We will not, therefore, be able to have the infrastructure to make them available to the people. I would like to say at this juncture one thing that though in future we are going to increase the infrastructure facilities, I am sure, it is not going to be adequate but it will be something to start with and perhaps more could be added. But I do agree with Shri Goswami's remarks that we need not have too many stadia. Stadia are more required for competition and for people who come and watch, but at the moment we require play fields. Let us make more play fields, keep one or two areas where we can have some stadia for international competitions. If we can set up playfields in more number, more people can avail of this facility.

In all other countries, the bulk of the sports persons come from schools, colleges and universities. We have not been able to activate our universities sufficiently, or our colleges or schools, to be able to produce this material that we require. We do not lack in material. I am a firm believer of this fact that India has all the potential to compete not only with South Korea or Japan or China, or even with America provided they are given the right kind of training and facility. Let us look at it in the converse. If we bring top class sports persons of America, Russia or East Germany or some other country into Indian conditions, conditions in which our sportsmen prepare themselves and play today, do you think that those players from other countries would perform better? They would be beaten hollow by our people. But these sportsmen of other countries have a great advantage of what is called a 'flying start'. For years and years they get training of the best kind.

In our case, we started training for the last Asian Games barely a year before;

[Shri Jaideep Singh]

whereas Korea and others, as soon as the Ninth Asian Games were over, immediately after returning to their countries, began to prepare from that time onwards. Now they are no fools and they are not doing all this and spending so much of money, just for nothing. Surely they have some advantage over others. So, this is the crux of the whole problem and we must all be seized of it.

The entire system of sports should be changed. It is not a question of some athlete or some federation or some organisation. It is the entire system, that has to be reviewed. I do agree that this is a big work. But it is to be done sooner or later and therefore the sooner we do it, the better it would be. I would suggest that we should start our preparations for the next Asiad right now. We may start right from December or first of January. This is what our programme should be and we should make the necessary allocation of funds for this purpose.

Madam, I would like to draw your attention to one more point in this connection. We are doing every thing. We have sports in the rural areas; we have sports in schools; we have sports in colleges and in universities. But not one of them is done in the way it should necessarily have been done. We are spending a lot of small amounts of money but all that expenditure is not becoming fruitful. There are so many impediments in the midst of us and perhaps it is beyond the control of the Ministry of Sports alone by itself. But certain improvements have to be made, to change the situation.

I would like to give just one instance. The Asian Junior Athletic Championship is due in the next week. And we are sending a team. There is a sportsman from whom we are expecting a gold medal. In the Asian sector, when one wins a gold medal, obviously we should imagine that the same person continues to be a prospective winner in the Asian Games. This particular sportsman has to practice with a fibre-glass pole, which is not available in India now. He spent his own money to get this fibre-glass pole from abroad. And it is now

three weeks that he is still struggling to get this pole released from the customs. Is he not placed in a disadvantageous position with all this delay? Even if the pole is received now, it will be too late for him now because hardly five or six days are left for him to practice. Within these just few days, is it possible for him to practice enough to try to achieve something in Jakarta where these games are to be played?

These are very small things. But these very many small things add up to become one big problem and we are not able to get results as everybody expects. Our educational institutions, particularly universities in India are lacking indeed in sports facilities as well as interest in sports. There is no university in India which can offer facilities for sportsmen and university sports is actually a farce in India. They do not produce anything that one can count upon. In all other countries, it is the university grade sportsmen who represent their countries and become big. But here the persons who participate in these events are well past their best period. They are already in service, either in Railways or somewhere else. They have already reached a certain age and it is almost too late for them to give their best. So, it is a question of picking up the right kind of people early. We have so many problems here too, in the sense that if they have to be employed, they have to be above certain age. Otherwise they cannot be employed. Now, there should be some kind of special arrangement made so that they do not have to be employed in any services. But the Government must make available to them certain incentives whereby they are able to exist because after all a lot of boys and girls are not from the rich families and they cannot continue to pursue sports, unless they have something to support their families. So, this is the situation that prevails among the young people. It is from these young people that we are going to get the good sportsmen for future. I hope, the Government will take note and see that more and more prominence and more and more predominance is given to the young people who are going to replace the old people. We are talking in terms of 1990 and those who have come today are going to be old

in 1990 and we will have to have a fresh lot of people coming up and these arrangements have to be made before we can create a situation where we can produce sports persons, who are of international stature.

Thank you.

[Translation]

*SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk) : Madam Chairperson, the Asiad of 1982 was held in our country and at that time we had arranged for the Asiad in Delhi with lots of fanfare and at a cost of several hundred crores of rupees. As an advantage of the being held in our own country, we had also won a few extra medals that time. Encouraged by that, we sent a big contingent this time at the Seoul Asiad in 1986 which consisted of 296 sportsmen and women and 84 officials and others.

What happened thereafter is a matter of common knowledge, known to all. They came back with a heavy burden of failure and disappointment and have heaped a load of shame and embarrassment on the youth of our country.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : Failure is the pillar of success.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Let it be continued in Orissa.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Now, standing in the midst of this situation, we are having a discussion about the overall condition of sports in our country. About this Asiad of 1986 the Questions that naturally arise are—how were the these selections made and how did such a big contingent go there? In the sports policy adopted by us in 1984 it was clearly stated that unless our sportsmen attained a specified international standard in any sport, they will not be sent to compete in those sports in any international sports event. Then why did we deviate from that 1984 national policy on sports on this occasion and sent such a big contingent to compete in the Seoul Asiad, though they did not possess the specified standards? There is need to review the

whole thing. Side by side we must also review in detail the method of working of the various sports organisations/institutions existing in the country. If we take lessons from the past incidents and adopt a healthy and strong sports policy, then we shall be able to improve considerably and will go ahead in the coming days in the field of sports. Out of the 18 horses that were sent to South Korea for sports events, 11 were rejected there. I do not think there was any justification for that. Why did they happen? The whole incident should be properly analysed and studied so that they do not recur in the future. We have to decide what we will do in the future international sports competitions. Whether we should participate in them or not and in case we decide to participate then what should be our methods of selection and preparation etc. all these things should be thought of right now. Here I feel that there is some necessity of criticism of the Government's attitude and outlook in this respect. I regret to say that this year in 1986 China has spent more than 300 crores of rupees for the development of sports. What China has spent on sports just in one year is more than what we have spent in all the seven five year plans put together. Therefore we have to ponder why so meagre amounts are being allocated for the development of the sports in our country. I think that neither in the last Asiad of 1986 nor in the previous Asian games and other international sports events, our country as such can claim any credit for winning medals. Some sportsmen have won medals entirely due to their individual talents and capabilities and in that process have brought honour and laurels for our country. They are all Indians and I bow my head with respect to the high standards attained by them in various disciplines of sports. What I want to say is that as a country we have done precious little to feel proud about to help them attain those high standards. It was all due to individual effort and individual talent. They are not the outcome of the sports activities undertaken and aided by the country. They are rather the exceptions. They were able to earn international recognition on the strength of their individual performances. The State has not contributed much in encouraging and developing them.

[Shri Satyagopal Misra]

But the general overall picture of sports in our country is rather frightening.

Many friends have talked about infrastructure in the field of sports. They created a wrong impression that infrastructure in sports perhaps means a few play fields, gymnasiums, some furniture, instruments etc. I think this feeling comes from a total misconception. Of course as an infrastructure for development of sports, playing fields, gymnasiums, sports equipment etc. are also necessary. But what is more necessary is the creation of an overall atmosphere of sincere love and attraction for sports among the youth community of our country. When we will be able to generate that dynamic atmosphere, that will be the real infrastructure for development of sports.

Madam, in our country 40% of the people live below the poverty line. Can we expect the starving people to come up in sports? Can we expect them to bring laurels for the country in international sports? Can it ever happen? Therefore, availability of proper food and nourishment, properly clothing, provision of employment opportunities etc. for the poor talented boys and girls together with an overall atmosphere of love and affection for sports in the country all these things have to be thought of in the context of proper infrastructure for sports. Many people even now have the wrong idea that the boy who takes part in sports and games is a bad boy. This sort of thinking has to be removed from the society. He who takes part in sports and is able to establish himself in the field of sports should be respected in society. This sort of attitude has got to be developed in the society for the development of sports in our country.

Some have suggested here that we should concentrate on only one or two items of sports. I do not agree with them. Ours is a vast country inhabited by nearly 80 crores of people. Therefore we should take interest and develop all types of sports in our country. If we are able to generate an overall atmosphere of love of sports then it will be quite possible to progress in sports. In that atmosphere all over the country, real talented sportsmen will emerge in various sports.

We must not look upon sports merely as a means of winning a few medals. Through sports patriotism and discipline generate and develop, this is known to all. I have read that in our country when the freedom struggle against British imperialism was going on, our own Indian football team defeated the British football team in Calcutta. Through that event a surge of patriotism swept through the minds of Indian youth at that time. Today also that sense of patriotism has to be developed through sports, so that our sportsmen may establish themselves in the international arena and bring laurels for the country.

One more point, many people say that if sports are popularised in schools and colleges then standard of sports will improve. This is true no doubt. In the new education policy that has been adopted, it has been stated therein that sports are necessary in schools and colleges. This is a matter of regret that all those who have shown proficiency in sports in our country belong to either to Services or to the Railways or to some such establishments. Students of schools or colleges have hardly shown any proficiency or have made a mark. This exposes the absence of proper framework of sports in our schools and colleges.

15 58 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN
in the Chair]

This new education policy provides for Navodaya schools. We have opposed this concept of Navodaya schools. I am still of the opinion that these navodaya schools will not be able to bring about any change in the field of education. If you look at the various Central schools and Universities, if you look at the Doon School and other similar public schools, etc, you will find that they have been hardly able to produce any sportsmen of renown. For the advancement of sports, we will have to change the socio-economic system of the country, and the atmosphere of sports loving will have to be generated.

We have all noticed how the socialist countries are progressing and going ahead in the field of sports by leaps and bounds. Another point, Sir, you have seen that the Adivasis and tribals all over the world have

achieved tremendous success in sports. We cannot forget the names of several illustrious sportsmen like Gory Wayener Willima and Rudolph etc. in this respect. If we can extend sports to our adivasi people, I think that due to natural reasons like better physique, stamina etc. they will shape very well in sports and will be able to earn laurels. We should pay attention to them for the development of sports.

With that Sir, I conclude.

SHRI ASLAM SHER KHAN (Betul) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question before us today is not our miserable performance at Seoul or why our teams are always defeated in the international tournaments. What we have to see is whether we are making enough efforts for the encouragement of sports in our country. Whenever we lose in some tournament—as was our performance at Seoul recently—it is discussed in the House. It is very heartening to note that sports is the subject of discussion in the House today and all the parties are showing deep concern about our performance. However, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that today's discussion should not remain merely a discussion, but follow up action should be initiated.

The Sports have not got the requisite importance in our country. We have never paid attention to bring about improvements in it and to regain our lost glory in this regard. Our hon. Minister is working very efficiently and three important Departments are under her charge. The department of Women Welfare is an important Department as it is associated with the welfare of women. The Department of Youth Welfare is also very important, but the Department of Sports is also equally important. It is also true that the Sports have not received the requisite importance in our country. I want to suggest that sports may be treated as a sick industry and taken over by the Government. I have given this suggestion because our Federations and Associations are unable to bear the expenses of the players in national and international tournaments and are not able to discharge their responsibility. Therefore, the Government should take over the sports as well.

The point which is always raised in the House is that our national Federations

are all autonomous. But I would like to ask whether the Government has ever approached the International Olympic Committees in order to know the role that they would play, in case we encourage sports in our country.

I want to inform that I had a discussion with the Chairman of the I.O.C. at Seoul and he was of the opinion that India should come up in the field of sports.

Secondly, I would like to talk about the infrastructure. It is a matter of great regret that so much of talent is available all over India and specially in our rural areas but for want of adequate facilities talented sportsmen or sportswomen are unable to come up. Until sports are taken to the villages and small towns and to our poor people, we shall not be able to produce good sportsmen, as you must have noticed that it is the players coming from poor background who have always done well in sports. But these people start declining in their youth itself, as they have to seek employment to support their families. As hon. Shri K.P. Singh Deoji has said, they must come up, but they are not able to do so because of the lack of adequate facilities in the rural areas. If they cannot come up, then how are they to earn fame in the international games?

Sir, I want to suggest to the hon. Minister that the Government should take up the responsibility for the promotion of sports. The Government should set up full-fledged separate departments for various games such as hockey, football, gymnastics etc. Every department must be made accountable towards its own game. They must be allotted a certain time limit within which they have to display their performance. If separate department for each game cannot be set up, I can suggest another alternative. Each public sector undertaking may be entrusted with the responsibility of managing a game. As you might be knowing, kings and nawabs used to patronise sports and games in the olden days. Similarly, if the Government sets up an apex body, and each game is entrusted to the Public Sector units for which they are made accountable then talents might emerge in this field.

Sir, now I would like the hon. Minister to inform us, in connection with our dismal

[Shri Aslam Sher Khan]

performance in the games held in Seoul and in England as to whether the Government is setting up any committee in this regard, or has it been left to the Federations to decide all these issues? These days nobody is accountable for sports in our country, because different agencies are responsible for coaching and management of sports. The result is that there is no accountability and our Government is reduced to the role of a mere spectator. Hence, today the players do not have the right outlook towards the games. It is a matter of great regret that our players are compelled to think that they have just to participate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would further say that all the Federations and Associations are bogus. I would also like to ask the hon. Minister—whether the Federations are following the guidelines laid down by the Government and, if so, to what extent? If a country like India, with a population of 80 crores lags behind small nations in international tournaments, it is very shameful. Hence, we should not limit ourselves to discussions only, but proper legislations should be brought forward, if necessary. Unless the Government takes full responsibility for sports upon itself, we shall not be able to bring about the requisite improvement in the field of sports. If the Government do not agree with our suggestion, then I think games should not be played at least for a period of ten years. Then we shall see which Federation takes what amount of interest: China had also stopped participating in games for a period of 10 years, and when in 1974, it again participated in the games, it was at the top. If games are played just for the sake of carrying on with the schemes, then it is not going to serve any purpose. When a flag of a particular country is hoisted in the international tournaments, the people of that country applaud in the one voice. This has been experienced several times.

When our team was victorious in the 1972 games at Kuala Lumpur, the people of this country, whether in Madras, Kashmir, Calcutta or Gujarat, came out on the roads in thousands and expressed their joy. Again, when we won the World Cup

in cricket, the response of the people was similar. Hence, it is a matter of regret that in spite of so much involvement of the people, such a low priority is given to sports and very little attention is paid to it.

I would say that as our dynamic Prime Minister is making efforts for the promotion of science and technology, the Ministry of sports should also, in the same manner, make efforts so that we enter the 21st century as a powerful nation. It is important to provide proper equipment to our children and youth who can improve their prospects through sports.

I would also like to submit that the Sports Ministry will have to look after the Sports Industry as well. Today, football, hockey-ball etc. are very expensive, due to which people are not able to play with them. Earlier, people could afford to purchase sports goods. Today, the sports industry is facing a crisis. It is, therefore essential to provide help to it. The question is of over all sports and we have to view it from all angles, because we all know that a country earns its reputation either in the field of sports or in the battlefield.

I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I express my thanks to you for the same.

16.18 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd.

[English]

Agreement on Conduct of Festival
of Indian and Festival of
U.S.S.R. etc.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA
RAO): With your permission, I would
like to lay on the Table of the House a
copy of the Agreement on the conduct
of the Festival of India in the U.S.S.R., and
a Festival of U.S.S.R. in India in 1987