

[Translation]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : It is really very nice of you !

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : It will burden the poor man. You are increasing the limit from Rs. 50 to Rs. 500. Please do not do so, otherwise the poor will be crushed.

[English]

SOME HON. MEMBERS : This limit for not increasing the commission for money orders upto Rs. 50/- be increased to Rs. 500/-.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur) : It is the most inefficient Department of the Government of India. Is there any proposal to reduce the inefficiency in this Department. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions please.

12.35 hrs.

DISCUSSION ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE INDIAN SPORTSMEN AT THE TENTH ASIAN GAMES HELD AT SEOUL—(Contd.)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up further discussion on the performance of the Indian Sportsmen at the 10th Asian Games held at Seoul.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Mr Chairman, Sir, as we know, the performance of India in the recently concluded Asian Games has been deplorable. The Members of the House irrespective of their party affiliations as also the country as a whole have mentioned their anxiety about this failure. This is a question of national prestige.

The hon. Minister, while replying to your own question, Sir, said that it was the Indian Olympic Association or the National Sports Federations which are autonomous bodies, which are responsible for this failure. However, I will draw the attention of the House to the report of the Indian Olympics Association which makes the Government responsible for this failure. There are the conflicting views between the Government as well as the Indian Olympic Association.

Sir, the sports culture is not unknown to India. What is required is reorientation of this culture in a scientific manner. We had imported horses from other countries at a huge cost and I do not see any reason, why these animals were not allowed to take part in Seoul. Many hon. Members of the House including yourself have alleged nepotism and favouritism in selecting substandard as also not selecting the proper athletes. In this connection, I would like to place before the House, the Government of India's policy on sports. It was laid on the Table of both the Houses on the 21st August, 1984. It has been stated in para 10 :

"The Indian Olympic Association and the national sports federations have a special responsibility with regard to competitive sports. They should present a unified and cohesive image in keeping with the dignity of the nation. Their responsibility is even greater where participation of national teams in international competitions is involved. Such federations should, therefore, be encouraged to regularly hold national competitions and implement effective plans for the preparation of national teams for participation in international competitions..."

In this Policy of the Government, the Indian Olympic Association and the national sports federations are made responsible for the games. There are many other features in this Sports Policy such as voluntary efforts, sports institutions, employment of mass media and the sports should start at the grass root level, there should be sports institutions right from the villages to the level

of cities etc. I would request the hon. Minister to let us know how far the Government has been successful in implementing this policy. Or, I want to know whether it is only a policy for the sake of policy. Taking all these factors into consideration, I invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the Report of the Indian Olympic Association. It is said in the Report :

“It is an established fact, and fully known to the Government and the public, that the sports infrastructure that we possess in our country, indoor and outdoor, is broadly limited to four cities—Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta wherein also there is variation and no standardisation is available. The IOA and other sports bodies have been crying hoarse for these sports facilities to no avail.”

So, I have submitted to you both the Policy of the Government and the Report of the Indian Olympic Association. The Association, in particular, has blamed everybody except themselves. They have stated in their report that there are no coaching facilities, no training and that funds are not made available. I want to mention one point in this regard. The Report of the Indian Olympic Association further says :

“...Leave aside sports, even physical education not being a compulsory subject in our schools, colleges and universities, no worthwhile attention is paid to this subject.

“In the recently concluded Asian Games at Seoul, in the IOA contingent, there was hardly any representation from the universities or the colleges. Whereas it is this source which should feed us with the maximum numbers.”

So Sir, I would like to point out that because of all these factors, Government should not remain as a sad spectator. Some tangible action should be taken so that this sort of performance is not repeated. Even the Association has said in their Report :

“There is no need for India to participate in 1988 and 1992 Olympic Games, unless it is more or less certain that for every entry we can achieve minimum 6th place”.

Who is responsible for this sad state of affairs? Is the Indian Olympic Association responsible or somebody else? This must be clearly stated.

Lastly, I want to submit that the Central Government is giving certain aid to the sports institutions in different States. Those sports institutions are asked to sponsor their schemes for aid through the States. But there are certain States, who do not send the applications received by them in time. That is the reason why the genuine demands of these institutions are not met. I would request the hon. Minister that besides asking them to sponsor their schemes for help from the Centre through the States, they can be permitted to send the same direct also. We, the members of Parliament are well aware of the needs of our States and Constituencies and we request the hon. Minister to consider this suggestion because in this way the genuine interests of sportspersons and institutions can be met.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I thank you very much for giving me permission to speak out of turn as today is 'jumma' and I have to offer 'Namaz'.

AN HON. MEMBER : He has shown special favour to you.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: I wish and pray to god that may you be appointed a minister soon.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the debate is going on for the last two days. We are continuously complaining about non-completion of certain things and our Madam Minister is also listening. There are some two or three basic issues about which I want to ask you.

When we invested a huge amount in the Asian games in 1982, we had great expectation because we had stepped into field also. The Government was severely criticised for this extravaganza, but despite that we had a lot of hopes. Now those hopes have also been dashed to ground by the Seoul games.

There was wide ranging criticism and the opposition accused the Government of misusing and wasting public money. But in spite of it we had hopes that our youths will get opportunities to participate in the games and thus we shall turn out good sportsmen, but that has not come to be true. There are some reasons behind this. You have to make efforts to find out the talent.

Can we not turn out good sportsmen and teams out of a population of 80 crores? The reason is that nobody cares for good sportsmen. There are many youngboys who complain that they are not provided any opportunity. There is no one to stand guarantee for them and grant them fee concession so that they could get admission in schools. They are very good players. It is a basic thing that if you want to produce good sportsmen you must catch them young at this school stage. This is our biggest weakness.

There is party politics in the matter of selections. Captains favour players of their own group. No one cares for the boys without any push. Therefore, you cannot turn out good players and it is gross injustice. Our Madam Minister should pay special attention to this matter.

Besides, 70 per cent of our population lives in villages and no attention is paid to sports facilities in villages. Cricket is a game of opium eaters. The authorities pay more attention to cricket and ignore Kabaddi. Kabaddi is a regular sport in villages, but is not encouraged in any way. Today, everyone is crazy about cricket. No one cares for Kabaddi, hockey and football. These games also require attention. Kabaddi is a rural game. There people take part in Kabaddi, long jump, high jump etc., but the Government is least concerned about them.

As all our Members have stated that there are no two opinions about the absence of discipline in the associations which have been formed here. You should believe it that coaches do nothing there, they do not give coaching and misuse the funds.

Whenever a team is to be sent somewhere, the selections are made at the eleventh hour. If the selections are made well in advance, then the players can prepare themselves, but you select them at the last moment and, therefore, no coaching takes place. Korea and Japan are very small nations in comparison to our country, but you can see that they are far ahead of us in the field of sports. We spend so much money on sports, but with little result.

The Sports Authority of India has now suggested that we should not participate in any tournament. What a cowardice it is! Why do you accept this report? This is no way *Phele bad to Khud Karen, Laanat Karen Shaitan Ko*. What a suggestion! The fault is theirs, but they recommend non-participation in the games. How wrong is this approach! This is not something justified. You should not accept this report.

Secondly, Players should not be allowed to indulge in party politics. They should be kept away from all these things. Today we notice that recommendations are made for inclusion or exclusion of a particular player. All such practices must be completely done away with.

So far as hockey is concerned, it has been totally ruined. Shri Aslam Sher Khan is a very good hockey player. You form a committee and appoint good sportsmen M.Ps as its members. You can include in that committee sportsmen ministers also ..
(Interruptions)...

The persons who coach our players do nothing. They get salaries for doing nothing. They impart coaching only for one hour a day and remain at their houses for the rest of the day. Our Madam Minister has keen interest in sports and we hope that she will certainly pay attention to the suggestions of the

Members. I had only a small suggestion in my mind which I have put forward before you. I have not been a player, but this much I will say that it brings a bad name to the country that we could not turn out good players out of 80 crores of our people. This is highly shameful. It was a young lady who saved our honour at Seoul. Government should pay more attention to sportswomen rather than sportsmen. At least, they save our honour and do not let us expose.

With these words, I thank you.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is but natural that we all are concerned at the dismal performance of the Indian team in the recently held 10th Asian Games in Seoul. It is because of the fact that prior to this, we used to say proudly that the First Asian Games were held in our country and in 1982 we won a number of gold, silver and bronze medals. Our progress in this field since then was also significant. After the IXth Asian Games were organised in Delhi, the entire country had hoped that with the creation of new atmosphere in the country and with the availability of infrastructure, such as, stadia, training and coaching, our young generation and our youths would get its benefits. But as has been said by most of our colleagues, the working of our various institutions, and association such as, Indian Olympic Association, Sports Authority of India and National Institute of Sports, is not satisfactory. They lack coordination, as a result of which the talented sportsmen are not selected. I would like to cite one instance to the hon. Minister. When the hockey team was being selected, I had informed the hon. Minister of non-inclusion of a good player from Madhya Pradesh, Jalaluddin who plays right out. I had discussed this matter with the Hon. Prime Minister also, who had directed his Secretary Shri O.P. Arora to inquire into the case and find out from the Sports Ministry as to how such a talented player was not selected. In spite of all this, whenever I took up the matter with the hon. Minister, she expressed her inability saying that she could not interfere with the working of these federations or

in the selection of the team; she could only give suggestions. What I want to say is that when all these federations, associations and sports institutions are controlled by the Sports Ministry, why can't they have their say in making the right decision and in the selection of players? The suggestion given by Shri Mushran may come out to be a good one that the selection of players, whether it is for the international competitions or for Asian or Olympic games, should be made by a National Sports Selection Committee. When under the new education policy, the sports have been made part of education it has become imperative to bring sports activities in the Concurrent List with a view to ensuring proper development of our youths. Today, in spite of the fact that we are a nation of 75 crores, we could reach only the 5th or the 6th position in the medal tally in Seoul Asian Games. This is certainly a shameful situation for the country. I would like to make a small comparison in this regard. South and North Korea together had won 45 gold medals in the 1982 Asian Games, whereas in the 1986 games, South Korea alone bagged 93 gold medals.

We should give foremost attention to coaching and training. This should not be confined to only those who had excelled in the previous tournaments and competitions or we should not impart training by taking the last Asian games' records as base. We should keep the world records before us while giving training and the training should be so timed that the players should reach their full form near the tournaments so that the players could give their best and add to the honour of the country. At the same time, they should be able to further the new interest created for sports in the country.

12.56 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

I would also like to remind that Olympic games are scheduled to be held in 1988 in Seoul and in 1990, the Asian games are going to be organised in Beijing. That means, we are not left with much time. We

have to prepare our sportsmen for the olympics in two years and after that we have to compete in the Asian Games to be held in Beijing in another two years. Therefore, I would like to say that whatever be the targets for training, we must start imparting training right now. We should not mind starting from grass root level after appointing good coaches and selecting talented players. Even if we are required to organise our camps in small villages, it can prove to be a good procedure. One of our sportsman colleague has cited an example that the best football player was a street player. There are hundreds of such street players in our rural areas, who if given training under the supervision of good coaches, can achieve excellence of the national level and can also hold Indian colours high in the Asian and Olympic games.

The hon. Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Rao is also present in the House. I would like to make a submission to him also that it is high time to review our sports policy and to see it in the national perspective by bringing the sports in the concurrent list. We should set up such schools and institutions as can bring the talent to the fore by rising above nepotism and corruption and by adopting national outlook. The sports policy of Soviet Union, the leading country in the world of sports, was formulated by Lunacharsky, a literature and critic. Today, the need of the hour is to bring new talent and youths to the forefront through a national outlook and by rising above party politics. The weak persons who are occupying positions there need to be replaced. The new sports policy should be determined by taking into account the new infrastructure and the new outlook that has been created in the country.

13.00 hrs.

Now, I would like to give a few suggestions. We should create infrastructure at the district level and there we do not need big stadia. Good sports grounds should be developed and playing facilities should be provided there so that competitions could be

organised at college level in various districts. That way, we can give full benefits to them. So kindly pay adequate attention to it. The newspapers have carried reports to the effect that a leading athlete had resigned his post during the course of the games and had accepted a contract to become a coach in Taiwan. I want to say that we should prepare good coaches and bring the talented coaches to the forefront.

[English]

13.01 hrs.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I do not want to mention our performance in Seoul. It is too tragic. What I want to emphasise is that we must learn our lessons and we should shape our policy accordingly. We must learn our lesson from our last performance. We must find out whether we have given training facilities and also what is our system of selection, on all sides.

Sports is an important event in our national life. We must start to train our young children from the very beginning of their life and from all walks of life, whether they are rich or poor, we should not leave it on them. It is natural that we have to select children mostly from the schools but knowing the condition of our country, we should not forget about the children who are dropped out and also who have not got the opportunity to attend the school.

Here I would like to mention about G.D.R. I was there and I have seen that children are selected from the age of three and they are finally selected at the age of six. And they give them the proper training from the very beginning. They have universities also. I would like to say that we do not have a number of sports schools, colleges and universities. Here I like to mention one thing. Most of the Members,—the young Members, will not know, we older Members may remember, that when we were children, not only we did not have any schools and colleges or even any university for music or dancing, but the demand was there and now

we have the universities. So, I request that we must start thinking of having schools and colleges and universities for sports in our country. And, I am sure, in the beginning, parents would not like to send their children because they may not think that Sports will be a career but in course of time it will be taken up in the country.

I take one minute more and I wish to inform the House that when there was a famine in Bengal in the undivided Bengal in 1943, because many children lost their parents and other family members, we ran a number of orphanages. You will be surprised to know that we brought up a boy who was admitted at an age of three, after some years, when he became a boy of 11 to 12 years old, he was painting very well. We were surprised to see it. When his paintings were shown to Shri Nand Lal Bose, he was extremely happy and he asked us to bring that boy to him, and he promised to take special care of the boy! Then in 1947 we had a number of colleges where art teachers are to be recruited. Nand Lal Bose had helped a number of them. This is just an example which I am mentioning.

DR. V. VENKATESH : A very good example.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA : The time has come when the girls are also to be given training. For that we must have all the arrangements. Stipend should also be given to the future sports persons. Specially those who are coming from poor families, they must be given double the stipend because they need food and their parents will not be able to give them food.

What I would like to suggest is that we have to review the whole system and we have to change our attitude towards sports. A new thinking is necessary. Sports should be an integral part of our educational system. The entire system of sports should be changed. As far as talent is concerned, it does exist in rural areas and in poor families also. So, we have to pick up all these children according to their talent. Some machinery will have to be developed for this purpose. I would like the hon. Minister to

tell us what short term and long term measures are proposed to be taken to ensure better performance.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : It is appropriate for me to take part in the discussion with regard to Seoul Games when you are in the Chair because you are from the south and the Minister, Mrs. Margaret Alva is also from the south. Only south has brought prestige to the nation. Even Human Resources Development Minister is also from the south.

Games and sports should be developed on a large scale with the objective of improving the physical fitness and sportsmanship among average students and those who excel in this department. Now, play fields and other facilities do not exist. I request the hon. Minister that this should be provided immediately on priority basis.

Sports, under our Constitution, is in the State List. Physical education which is part of the education, is in the Concurrent List. I request the hon. Minister that sports and physical education should be brought to State List and it should not be in the Concurrent List. The hon. Minister knows fully well that formerly education was in the State List. But in 1975-76 this was brought under Concurrent List. I once again request the Minister to bring back education with physical education in the State List.

For many years the theme song of the Indian sports was that there was no Sports Ministry and not much resources were provided for sports. But now, for the last two years, the Sports Ministry has been set up and it has been put in operation. Mrs. Margaret Alva took special interest in selection, preparation and training of sportsmen for the Asian Games. As for resources, no expense was spared in the preparation stage and yet the result was inversely proportional to the efforts. More than a week went by without a medal in Seoul Games. We had been witnessing TV. For one week, we were not able to see the performance of India on the TV.

But only after P.T. Usha came, the glory

came. Actually, the glory came only because of P.T. Usha. There was a comment that only Usha should have been sent. I have read it in *The Week* magazine also. Even the hon. Prime Minister also asked Mrs. Margaret Alva when she was in Seoul... (Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): That is not true. Don't believe everything you read.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: All right. What is the counter-statement you have made for all these magazines?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Let them say.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: So far you have never replied.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I reply to Parliament, I do not reply to magazines.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: All right. Sir, what is wrong in all these things? Is it that the system itself is at fault? Why we are unable to produce more sportsmen?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): That is precisely what we want to know. Where is the system at fault? How is it to be set right? Please for heaven's sake do tell that.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: I will tell you. We have to admit one fact. Should we reconcile ourselves with the fact that there is dearth of efficient persons in the field of sports and physical education? This is a vital question that has to be debated upon nation-wide. A team of 380 strong

squad was sent to Seoul, out of which 296 were the sports competitors and 84 were officers. So, there was one officer for three competitors. That was the ratio adopted by the Indian Government. But what about the medals we have received? We have received only 37 medals—five gold, nine silver and 23 bronze. Actually, in the medals tally, we ranked as fifth nation. Out of 23 nations that took part in the Seoul Asian Games, we ranked as fifth nation. What about the fourth place? The fourth place went to Iran. For all its fundamentalism and the never ending war with Iraq, Iran was able to get the fourth place. But what happened to India? We were at the fifth place. With regard to medals also, are we actually improving from one Asian Games to another? First of all, we have to go through all these things. In the 1954 Asian Games, we got 18 medals; in 1958 we got 13 medals—that means the number came down; in 1962 we got 34 medals—the number went up; in 1966 again the number came down to 21 medals; in 1970 the number went up a little and we got 25 medals; in 1974 we got 28 medals; in 1978 again we got 28 medals; in 1982 the number of medals we got was 57, when Madam Gandhi was the Prime Minister and the Asian Games were held in New Delhi. The number of medals we got now was 37. So, from 57 it came down to 37. But what happened now in 1986 after the Ministry has been put into operation? We have come down in the medals tally. We have to admit all these facts. Somebody was telling that we should not compare ourselves with Japan or China. Then are we going to compare ourselves with Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives—the small countries? Even I have gone through the IOA Report. The Report is nothing but passing the bug. Actually, our performance in Seoul is dismal, disastrous and disappointing. I have to praise P.T. Usha. Actually, the glory goes only to P.T. Usha. We have to improve a lot in sports and also in physical education.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One thing I want to say to the hon. Minister. If you concentrate on rural areas for selecting the candidates, probably you can get more people. What we are doing is we are selecting only bureaucrats, that is, those who are

already employed in some departments, we are selecting them. But talented people we can get from rural areas which you are neglecting.

Language is not necessary for selecting people in sports. Healthy people are there in the rural areas. If you concentrate there, you will be able to get better stuff.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : 75% population is in the rural areas. 25% is in the urban areas.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur) : I need not mention Seoul because only they are disappointed who had some appointments and hope. I would say 'why' ? We had a policy. But the implementation of policy is absolutely not there. Neither the officials nor the Ministry know what is sports and how they should be implemented. I now come to the concrete points. What do we find in our sports outside ? In some games let us say foot ball, volley ball, basket ball or in Hockey, you will find that in the first half or for first 25 minutes our sportsmen in the field excel the opposite side. As the time draws on, they become slow. They are out of place. Why ? It is because in this country we have only one way of selecting sportsmen. When we have Seoul or other game, six months we take to collect and put them to some kind of training for three weeks and after that we send them without any marking, without having any definition. We had decided long before in 1967 when for nine months I had been the Sports Minister of this country, that for sending in any event let there be some standard. For example, in Olympic we had—let 7th in Olympics be the qualifying standard in India. That is not so here. If you go to the selection procedure, upto the last date there is jogging about to push in their men. Therefore we have to-day in this country no Selection Committee for any sports. But they are 'pairwe' committee. We do not keep any standard-7th.

If Minister or sportsmen feel strong, let it be 9th. But let there be some standard of the olympic for the next one. Any other country will start preparation right now. We prepare only four to six months before the games start. Why ? It is because there is a huge cry. I want to tell the Minister about the independence of the federation, about the autonomy of the federation. What is the autonomy of the federation ? The autonomy of the federation is to manage, not to mismanage. That is what in this country the federations are doing. Most of them are managers. They are not sportsmen. You take any federation you like. I will give you by name what they are. They do not know. They are only jogging for power in the corridor of post power. They come in there. They make their 'pairwe' and push their boys and girls into this. They only sleep. They want only from Government money to go. Most of them are the officials. Government must have guts to say 'no' to their chaprasies, to their astrologers and their cooks being taken as a coach.

I was a Sports Minister, 'A big man in this country was made the Chief de-mission of course over me. He came and 'pairwed' me for astrologer as the coach to be taken, for his assistant to be taken as a coach.

In a Selection Committee, Mr. Minister, you must put your qualified men. I give a concrete example. Dr. Narsingh Rao wanted something concrete. For example NIS, National Institute of Patiala. I compliment the Government for an institution like the National Institute of Patiala. We have at least to show we have coach ; Class A, Class B and Class C. In my time to class C I gave them their monthly payment at home. I said you sit at home and take the money. I cannot dismiss you under Government rules. It is because they do not know A, B, C of sports. They were just coach by 'pairwe'. B were B and A were A. To-day there are institutions where there are coaches. There are qualified coaches in this country who can be put in the Selection Committee when selection is made. Because in the selection Committee, Sports Federation made their own selection and they have in their mind,

while selecting, whom should be pushed up. Therefore, what I say is, in the team that you send outside or for that matter here also, you must have the qualified coaches.

Now, Sir, for example, the Government has got two institutions. One is SAI, the Sports Authority of India. Another is NIS. This SAI has got all the Colonels, Generals and Lieutenants, and the IAS and IPS men are in the Ministry, who have never played any part in the games. They are good men; they are experts; they are encyclopaedia of knowledge. You put them anywhere they fit in. Now the Generals are very good in their field, in the field of war, I must say. But excuse me, if I say so, they are the most misfit today in the field of sports. They only want one thing, the NIS. You see, NIS has got the very good reputation. It is the oldest institution with the Ministry, with the Government of India. It has got good coaches. We divide the functions of SAI to keep up buildings, stadia, fields and all that. NIS have the coaches. Now, the SAI wants to grab NIS so that, there are no coaches. We want gymnasium indoor expert for experiments, for practising in the NIS in Delhi. But it is not coming. But everyday the good coaches who are there are threatened. How can there be anything like that? Federation is useless—all conspirators, not professionals, to put the boys into training. Therefore, I would say that the Minister should have the courage to see that the federations have the autonomy to manage, not to mismanage. And when you give training, you should give effective training. For example, the Indian Olympic Association is there. When we ask a question, the minister would say, we violate the charter. Please listen to this point also. Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Sir, the moment we ask certain information from the Government about the Indian Olympic Association, they will say, you violate the charter. I am asking you how the Soviet Union, how Poland, how Bulgaria-- I am quoting the Socialist countries—how GDR, win, corner all the gold medals. And yet, with the sanctity and chastity of the Indian Olympic Association, we could not win. It is only in India, because of these managers. The Minister or the Ministry has

hardly got the time to keep an eye on the manipulating managers. But talking of Indian Olympic Association, they would say, charter is being violated. They sit once a while.

They have all the good time of the life but they are never doing anything with the training. Therefore, I say that like the NIS training, Mr. Minister, let there be a coaching centre at Bangalore—You have started one. It is good. But the country is too vast to pull down the string from Delhi. Let there be coaching centres from different parts of the country—East, West, North and South. Then, like this NIS centre, you must have coaching centres there. Don't mix up coaching with SAI. I may tell you, they will spoil all that you will have till today. You have best coaches in the country. Therefore, my point is, keep an eye on the federations, No. 1. No. 2, start the thing right now from here. You must have selected some disciplines. Now, for example, everybody said about P.T. Usha. I tell you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, if they want to have 4 gold medals next time only through P.T. Usha, they are wrong. Let her be specialised in 400 metres, 200 metres and 100 metres. But let not everything be thrust on her. That is not possible. Let the disciplines be selected. Let the sportsmen be selected for each discipline. Let the coach be selected and we have done the thing here.

There are federations in the country. We have a rule that no official will be selected for more than 2 terms. Now, there are federations in this country. For example, Cricket, my friend, Mahfooz says, cricket is not a sports; it is an industry now. Kapil Dev, the Indian Cricket Captain—just released book said, it is an industry. Forget about it. But I cannot forget the gate money and the huge money that the Cricket Control Board of India has, when the match is held in Delhi or Calcutta. And the entire harem moves—the whole members. Their drinking bill is more in every function—I say, Mr. Minister, you should have the courage to say, It is the Indian people's money paid through the gate. It is the hard-earned foreign exchange of the Indian people that is paid for every tour. England came here when they

were rejected in Pakistan. During my time they came and Mr. Irani made an agreement that "India will host it." It was because they went to South Africa. I said "No." Addressing the children of India, I say India should not be readily available milching cow, who should come here and get the foreign exchange and have their money. I am not scared of defeat. But I ask a question. Why India should have the monopoly of defeat every time? That is the question before the Council. We are not scared of defeat. A sportsman should never be defeated. Why should we be scared? What I say is, Mr. Minister, you must kindly know to pull your power. It is the power given to the people. The federations in the country, most of them, only try to get money and drop in for going in there. When they go there, they do not go for playing. They go for marketing. I can quote you one dozen instances again where returning players and managers have paid as big an amount as Rs. 67,000 as customs duty. I say, Mr. Sports Minister, dismiss that fellow who brings goods and pays customs duty of Rs. 67,000'. He is not a sportsman. He is not a sports manager and, therefore, right now start the process. In that process, you must start right from the training part. In that training part, you must have coaching of not the Generals, Lieutenants, Ahluwalias and Saluwalias who do not know anything about sports. They are a disgrace to ; the Sports Institute today in this country. But NIS where they have got something to show, please do that. Please come, Mr. Minister and Mrs. Minister, to this NIS one day without any programme for distributing prizes. I will take you round. I had made this camp. I brought it from there. Therefore, it is possible for us, I say, for this country, to have a big sports event and, show in the next Olympics, in every international event, only if we keep in mind, these important directions that are already there in the sports policy.

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the limitation of time, I shall not take much time. I had an opportunity to go through the

report of the Indian Olympic Association in which they have listed the reasons for the dismal performance of India in the Seoul Asiad.

[English]

Lack of infrastructure, lack of equipment available there with Indian Sportsmen, lack of coaching, quality of coaching, lack of finance.

[Translation]

So far as the question of infrastructure is concerned ; I would like to say that it might be true in the case of a few disciplines. but to say that we do not have infrastructure for football and hockey, I am not prepared to agree to it. Not that we have football and hockey grounds all over the country, but it is also not correct to say that we have none. There was a time when our country was the world champion and the olympic champion in hockey. The position now is that India will have to play and win qualifying preliminary rounds to compete in the competitions. The same is true of football. I agree that we lack finances, we do not have much to spend. I join other hon. Members in saying that our selection procedure is not correct. Hockey once earned glory for the country. Similarly, I think the selection of players in football too was not fair. If we really want to surge ahead in the arena of sports, if we want to improve our standards, I have a few suggestions to put forward.

If a sportsman gives a good performance today, it is not necessary that he will surely give the same performance in future also. I want that the Government's planning should be such that their future is assured. They should get good salary after they retire from active participation or the Government should guarantee them employment. As long as it is not done, the standard of sports in our country is not going to improve. We do send our words to schools and almost all the schools have some sports facilities, but no parent wants his ward to participate in sports. What they say to their wards is that he

should give top priority to studies; what is there in sports or what are the future prospects? The Government should extend their cooperation to ensure that outstanding sportsmen, Gold Medalists get employment opportunities in good institutions of the country with decent salaries. If they are assured of their future, I think they will certainly come forward in the field of sports and will pay attention to improve their standards.

Another point that I want to make is that sports should be given priority at school level and no fee should be charged in schools. For example, many of our school children want to participate in swimming, but they are asked to pay Rs 25/- as entry fee in the beginning and thereafter they have to pay some monthly fee also. As a result of this, many students belonging to poor families cannot afford it. No fees should be charged from them at the school level. We should give incentive to them at the school level. Whosoever is selected at the school level should get a scholarship and other incentives so that arrangement for meals—eggs and milk—could be made for him and he may be able to give full attention to the sports and games.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have many suggestions to make. But as you are ringing the bell repeatedly in the end. I would say that I agree with the suggestion made by several hon. Members that IOA should not be an autonomous body. I would request the Sports Minister to visit Soviet Union and GDR and see how sportsmen are trained, what facilities are given to them and how they are selected? After seeing these things you will get an idea how we can select our children and what type of facilities should be provided to them. I would also say that we should not include all the sports in one school. Rather we should observe the aptitude of the children and train them in sports of their aptitude, because a child cannot learn every sport.

[English]

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurdhars) :

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the entire House has expressed its resentment and displeasure on the performance of our Indian contingent at the Seoul Games and the responsibility of the Government.

Sir, Sports in our country is considered more as a luxury rather than a necessity. The selection procedure of sportsmen and sports-women for the various International tournaments usually gives more weightage to family background rather than the talent, skill and sincerity in the field of sports and games. It has become more business-like rather than giving importance to the sportsman-spirit, in the selection process.

Selection is more confined to affluent society rather than giving importance to national outlook. The big towns and cities consume the lion's share of the grant given for training and coaching, provision for luxurious stadium, keeping aside the countryside people's talent and skill. In this connection I would like to point out that no club or association can afford to pay the enormous rent realised for the Stadia like Talkatora, Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium etc. for practising purposes.

Sir, our stadia in the capital city of Delhi and elsewhere have become show-models. They are beyond the reach of the village people in India. Further, I would like to mention that politics and corruption have taken the major part to play in every step in the sports and games Organisations. The participants selected for various purposes outnumber the real sports-men and sports-women.

It has been observed that a good number of participants in international games have no connection with, or interest in, sports and games. They were found to be much more interested in sight-seeing and some considered it a good occasion for honeymoon trip at the expense of public money.

I suggest that there must be sports-school in every State where sports men and women could be trained at the expense of the govern-

ment. Then we can regain our prestige which we had in 1928.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would first of all like to clarify that the Report which has been circulated is the Report of the I.O.A. Some hon. Members seemed to think it was a government document. It is not a government report. It has not been accepted by the Government. Hon. Speaker had desired that the IOA's Report should be circulated before the debate and so it was circulated. I want to say that it is not a document of the Government.

Several points have been raised and very useful suggestions have been made. I am very grateful both for the criticism and for the constructive suggestions which have been brought forth since yesterday.

In the IOA's Report, I want to point out, a number of suggestions have been made by them. Some of them are suggestions on which action has already been initiated even before these Games. I can only say this that we are starting at a point today where the new schemes have not yet shown the results.

Several hon. Members has spoken about the last Asian Games and asked what happened after that. I do want to say that the Ninth Asian Games hosted by us in Delhi was a turning-point for us because it was after those Games that real attention to organizing and improving sports in the country was given. For the information of the hon. Members—I am sure most of them are aware of this—I would try point out what were the outlays in the past and what are the outlays now. We have got to talk about Indian sports keeping in view what happened in the past. I would like to say that, in the First Five-Year Plan, there was no allotment for sports at all; it was 'nil'. In the Second Five-

Year Plan we had Rs. 1.15 crores. In the Third Plan it was Rs. 1.53 crores. In the Fourth Plan it was Rs. 3.04 crores. In the Fifth Plan we went up to Rs. 5.34 crores. In the Sixth Plan it was around Rs. 15 crores, that is, Rs. 14.73 crores. It was for the first time in the Seventh Plan that we have jumped to Rs. 200 crores. It is for the first time that we have money for the infrastructure and for broadbasing of the infrastructure throughout the country. I can assure the hon. Members that, ever since this allotment was made, we have already started a massive programme for expansion of sports infrastructure.

The Bangalore Centre was mentioned just now by my friend, Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad. I do want to say that that is not the only Centre. Besides the NIS at Patiala now, we are in the process of commissioning five Centres. We have one at Bangalore. The one at Imphal is going to be commissioned in the next few months. We have taken over the Gandhinagar Sports complex which is already in operation; it will be opened very shortly. We have got one at Calcutta. Kerala is going to get a sub-centre. Aurangabad is going to have a sub-centre. We have a sub-centre coming up in Assam. Unfortunately, the land has not been given; we have requested for land in Assam and we are going to have...

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : What about Madras ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : We have centres in Kerala and Bangalore.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Why not in Madras ? We are producing so many sports men and women. We are spending a lot.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : What about Patna ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Besides these Centres for the various regions, we are going in also for distribution of artificial track and synthetic play-fields.

That is where Jamshedpur and Ranchi come because of its special interest in Hockey that we are going to build depending on the local games. All I want to say is that I am no longer giving the excuse of paucity of funds. I think, with the money we have, now, a great deal can be done. I would also like to say and it is not a lame excuse, that the States have got to play a much more positive role in the development of games and sports. It is no point saying that the Centre has got to do everything.

I can say here that in many many cases it is so. In the case of Kerala a question was raised yesterday. We have given, I don't know how many reminders, asked them to give us the location where the synthetic tracks may go. One says Cannanore, one says Calicut, one says Trivendrum, one says Cochin ; but we have not got the final location. We have been begging of Kerala to give us selected children from the fishermen community so that we can train them for swimming. We have not yet got the list from the State Government.

In so many states the first instalment of infrastructure has been given as per their own requests. We got no utilisation certificate from them with the result that we cannot give the second and the third instalments— unless the first utilisation certificate comes— with the result that foundation stones are laid and then you never hear of it again. We keep sending lists of pending projects to the States with no reply.

It is easy to say that we must create the infrastructure. We fund, we approve, but there has to be some responsibility also from the States in order to make it work. I would request Mr. Dinesh Goswami to please see that the land that we are asking in Guwahati for the sub-centre is given to us.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati) : It will be communicated today even.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I can give you the copies of the letters that we have written to your Chief Minister and our officers have also gone.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I will do it.

AN HON. MEMBER : The Chief Minister is here today.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I would be grateful if that is given. In fact, in the Sports' Ministers meeting a commitment was made ; but we still have not got the land.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Are you the Chief Minister of the State ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Yes, he represents the State.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They are assuring as if they are the Ministers of the State.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : They play a mediator's role. That is all they can do.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I will come to the point of how much importance we are giving to sports. Everybody is talking about the sports culture in the country today. I would like to just mention here that Item No. 33 on the State List—List-2— the way in which sports is mentioned as a subject, it is listed at No. 33, theatres, dramatic performances, cinemas, sports, entertainments, amusements. They are all clubbed together in one entry even in the Constitution, with the result that nobody in the past has really given the attention which it has now started to receive.

I am not going into many of the things perhaps which one could talk about. But I do want to say that about Seoul basically three points have been raised. One is selection, the second is the large contingent which went— why the third has been the sports officials and the sports persons. They say that it has been a sort of disproportionate. I am not saying that somebody should have gone, or somebody should not have gone.

We come back basically to what all of you have spoken about the autonomy of the

IOA as far as selections and criteria are concerned. I wish to reiterate before the House, I have already done it in the other House, somebody said to me why have you not replied to press reports. I know there have been various articles and criticisms. As I said to somebody the other day, if Indian sport could do with the John of Arc to be burnt at the stake, I am prepared to offer myself. I alone cannot put sports right. It is a much bigger job and I certainly would like Parliament to know why and how the criteria was changed.

We have stuck to the criteria which the Government had insisted ; that is, third place in the last Asian Games or any subsequent tournament of Asian standards. We refused to change. The notification is on the file and this has been issued. But then there were pressures from the IOA and I would, with your permission, quote just one part where the IOA called on Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao in a big delegation and recorded their minutes as a document and sent it for follow up.

“The IOA delegation explained that in no country in the field of sports is the selection criterion laid down by the Government of the country...

.. This is the prerogative of the National Olympic Committee of the country. Therefore, it will be wrong if the Government lays down a selection criteria and insist on its being followed by the National Olympic Committee, This will tantamount to interference by the Government in the functioning of the National Olympic Committee. The IOA delegation submitted that the Government could suggest a selection criteria and finance only such competitors who come within their criteria. The IOA in accordance with the selection criteria accepted by them would then consider bearing the expenditure on the competitors who do not qualify on the Government suggested selection criteria but qualified on the IOA accepted criteria.”

This is where the rub came. They said

if you do not want to pay you do not pay. You pay upto third. We are responsible for the rest but we have the right to decide what the selection criteria will be. Rather than create at that stage this conflict we said if you are going to the sixth place you are responsible and that was the condition on which they were allowed to go upto the sixth place. We have not paid for the rest.

But it is surprising that after this one of the suggestions and recommendations made in the report is that we should not participate either in the next Olympics because the same IOA in arguing their case had said to us that Olympic and Asian games are meant not for winning medals only but also has a much wider perspective of creating goodwill.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I had given the example of Soviet Union and GDR where there are no such kind of Olympic associations. Why Government should quote such trash. They say not for medals and we also say not for defeat of India. Olympic Association is not above the country.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I am also agreeing with you. This is now that Members of Parliament say you need not follow the criteria of the Olympic Association. That is a different question. (*Interruptions*)

Now we have got an expert group which is studying legislation of all these countries including the Socialist countries. For instance, Shri Lanka has a different system. Other countries which are not necessarily on top have got legislation of their own which is different from what we have and we hope that in the next two months we will be able to come with some kind of a definite legislative alternative to the existing so-called autonomy which exists.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : You may not have control in selection but you have control in releasing foreign exchange. Why foreign exchange was released from the third to sixth place ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I

agree with you that we could have said 'no'. We will not allow anyone to go. But there was this feeling that they had laid a criteria and made selection and they insisted on it. We said we are not responsible for paying. They said we will raise the money.

Now a point was raised that the number that went was quite large. I can give you the figures of those who went under these sportsmen and officials but I can tell you there were so many people who came to Seoul on their own. They had nothing to do with the Federations. They went as tourists and there is nothing I can do about it. They did not need our clearance. Let me tell you, as I said in the other House, from my own State of Karnataka there was a delegation of 34 MLAs. It is completely outside our purview. There were State Ministers who were leading delegations. They had nothing to do with the official delegation or the contingent. They were not part of the contingent or anything else. They went on their own.

There are many of you who have said that there were so many non-players and so many others. When you talk of 84 people who went, I want you to know that who they were. There were coaches, you have to have with the wrestlers their masseurs, they had gone, you had with the cycle team one or two of their mechanical people. Then, with the horses, you have to take two or three persons to look after them, because they do not provide them there. Then, for the events of shooting, you had to have some technical persons to look after the equipment. All this added up has come to the figure of 84. In this, there were also those who were invited as referees and judges in the Asian Games. Some of them selected as referees and judges on certain committees had to be cleared for attending the games. The break up is with me and I can place it before the House. It is, therefore, wrong to say that everybody who went were the people who had nothing to do with the games. They were connected with the games. Twelve of them were there for the Asian Federation elections of their respective federations, whom we had to clear for participating in the Asian

federations elections and meetings which are held during the games.

About the training, yesterday, a point was raised by Mr Basheer, I think that originally we had selected only 14 disciplines for the 10th Asian Games. It was decided after a seminar in Patiala that only 14 disciplines need to go and based on that, a detailed training programme was launched. I must say that it was not just six weeks, it was over two years of training; consistent training programmes had been held. Schedules were drawn up by the experts, by the federations and the total funding was done by the Government. Even when they asked for particular coaches from abroad, they were sanctioned. I must say that a lot of things have been said about the Indian and foreign coaches. I have got a comparative statement of coaches who were from outside and India and how many medals each one of them has been able to produce as a part of their coaching programme.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Our main coach left half-way.

That was the whole problem. He has given a report that there was no discipline whatsoever..... (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Which coach are you talking about ?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Athletic coach.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Athletic coach did not leave.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I would give you the name.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I am talking of the swimming coach who had come from Australia, who was here right up to the final trial. The only point was, they said, we have a convention that foreign coaches do not accompany the teams. They come to train only. Therefore, there was a little difference of opinion about that, the swimmers had been under him even in

Australia. We had sent them there for getting training. Anyway, I do not want to say whether he was good or not. He did a very good job. If he had differences with the federation at the final stage, then, it is something which we are looking into even for the future.

It is true that these fourteen disciplines were originally agreed to, but later as we went along, it was felt that we did have the talent, and they showed national marks and qualifying standards in other disciplines. They were allowed to start training programmes, the moment they had reached the qualifying standards, which had been set originally, and the camps were started for them also. Originally, they did not have the required minimum standard to go into the camps. Until they had reached the standards of international competitions, they were not considered

As far as the training is concerned, I can assure you that this has been of the longest duration and the longest number of camps. But I agree with the hon. Members who have said, and that is our assessment also, that unless, we have training for a period of three to four years minimum for Asian or Olympic games, we cannot expect to reach any standards. What is happening today is that our teams, our individuals are actually trained in different parts of the country, they come together to play as a team, for the last six or eight months. You cannot build a team that way. We have realised that. Even our relay team for girls said that they had only the last two months to run as a team. In spite of that they did what they could. They cannot practise together because they are working in public undertakings in different parts of the country. Now we are examining the possibility of doing it the way they are doing in Korea and many other countries, which have been quoted. In these countries, they are realised from their regular work; they are realised from school and college examinations and they only undergo training going on for vacations, while their salaries, promotions and even their degrees are guaranteed. Unless we can do something like that to put our young people together, we will not be able to achieve better results.

The organisations where they work and the families of the sports persons do not allow them to go away for long periods and this is the basic requirement if you want to give them an opportunity to compete equally. Therefore, we have already taken this up. We will be writing to the different Departments and Ministries. There is where we have been saying that we have no way by which we can either legislate or issue certain guidelines because the various groups and organisations are still involved. But now, as has been said, we mean business and we do intend to insist on certain pre-conditions before the teams can go out for any meets of pre-stige.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : We staged a come back in volley ball. You are not referring to it.

SHRIMATI. MARGARET ALVA : Exactly. That is where I am coming to. Every one has been saying that we had fared disastrously. But I would like to say that in volley ball, for the first time in 24 years, we have come to win the bronze medal. We have not been anywhere in volley ball. There are certain other games also where we participated for the first time and where we have done well. For example in Judo we have won four bronze medals for the first time. So, there are certain games where we are coming up. Silver in swimming is a first time ever in the Asian games for us.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnager) : I would like to say just one point. What about the gross failure of the equestrian events? In the 1982 Asiad we got three gold and silver medals and one bronze. This time we did not get any gold. We got only bronze. And this was because of the bungling and swindling indulged in by the Equestrian Federation of India which was given a grant of Rs. 10 lakhs. Has the Government looked into this aspect?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, the Equestrian Federation is one of the federations about which it has already been announced in the other House that the Government are ordering an Inquiry to look into this question. But the question is not

about the Asian Games. It was about the purchase of Australian horses. We have the horses. But two of them died and one of them, they said, was lame. This is the charge or a part of the charge that has been made. That is why we have already announced that we are ordering an inquiry to look into the whole deal of purchase and so on.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : It must have appeared in the papers also.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : The point that you asked is why we lost in the event. Let me tell you one thing.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not yield Madam. Otherwise, they will go on disturbing you.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I am not yielding. As far as the equestrian event is concerned, we did have a problem. The serum testing samples of the horses which won gold medals in the last equestrian events in Delhi were sent there and the samples of all the four horses which went last time, were rejected by the Korean authorities, on the ground that the blood showed some infective disease. Now after that, the federation appealed to the international federation and the samples sent to England and Germany were cleared by the International Federations. But our hosts in Seoul refused to accept that opinion and they said that they were the final authority to decide. They refused to let our horses go in, with the result that our horsemen who were trained on a particular set of horses had to ride horses on which they are not trained. In spite of that, they were able to get two medals. This is the basic reason that we could not keep up the performance expected of us in the equestrian events.

As far as the purchase of the horses is concerned, we have already stated that we are going to have an inquiry.

14.00 hrs.

Sir, the other point that has been made is about, what we plan to do ? I can assure

the House that we have already launched all that has been recommended. Thank God, we have already started doing it. About picking rural sports talents, we have already launched the rural sports competitions. We have them now and they are held at the district level and at the national level. I do realise that, in a country of 800 million, we may not be able to straightaway reach in every nook and corner. But, we have started for special area games which probably, some of you—my friend from Ladbakh—will know, that we have something there this time. We are having them in various parts, for picking up children which have special talents. We are going to the circus community. In Kerala, we have launched a scheme. We are picking up children from the circus families for the Gymnastic events.

We have gone to the tribal areas and have picked up Archers last year. And I am glad to say that with one year of training, these youngsters have already broken the national mark in the Archery. All the tribal boys were picked up and given international equipments and put under intensive training for six months at a time. Now, from this kind of schemes, probably, you will see the results in the next three or four years.

About children under 12, I want to tell the House that for the first time, last year, we had launched a programme for picking up children. Now, we have raised. I think to eight disciplines. Children under 12 were selected under the National Sports Talent Search Competition. In fact, last year, 156 children were selected. This year, we are selecting 300 children. Once, they are selected, their education, their training, their nutrition, their coaching, their kitting, is all looked after by the Government right through and we will be monitoring their progress. So, for this purpose, we have launched a programme of adopting schools and developing them into Sports Schools. Last year, we had adopted 17 Schools, this year we are adopting another 40 Schools. We hope to reach 100 Schools by 1990 and each State will have one rural school with a local language medium—one for boys and one for girls—and two English medium Schools, because then

children from other States also perhaps could be sent and we gradually want to develop them into centres of specialised training. These children, if they are not sent I mean and if we immediately cannot find the language school for them, and until, that is done and are being paid Rs. 300 a month, in lieu of the special schools which is yet not available because of the language problem or the location and I hope that by next year, this problem will be totally solved. We are spending Rs. 5 lakhs on each school to upgrade the infrastructure by way of equipment and other things that are needed for their development and their total expenses including their education is being looked after by us. So, besides this, we have also launched sports hostels, for young people who are working or who are in universities. The sports hostels are coming up, close to our NIS centres, to our field stations, so that they can have training facility, while they are working and the hostels for them are totally free. The board, the lodge, the nutrition the coaching and every thing is managed and is paid for by the Government and they do not have to spend anything for whatever their training and others requirements are.

SHRI MULLAPPALLI RAMACHANDRAN (Camanore) : Madam, Miss Shiny Abraham was disqualified just because of the fact that she was not given proper coaching.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Let me be honest about this. Shiny Abraham has participated in eight international competitions before and the technical fault in this case, because, we were there and we are very much involved in the protest there was that she crossed her track ahead of the marking.

SHRI MULLAPPALLI RAMACHANDRAN : That is due to lack of proper coaching.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I do not know. I will not blame anybody. It was just an error of judgement. It could happen anywhere. She has not said it and let me also tell you that her time, she reached her finish, without realising that, she had made a mistake. But she had improved on the Asian

record for the event and yet she was disqualified because the reel was played and replayed and the jury refused to accept the point. It is nothing to do with the coaching.

SHRI MULLAPPALLI RAMACHANDRAN : At a press conference in Kerala, she said, she she was not given proper training or proper coaching.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : She had her own coach. They had their own coaches. They were trained, I will not go into the details but I think in this case at least you cannot say she did not have training ; I hope that Shiny Abraham will go back to those tracks and show that she will still win over the rest, because she was the best.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Madam, one question, with your permission....

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V.NARASIMHA RAO) : She is on her track, you see. I think you do not want her to change the track. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I am not yielding. Please don't disturb. Let me finish. I cannot change the track. (Interruptions)

I also want to say this : The question has been raised again, of incentive for sports people. For the first time, we have this year announced it ; and the first group this time will get it—Rs. 1 lakh for anyone winning the gold medal in the Asian Games, and Rs. 1.50 lakhs for anyone who breaks the record, in winning the gold ; Rs. 75,000 for a silver medal ; Rs. 50,000 for a bronze.

As far as Shiny Abraham is concerned, even though she did not win the medal, we have made a special announcement of Rs. 25,000/- as a gift for the performance that

she put in. As far as the team events are concerned, it is increased accordingly; for a team of two, it is more; for a team of three it goes up in similar manner.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : The Kerala Government has made an announcement.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Yes, Kerala Government has done it. Many Governments have done so, but that is not the point here. I think now it will be a more paying business. There are many suggestions which have been made. One hon. Member who is not here now, said that we must get politics out of sports. Well, we are all for that. But in the next sentence, he said that we should get all the MPs here into the sports federations, as office-bearers. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : He mentioned Aslam Khan....

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : But I want also to tell the House that a number of MPs are on our sports bodies; and Aslam Sher Khan is a member of the Sports Authority of India's governing body. We have got outstanding sports people from both the Houses who are on our governing bodies, But I will not give details now. But we have associated them certainly with the sports bodies.

Finally, I just want to say one thing: Everybody has said that we should have done very much better at Seoul. I do agree, but I also want to tell you that there are many of our athletes—you have talked about improvement—whose records are there—and they have made an improvement on their own on national and on the last Asiad records which were established in Delhi. But they have yet, not qualified, for the simple reason that others, I agree, have been far far ahead of us. But improvements in Indian standards have clearly been shown, with regard to timings and records in many field events, It is there; I agree. *(Interruptions)* That is why we say that scientific and long term coaching is absolutely necessary.

Now about nutrition—here, I want to say something about sports medicine. In all these countries you have the most modern modern sports medicine centres where blood pressure, food intake and even heart-beat are monitored from time to time. We are still trying to set it up. We are establishing it. Here, the other controversy which came up was about dope testing. We still do not have dope testing equipment in this country. I was very surprised. I do not want to speak about anybody by name. But when the President of IOA came back and said that our athletes had been taking dope to reach selection levels, and that is why when they went out they did not do well enough, it is surprising that their names should have been forwarded to Government for approval—i.e. if IOA knew that they were taking dope for the selection trials. If they knew it, then it was wrong for these people to have recommended them to us. If you knew it, why did you not disqualify them at the level of IOA, before they went abroad, rather than talk about it after they came back and saying that they took it for trials, and that because they were tested, they could not take dope? I think this is either an irresponsible statement, or an unfair one to those who participated. I know that even at the cost of your shouting, I have to admit that there are fields in which we still are doing extremely well: billiards, cricket, snooker; in volley ball we have come up; in swimming, we are improving, as also in chess, even in tennis. There are various games in which we are today.....

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : All elite games

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Till now you are speaking like Usha. Now you are speaking like Shiny—crossing the track.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : As I said, there are elitist games which have been essentially for the urban and upper middle classes. Now, we are broad-basing games. Recently, we have organised mass participation running and so on. I was told that we were squandering away money and wasting our time over fun games. But I do

want to say that unless you get young people, children, young people even older people, to run and develop sports culture and take interest in mass participation, you cannot broad-base sports. When we do it, we are told that you are wasting time and money in fun games ; if we do not do it, you say there is no mass base and what you are doing to build up sports. So, it has got to be two-pronged attack while we are talking about centres of excellence and improving the standard of sports. We are trying very much now to make, convert Novodaya schools ; for instance, we are giving to every Novodaya school the status of sports school with all the infrastructure ; we hope to convert our central schools into sports-oriented schools as we go along. This is a process which is an ongoing process, and I don't think any one of us has a magic wand by which it can be done overnight.

I thank you for your participation in the discussion.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil) : What about the title of national athletes ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I am sorry, that point was made by declaring athletes as national athletes. We are giving them all that they want. They are national pride. I don't think we can not deny them anything. Yesterday it was mentioned by somebody else Neither Pele nor Maridonas, we have checked, have been declared as national athletes in their own countries. We have checked it from the embassy. So, I would not go further into it. I thank you for your support and I hope that, with the cooperation of all of you, sports will march a step forward.

DISCUSSION RE : NEED TO PRESERVE SANCTITY AND DIGNITY OF THE NATIONAL SYMBOLS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House now shall take up item No. 12. Only one hour has been allotted for this discussion.

Shri C. Madhav Reddy.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, The honour and dignity of the national anthem is very important in the context of various incidents and episodes which have happened in our country. There are instances reported that our National Flag is being burnt the Constitution of this country is being burnt and so on. There are also instances of the National Anthem not being sung deliberately.

Now, the most important incident which has occurred and which has attracted the attention of everybody in this House is the incident relating to the singing of the National Anthem in one of the schools in the Kerala State. There is a judgment of the High Court and the Supreme Court. Now a petition for revising the judgment is pending before the Supreme Court. I do not want to cast aspersion on the judges, but, certainly, I am within my right to comment on the judgment notwithstanding the fact that our petition is pending before the Supreme Court. Though technically it is *sub-judice*, Yet I feel that—it seems that the court has not started hearing.

14.14 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI—*in the Chair*] in the fact, the court has not accepted the petition for constituting a bench.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : They have a bench of 5 members Constituted.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : But even then I think I am within my limit to quote the judgment and to tell this House the consequences of the judgment and the action that we have to take, the government has to take. Otherwise, there is no meaning in accepting this kind of discussion here, because everybody knew that we are going to refer to this judgment.