

[10 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) whether the monuments fall within the jurisdiction of Srinagar Circle of ASI, which is unable to look after them effectively due to locational differences and difficulties of Ladakh; and

(c) Whether a need for separate and special sub-circle of ASI for Ladakh region is contemplated; if so, by when a sub-circle for Ladakh region would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA, SINGH): (a) Thirteen monuments have been declared as of national importance in Ladakh.

(b) and (c) A full fledged Sub-Circle with its headquarters at Leh is already functioning.

Sports Facilities in Kerala

991. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received any representation from the Kerala Sports Council for improving sports facilities in Kerala; and

(b) if so, what are the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The Sports Authority of India has provided various sports and other facilities to trainees from Kerala under its sports promotional schemes. Instructions have also been issued to all concerned to make available the facilities to sports persons/trainees recommended by the Kerala Sports Council.

TRAINING FOR THE SPORTS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

†992. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes being undertaken to popularise and to impart training for the sports of Indian origin;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any scheme has been formulated to popularise the Indian sports and to make them competitive at international level; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) government assistance is being provided for promotion of Sports of Indian origin such as Kho-Kho, Kabaddi and Ataya Patya, as also for coaching, supply of equipment, scientific support, holding National Tournaments and for participation in International Tournaments under the scheme "Assistance to the National Sports Federations". The assistance is extended through the National Sports Federations concerned, which have been recognised for each discipline.

(c) The Kabaddi team secured the first place and received the Gold Medal in the last Asian Games held at Bangkok in December, 1998.

Condition of Ashoka Pillar in Allahabad Fort

993. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ashoka Pillar in the Allahabad Fort is in a State of Neglect;

(b) whether its antique value, being the only Ashoka Pillar so far known, bearing inscriptions over period of three millennia, has been brought to the notice of Government; and

(c) if so, what measures Government propose to take to save it from further ruin and to conserve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, it is on account of its great antiquity that this pillar has been declared a monument of national importance under the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites & Remains Act of 1958.

(c) The Ashoka Pillar in Allahabad Fort is in a good state of preservation and necessary conservation measures are taken up periodically as per the requirement.