

Failure of Two Indian Boxers to Return to India from the World Defence Forces Boxing Championship

1116. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two prominent Indian boxers have not returned to India after World Defence Forces Boxing Championship;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take against the boxers; and

(c) whether there are any other instances when the sport participants have opted to desert and what action Government have taken, against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SUSHREE UMA BHARATI): (a) and (b) As informed by Ministry of Defence, a 17-member Services Boxing team had participated in the XLIII World Boxing Championship organised by the Council of International Military Sports (CISM) at Lackland, Air-force Base, San Antonio, USA from December 5—15, 1997. On its return journey, two services boxers of the Indian team viz. Naib Subedar Lakha Singh and Naib Subedar Devendra Thapa disappeared from the Chicago International Airport. These two JCOs have been declared as "deserters" as per the Defence Services Regulations. The JCOs will be liable to action under the provisions of the Army Act.

(c) Yes Sir. Two such other cases, as indicated below, have been noticed by the Government.

(i) Six Powerlifters of the team, which was cleared for participation in the Junior/Master Powerlifting Championship, 1992 at Sydney (Australia), were found missing from the hotel. On receiving this information from Indian High Commission, Canberra, this Deptt. referred the matter to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe into the possibility of connivance of the Federa-

tion and the parents of the concerned sportspersons. After investigation, CBI furnished its report stating that in the absence of material facts, the case does not merit further investigation. However, inquiries through INTERPOL had revealed that all the six powerlifters had applied to Australian authorities for permanent residence. In view of this, CBI opened that these Indians stayed in Australia voluntarily and since Australian Govt, has formally declined to pass on any information with regard to the missing powerlifters to our High Commission because of their Privacy Law, it would be futile to pursue the matter further. Accordingly, the matter was closed.

(ii) Two players of the Indian Basketball team, cleared for visit to USA under Indo-US-Sub-Commission on Education & Culture during Oct-Nov., 1992, were found missing and the team returned without these players. As both these players belong to Central Para Military Forces, the matter was referred to Ministry of Home Affairs for appropriate action.

Fee Hike by Public Schools

1117. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state,

(a) whether his Ministry has studied the recent judgement of Supreme Court about the extent to which fees can be hiked in public schools;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry are aware of increase in fee hike from 30 to 150 per cent since April 1, 1997 much to the financial burden on salaried class and whether Government have conducted any inquiry; and

(d) whether Government are considering to take over the management of those public schools which were found to be involved in misappropriation of lakhs of rupees and tampering with records?