

[SHRI KHYOMO LOTH]A]

disciplines in sports who bring laurels to the nation and project to the world not only the physical powers of the people but also balanced growth of a nation. After all, a nation must grow mentally, spiritually and physically and this is best demonstrated in the field of sports. Sir, I come from North-East and North-East also has produced sportsmen like the Indian Olympic team captain in 1948. Then also presently one girl who has been picked up from a village became Junior Champion in the national level in Archery and there are hockey players from Manipur who represented the Indian nation. There are others in other disciplines. It is not only from the paper that is being reported but we come to know of their conditions in the training camp. Some people who come from tribal area, from poor region, expect better training facilities, better food, better amenities and when this is not given, they feel very much frustrated. So, I draw the attention of the Government to this fact.

Non-Implementation by Government assurance regarding 'one rank-one pension' to the ex-servicemen

SHRI GAJ SINGH (Rajasthan) : Sir, While I congratulate the Government for implementing and legislating on many of its election manifesto promises, such as the Prasar Bharati and the Mandal Commission, in the charged atmosphere that has been created in the country today in the context of that and terrorism that exists in our country, from North to South and from East to West and the threat that is posed by Pakistan and also the international situation, I wish to raise this matter in the context of the armed forces which have upheld the dignity, honour and security of this country and at this stage, we should make every effort to see that their morale is kept high. Several assurances have been given on the basis of 'one rank-one pension' for ex-servicemen, including the Presidential Address as also assurances by the Prime Minister. I want to ask as to why there is delay in the implementation of this very important election pledge which is causing disgruntlement amongst the armed forces. Can we afford an agitational approach to this matter? Every year, about 60,000 new

ex-servicemen are there. A high-level committee was established in March 1984 which has studied the representations. The major thrust of these representations was that the defence personnel who retired prior to 1-1-1973 and who were not entitled initially to any benefits from the liberal pension formula introduced in April 1979, expected that following the Supreme Court judgment of 7th December 1982, sizeable benefits in terms of enhanced pension would accrue to them. Their contention was that the orders issued by the Government of India in November and December 1983 implementing the Supreme Court decision had not conferred the expected benefits on them. On the contrary, the ready reckoner issued by the Government signifies that some of the pensioners who retired prior to 1-1-1973 would actually have suffered a cut in their pension and those who were required to benefit could not be benefited because of the Government's interpretation of the judgment by introducing the slab system. The high-level committee, in its report, in Chapter III, paragraph 3.5, has taken a comprehensive view of all the relevant factors and unanimously passed a resolution on 23rd December 1984. The extract of the resolution is as under :

"The high-level Committee noted that the order issued by the Government of India in November/December 1983 on the pensioners was strictly in accordance with the judgment of the Supreme Court and the fact that the pre-1973 pensioners did not derive any benefits was inherent in the situation and the conditions prevailing for the implementation of the recommendation of the Third Pay Commission. The high-level Committee resolve that the Government of India be requested to review the matter in its entirety and evolve a method by which the ex-servicemen who retired prior to 1st January 1973 would also get some relief and secure some monetary benefit."

This has already been agreed to by the Government. I urge the Government to bring forward a comprehensive scheme and announce a phased programme and also to announce a programme for better re-employment of ex-servicemen to prevent the specter of an agitation by the ex-servicemen and demoralisation in the armed forces. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Now, we take up the Punjab Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1990.

THE PUNJAB APPROPRIATION NO. 2 BILL, 1990

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Punjab for the services of the financial year 1990-91, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I will not speak at this stage. After listening to the views of various Members, in the reply I will say something.

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Mr. Kamal Morarka. You begin. Let us be as brief as possible.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, we are taking up the Appropriation Bill on Punjab but as is customary in the House, we discuss the Punjab problem.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : We need not be always customary.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : ...which is vexing the country for a long time. And the very fact that the Appropriation Bill for Punjab is to be discussed in Parliament means it is in a special status. Punjab is under the Central rule and this problem has been on for so many years. I do not want to waste the time of the House by going into the background of the problem, how the previous Government tried to tackle it or aggravated it, how we in the Opposition gave various suggestions on how Punjab problems should be viewed and tackled. I will straightway come, in my opinion, to what the present situation is and what needs to be done. Though strictly it comes within the purview of the Home Minister, I will request the Government to look at the Punjab problem in totality.

First and foremost, it needs reiteration—because the matter is sensitive; it is psychological—that our party stands for a political solution to political problems. We do not stand for an administrative solution to political problems. It is neither desirable nor feasible. Any time if you had tried in any part of the country to solve the political turmoil by using administrative powers, you could have succeeded for a short time, but the problem resurfaces with a greater gravity. I do not want to complicate the situation by saying how the then Government tried to solve the political problem of Kashmir by misusing its administrative powers and what the results we are seeing in Kashmir today are but the fact remains nevertheless that the political problems have to be tackled politically and unless we all learn to do that, we will not be able to reach a solution to the problem.

Terrorism is by itself a menace not only in India but all over the world and whatever action is to be taken to tackle terrorism, there is no quarrel about it. But we must not make a mistake of thinking that every terrorist belongs to a political party, say, in Punjab the Akali Party or that every Akali is supporting the terrorists. This kind of a formulation is very unfortunate. If you go to Bombay, if you go to South, you will find that people are not much aware of the problem: In the last ten years a general atmosphere as if it is a Hindu-Sikh problem in Punjab has been created in the country. Now this totally needs to be removed. We who have the good fortune of representing our people in this august House and who move in an educated section of society, must understand that in the country people of various religions are living today and that in Punjab there is no religious problem. The problem is created by certain vested interests and, I am afraid, the problem gets aggravated because of wrong actions or inaction of political parties, whether they are in the Government or outside.

Sir, there are two or three things in Punjab which are pending and when we were in Opposition, we had always been insisting that till action was taken on people who perpetrated the riots in Delhi, no solution was possible. According to Government official records, 3,000 Sikhs