

### Construction of sports complex in Himachal Pradesh

†422. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:†

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GO-SWAMI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the construction of high altitude National Sports Complex of the National Institute of Sports in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) by when the complex is likely to be ready for use?

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): (a) and (b) The High Altitude Training Centre is being developed at two locations in Himachal Pradesh, Shimla and Shillaroo. At Shimla, the work on Indoor Stadium at Potters Hill, Shimla has not yet started. The construction activities at Shillaroo have been taken up for Hockey field and Athletic track. Some buildings earlier belonging to the State Agriculture Department have since been acquired and renovated for accommodation for sportspersons. Shillaroo Centre has become partly operational and recently National Summer Camps for Athletics and Boxing were held there.

It is expected that the construction of Hockey field and Athletic track which is going on at Shillaroo will be completed by March 1989. So far as the Indoor Stadium at Potters Hill, Shimla and other facilities at Shillaroo are concerned, the estimates and time frames are yet to be worked out.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, the question has not been replied to. The world's highest indoor sports training centre was

to be constructed at Potters Hill in Shimla. Why that work has not been started and what the problems are in starting the work have not been stated by the honourable Minister. She has said something about another thing, which is a secondary thing, and nothing about the primary one. It is known that a 5-member Committee of the Society for the National Institute of Sports and Physical Education made a survey and selected a site at Potters Hill in Shimla for constructing the sports training centre, perhaps the world's highest institute, at the highest altitude. Now, Sir, everything was all right. But then, all of a sudden, some problems about environment cropped up and some trees had to be cut or some wild life had to be disturbed. It seems that there was an objection from the Himalayan Society on account of which the work has been completely stopped. Now, I would like to know whether it is a fact that environmental problems have cropped up and, if so, how the Government is going to overcome them. Are they modifying its design so that the minimum harm is done to the environment, the trees and the wildlife? In what way they are going to develop the stadium and the complex?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I would like to say that the answer was totally in response to the question as framed. I will give you the other details. The Sub-committee of the erstwhile SNIPES Board headed by Shri V. C. Shukla decided on a particular spot i.e. the Potters Hill at Shimla, to be developed as the high altitude training centre in the country. Subsequently, the Government of Himachal Pradesh requested that we should also consider another site at Shillaroo and so the Sub-committee paid a second visit. After visiting both the sites at the instance of the Government of Himachal Pradesh which is supposed to give the land, it was agreed that both the sites would be developed, one for the indoor stadium and the other for the outdoor facilities. So, both the sites were transferred to us in 1986. This is the requirement before we start the work on the site.

Subsequently, Mr. Duggal of one of the environmental societies presented a petition and said that 10,000 trees would

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sukomal Sen.

be affected if the project at Potters Hill went through. After this the Government of Himachal Pradesh set up a Sub-committee to go into this complaint. Its report was given to us in July, 1988, which says that only 10 or 11 trees at the maximum would have to be cut down for the indoor stadium. In the meantime, the Department of Environment at Delhi has asked us not to go ahead with the construction at Potters Hills which is one of the sites, until they are satisfied that it is not forest land and that there would be no damage. So, we have stopped work at Potters Hill pending final clearance by the Ministry of Environment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can't you choose another place?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: It is for the State Government to give us the land. Unless the State Government gives us the land, we are not going ahead. We are not investing any money if there is going to be a problem. The only money that we have spent at Potters Hill is for fencing.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, she has conveniently shifted the burden on the shoulders of the State Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You know that it is the State Government which gives the land.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: About this high altitude sports complex, I would like to say that there are a number of good hill stations in the country. I would like to know whether the Government is considering any other scheme for this high altitude sports complex in another State. I would like to ask the Minister as to why we can't have one in Darjeeling.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, we have no preferences. It depends upon the altitude, the climate and the offer by the State Government. We wanted to construct a high altitude centre. We had offers both from Himachal Pradesh and from Uttar Pradesh. The

Committee, after visiting the sites which the State Governments were prepared to give, selected this site on the basis of expert opinion. I would like to say that the work at Shillaroo is going on. Because of this objection, the indoor stadium work has not started. We have stopped after fencing and preliminary leveling. We are not going ahead unless it is cleared.

श्री सुशील बारोगंपा : सभापति महोदय स्पोर्ट्स सेंटर के कंस्ट्रक्शन के आन्सर्स तो मैडम जी ने दे दिए हैं । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि शिमला के 'पोटर्स हिल्स' स्पोर्ट्स कम्प्लेक्स पर अब तक सरकार ने कितना पैसा खर्च किया है और वे कौन-कौन से खेल हैं जिनकी व्यवस्था इस स्पोर्ट्स कम्प्लेक्स में उपलब्ध की जायेगी ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: As far as Shimla is concerned, we have released a total of Rs. 15 lakhs up to now. I may say that it has not been fully spent. Out of the total budget for both the complexes we have released Rs. 90 lakhs for both the projects. Only the preliminary levelling and fencing work has started. No tree is being cut. As far as the disciplines are concerned, we have got hockey, athletics, boxing and wrestling which are planned in the indoor complex. But as I said, we are not proceeding until it is cleared.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, with your permission—from high altitude, I would like to bring it down to earth. I am more interested in equestrian sports—and with the Minister cooperating, I have to mention that there is a proposal to set up a centre for equestrian sports in Jodhpur. I have discussed this with the hon. Minister personally. Jodhpur has been the home of equestrian sports—and Rajasthan certainly, even today. It is a great pity that we are going to Seoul but without the animals which we had imported for the purpose of going to Seoul. If the hon. Minister would encourage equestrian sports in Rajasthan, there is such a talent for it and Jodhpur is willing to provide you with trainers,

land and other facilities. Would the hon. Minister consider setting up an equestrian sports centre in Jodhpur in Rajasthan? And then we can move accordingly.

**SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:** I am not really able to see the tie-up between high altitude centres in Simla and ... (Interruptions).

**SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO:** Move on to Kashmir.

**SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:** But I would like to tell the hon. Member that if the facilities are all being provided by the Government of Rajasthan, we have no objection to developing the sport. But I would like to say that this sport is still a limited kind of sport in this country in particular areas. Because of the investment and because of the other expenditure involved, it is still not a broad-based kind of sports activity. But if you are giving us all the facilities as you say, in Rajasthan, we are prepared to consider your proposal.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Let the proposal come. They will give full consideration, because they do want to develop that in India.

**SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister, how many national sports complexes have been built so far and where? Is it also true that while the Government has created several structures to encourage sports, the right kind of staff in athletics are not available? Do the Government propose to invite foreign coaches to train them?

**SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:** That is the whole sports policy of the Government literally. I can mention that we have got at the moment six sports centres which have been developed. The first one which is existing since 1961 is at Patiala in Punjab. The second one is in Calcutta launched. In 1983. The south centre has come up at Bangalore, starting from 1975. The north-eastern centre, launched in 1984, has come up at Imphal with a sub-centre

at Guwahati. In the Western zone we have a centre at Gandhinagar in Gujarat a sub-centre at Aurangabad. Besides these, the high altitude centre at Shimla was planned. The winter sports complex is planned for Manali and Jammu and Kashmir. As far as the right type of people and foreign coaches are concerned, it really does not arise out of this. We can assure the hon. Member that we are looking out for the best people available in the country if and where we find those experts available. For instance, for winter sports we have had to get experts from outside to guide us on such facilities. Wherever necessary, we are having experts from abroad to guide us and help us in setting up the right facilities.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Next question: 423.

#### Criterion for identification of drugs under National Health Programmes

\*423. **SHRI JASWANT SINGH:†**

**SHRI JAGESH DESAI:**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1999 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the policy decision his Ministry was required to identify all the drugs required for National Health Programmes;

(b) whether a list covering around 100 bulk drugs, was even drawn up and sent to Department of Chemicals for the purpose;

(c) when the Department of Chemicals had suggested the criterion that drugs procured and distributed for National Health Programmes be listed in category-I; and

(d) the basis on which his Ministry started identifying the drugs for the National Health Programmes?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jaswant Singh.