

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, discussion on the working of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has concluded. Reply by the hon. Minister will be tomorrow after Zero Hour. Now, Special Mentions. I request the Members to lay their Special Mentions on the Table of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Right, Sir.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Request to bring transparency in decisions taken by Expert Committee to select floats in Republic Day Parade

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, despite the fact that Goa is a world famous international tourist destination, Goa floats have not been included in the Republic Day Parade for the last consecutive years.

Undoubtedly, the procedure and the process lack vision and transparency; otherwise, the manner in which the State of Goa has been humiliated, in the last two years, has no justification.

Last year, three designs were short-listed, from the State of Goa, by the Expert Committee, appointed by the State Government, in the month of August, 2008. All the three designs were sent to New Delhi for scrutiny and finalisation by the Special Expert Committee, appointed by the Ministry of Defence.

The hand-drawn sketch design of an applicant, presenting and depicting the SHIGMO festival of Goa was approved by this Committee in its first meeting.

The Expert Committee verified the theme and advised the changes in the 2nd meeting, held in September, 2008. Changes were made and approved by the Expert Committee, and the music theme was being finalised for the next meeting. Music, based on Goan folk culture, was presented to the Expert Committee in the fourth meeting. A tableau of Plaster of Paris was made, based on the design approved, for the fifth meeting. The applicant was advised to make a few dimensional changes, which were also complied with. However, Goa's tableau was not included.

The Selection Committee needs to be more responsible and convincing when they deal with the State, like, Goa that commands international acclaim.

Concern over mistreatment of Women Boxers at National Institute of Sports in Patiala

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA (Maharashtra): Sir, I propose to draw the attention of the House to the shocking mistreatment given to our female boxers by the management at National Institute of Sport, Patiala. Ironically, only last week, I had asked the Government about plans and incentives proposed for the female sportspersons. The news of 2006 World Boxing