

Development of Sports in Schools

*23. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:†

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

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

(a) whether Government have drawn any comprehensive scheme for the development of sports in schools and other educational institutions in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Sports is a State subject under the Constitution of India. Accordingly, the primary responsibility for promotion of sports rests with the State Governments. With a view, however, to supplementing the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories to develop sports in schools and other educational institutions, the Central Government have formulated the following new schemes in addition to the schemes already operating for this purpose:—

(1) The Department has recently approved an incentive scheme for promotion of sports and games in schools through prize money. The scheme, which is being processed for implementation, envisaged awarding cash prizes of Rs. 10,000 to each school winning first position in each discipline in the district level tournaments to be held in

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Miss Saroj Khaparde.

Athletics, Hockey, Football, Basketball and Volleyball separately for both boys and girls, and in football where the tournament will be for boys only. The cash prizes awarded to schools would have to be utilised by the school authorities for direct promotion of sports activities in the school, by improving existing play-grounds or constructing new play-grounds, purchase of sports equipment etc.

(2) The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has formulated a scheme of adoption of schools for sports persons which is proposed to be implemented from the academic year 1986-87. Under the scheme 16 schools for adoption have been selected by the SAI for implementation of the scheme in the first year, taking into account recommendations made by the State Governments in this behalf. The 158 talented school's children of 10—12 years of age, recently selected by the SAI as a result of the National Talent Search Contest held by it in 1985-86, will be admitted to the selected schools where the entire expenditure on board and lodging and tuition of the children will be met by the SAI. Additionally, they will be paid Rs. 100 per month each as pocket money. Each selected school will be provided necessary coaches depending upon the number of selected children admitted to it. The services of these coaches and other facilities will also be available to other children in these schools.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government have made any survey in regard to the availability of talent among the rural students and if so, what steps the Central Government has taken to harness that talent and to give result-oriented training to such students?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, there has not been any definite survey as such that has been conducted. But

it has been realised that if we do want to find talent, we would have to pay much more attention to the rural areas where 80 per cent of our population lives. With this in mind, two new schemes have now been introduced by us. The first is the sports talent search competitions which were introduced last year on the basis of which 158 talented children from both urban and rural areas were selected for special training in schools at the cost of the Government. The other scheme which is being introduced now is to be called the scheme for encouragement of sports in schools with prize money where district level competitions would be held, and prizes of Rs. 10,000 per schools would be given to build the necessary infrastructure in those schools.

MISS SOROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government that the schools and the colleges in the rural areas are handicapped by lack of adequate playgrounds and that the State Governments are not paying any attention to meet the sports demands of the institutions and whether the Central Government with a view to boosting up the sports in the country will help the educational institutions with Central grants for getting adequate playgrounds for their sports activities?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, as you know, the sports is a State subject and the details have certainly got to be worked out by the State themselves. But we are giving special grants for building up of infrastructure in the States right down to the district level. The UGC for university students has got a scheme by which infrastructure is created through grants from the UGC. We also have field stations in the Universities. We have 33 of them today which are in the universities for helping university students by providing coaches and

other facilities through the NIS Centre at Patiala. Besides this, maybe with the new education thrust being given to sports, greater facilities in schools would be made available in the coming years.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in a country like India with a vast population where we have to encourage sports and games, the Union Government is having just two schemes. And one of them has selected 158 students from 16 schools. And if this is the way in which the encouragement can be given for the children both from rural and urban areas of this country, I think, as far as physical education is concerned, God alone can save this country. Therefore, my first part of the question would be this: Does the Government feel it sufficient to have just two schemes, and one among them is only to help 16 schools and 158 students? If that is the case, what other schemes are under the anvil so that at least the deficiency could be met? Secondly, Sir, if you look at the answer, we see that there is an emphasis only upon games such as hockey, football, basketball, volleyball and athletics. But, Sir, there are umpteen number of other indigenous games. Does the Government feel that it is only necessary to develop the games where there is some possibility of getting some recognition or we are going to develop such games also which can really give adequate physical fitness to the children in our country? If that is the case, what programmes are under preparation at least on the part of the Union Government to encourage the indigenous sports and indigenous games which are being practised by the rural children?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, the question was about new schemes which have been introduced and, therefore, we spoke about the two new schemes. Even there I may clarify. The hon. Member has perhaps misunderstood the answer. The scheme has been introduced only this year. In the first competitions which were

held, I have given the figures, 19 States and 6 Union territories participated and competitions were held in 343 districts in the first year. And, it is estimated that five lakh children participated in the competitions from the local level to the national. The national competitions were held at Delhi from the 19th November, where 1473 children came to Delhi for final selections. Out of this in the first year we have selected 158 children in the age-group of 10 to 12. Our idea is to go down further each year and increase the intake, but unless we have schools to which we can send them, we cannot just keep collecting them and just not give them the training. About the schools, we have this year, under the schemes, selected 16 schools spared in different States of the country to which we are going to give the money. We are going to give them a grant of Rs. 5 lakhs to each school for creating the necessary infrastructure by way of equipment, up-date play fields and up to a maximum of five coaches will be provided. And these children whom we are going to select are going to be admitted there and specialised sports training, besides their regular studies will be taken care of, and that will be completely free, in the sense that we will pay for their board and lodging and training and in addition Rs. 100 will be paid as a stipend for each child so selected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not answered one question. What about the indigenous games?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: These are new schemes. As far as the existing schemes are concerned we have already got three schemes which have been operating already. One is the special area games, which is being looked after by the Sports Authority of India where we choose special games or special areas. For instance, we have a three-month training programme in archery from all the tribal areas in the country. We brought

three hundred youth and trained them to develop their particular talent and also tried to bring them up to the international competition standards. We have also special provision for indigenous games and traditional games for which we have even had national competitions this year. In Bangalore we had national championships this year for Kabbadi. Similarly we have had competitions in various fields in different parts of the country. We feel that these have to be encouraged even more than the others because they are popular on the rural side.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: This is a part of the question which Prof. Lakshmananna has forwarded. The hon. Minister has mentioned the grants which they have given to the State Governments, which they plan to give in the new Plan. What is the amount of the grant that they are planning to sanction? AP is planning to go into the execution of the construction of stadia in all districts at mandal levels. Will the hon. Minister give the financial help to the State Governments which are executing such plans?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: We have a scheme under which we are going to give matching grants to the State Governments for building infrastructure right down to the district level and these schemes have to be prepared and forwarded to us through the State Governments and whenever they come, we provide whatever facilities and whatever grants are required. I may say that the outlay on sports has gone up from Rs. 14 crores in the Sixth Plan to Rs. 200 crores in the Seventh Plan showing the emphasis that we are laying on creating the infrastructure for sports.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am giving preference to ladies on this question.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister as to what is the special allocation out of Rs. 200 crores, for the schools for developing sports in rural areas—both for schools and colleges—because it is correct that the schools are at present the State subject but so far my knowledge goes, when we get recognition for the school, they have to show that so much land is there but the difficulty in the rural areas is two-fold; one is that they do not have the funds for the games equipments. Of course, the Minister has very kindly said that indigenous games are being encouraged and national championships are there, competitions are there...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: That is why I asked as to what is the special allocation out of this money for the rural area schools and colleges.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: May I inform the House that for the first time in the history of sports in India, a fairly large sum of Rs. 200 crores has been allocated in the Seventh Plan. Now, for the first time again, education, sports, culture and all these activities have come under one Ministry. So, the programme will have to be an integrated programme where the needs of the school children and the schools are taken into account fully and also outside the schools and universities, whatever needs to be done in order to enhance the sports skills in the country also has to be done. So, it has to be an integrated programme which we are working out at the moment. The new policy, I am sure, will stress this point and say that sport facilities, play fields, would have to be provided right from the school level upwards. So, when this is done, it will be appreciated that there will not be a sports programme separately, or a schools programme separately, but

it will be a programme in which all these activities are properly integrated. That is the scheme we are working on. We cannot tell you the allocation to each school or each university or the school sector or the university sector separately right now, but I think we will be able to give that break-up a little later.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Is there any special incentive for girls schools?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: The Minister was right that sports is a State subject. She, however, omitted to mention that States are a Central subject. What I want to say is that after a good deal of wastage in the ASIAD, the Ministry has been able to save on the count of olympics and they have decided not to hold olympics in India and that would give them a good deal of saving. Now I repeat, despite the reply from the Minister of Human Resource Development, and want to know what fraction of the total amount is being devoted for sports, to school sector, because they say they want to catch them young. Secondly, from the reply of the Minister can we expect that alongwith new education policy, we are going to have a new sports policy also.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: New sports policy is already there. This is a State sector activity. At the most, what we can do is to help them. Unless we know how much each State is spending, how much each States is budgeting, it will not be possible for us to give the final figures. As I said, we are working out an integrated scheme. Culture, sports, games, physical education etc. Physical education is spending, how much each State is a different activity. It was under a different Ministry. Now, it is under a different department in the same Ministry. Therefore, there are so many exercises to be done in this connection. All I say is that it is on. We will be able to give you at least a rough estimate of what is being spent

on improving the sports facilities in the schools after sometime.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: When?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: After sometime. We are working out the thing. We will be taking you into confidence as and when figures are ready. (*Interruptions*) It is not a question of a time-bound programme. This is being looked into as an integrated scheme for the first time. It will take time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you should address the Chair and not the Member directly. Mr. Salve.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: We may appreciate the limitations of the hon. Minister in the realm of sports, culture etc., where she says that all that we can do is to finance, guide and help the State Governments. But I am a little confused at what the hon. Minister has said about a very limited scheme of identifying 150 sportsmen and all that. What is the objective? Does she think that she is going to produce world-beaters with these 150 children being handed over to five coaches, and by building infrastructure. This happens to be a typically bureaucratic scheme, to be implemented in selected areas. The question is, do we or do we not want to produce world-beaters? I do not know whether anybody has any idea of how they are produced. Each athlete is picked up at the age of four or five or six and each one is put in charge of one or two or three coaches exclusively and it will also be laid down what should be their diet, what should be the number of calories which one should take when he or she gets up, what he or she should eat what he or she should drink and so on. I would like to know whether we will be able to produce world-beaters. It is an eternal shame that in a country of 70-75 crore population, we have not been able to produce even one world-beater and this is only because the Government is not taking appropriate steps in the right direction. In Russia and Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Hungary, they are producing world-beaters for the simple reason that their approach is right. May I know of the hon. Minister,

firstly, whether they will be able to produce world-beaters with the help of the scheme which they have and, secondly, if this is not an adequate scheme, is there any thought being given to the fact that we need to produce world-beaters?

AN HON. MEMBER: Including cricket.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, we all have the same approach and vision which Mr. Salve has. Not that we do not have this. All we said is that there has not been a systematic effort to tap talent at a sufficiently young age. Therefore, it was felt that we should concentrate and pick up children at a young age and give them the necessary facilities which do not exist today and that is why a new scheme has been thought of. Of course, there is always scope for improvement. But given the existing financial limitations.....

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, is it an answer?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: ...the best we can do is to make the maximum use of the facilities which are available and then plan for whatever expansion we may have in view.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, if you are satisfied, we are satisfied.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Conversion of the State Highways into National Highways

*24. **SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV-RAO JADHAV:**†

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convert State highways into National Highways in different parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have received any proposals from Maharashtra Government in this regard; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav.