

Improving the Standard of Game, of Hockey and Football

*160. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY; SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any plan under Government's consideration to promote and popularise the games of hockey and football in the country and specially in the student community;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to improve the skills and coaching up players regularly for attaining International standards; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?"

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) With a view to promoting and popularising the games of hockey and football, along with other sports and games, and also for improving the skills of players, the Government have already taken the following steps:—

(i) the National Sports Federations are provided financial assistance to send national teams abroad for participation in international tournaments and they are also encouraged to hold many tournaments within the country.

(ii) financial assistance is also provided to the National Sports Federations for holding coaching camps for the preparation of national teams in collaboration with the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala, which provides technical assistance in the matter.

(iii) financial assistance is provided to State Sports Councils for developing play-fields, constructing stadia, etc.

(iv) for University [college students, financial assistance is provided to the Association of Indian Universities for coaching and training of students in sports and for holding sports tournaments

(v) financial and technical assistance is also provided to the School Games Federation of India in respect of school-children.

Uniformity in Retirement Age of Central Government Employees

902. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government as a first step to have uniformity in retirement age of Central Government employees propose to cover all professional staff, such as, medical, engineering on the lines of scientific staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): No such proposal is under consideration of the Government. The conditions of service of Central Government employees are however, under consideration of Fourth Pay Commission who would also be looking into the age of retirement of all Central Government employees irrespective of category or service to which they belong.

Seminar on Problem of Chimney Smoke

903. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-day national seminar was held in New Delhi in the last month to review the problem of chimney smoke:

(b) if so, what suggestions were made at the seminar, to control air pollution caused by thermal power stations and other industries and their