

*487[The questioners [Shri S.M. Laljan Basha] was absent. For answer *vide* page 34].

*488[The questioners [Shri Urkhao Gwra Brahma] was absent. For answer *vide* page 35].

Role of Sports Associations

*489. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the role of various existing Sports Associations;
- (b) whether they exist for name sake or are doing some substantial services;
- (c) whether any of the Associations has come to adverse notice; and
- (d) what check Government have over these Associations?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT) (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The National Sports Associations are responsible for the overall management, direction, control, regulation, promotion, development and sponsorship of the discipline.

(b) Most of the recognized National Sports Associations/Federations undertake various programmes for promotion of the particular sport such as spotting of talent and broad basing, holding of national championships for sub-junior, junior and senior categories, organization of international sports events in the country, selection of teams for participation in international sports events, arrange training/coaching of national teams, procurement of equipment required for training etc.

(c) and (d) The National Sports Associations/Federations are autonomous societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under different state governments and the Government of India does not interfere in their day-to-day functioning. There are some complaints against National Sports Federations about selection process, misutilization of funds etc. To the extent the complaints are within the jurisdiction of the Government of India, such complaints are processed after ascertaining the views

of the concerned NSF, Government Observer and Sports Authority of India (SAI). As regards selection process, the Government has appointed Observers for major sports disciplines to oversee the selection process. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the recognized national Sports Federations by providing financial assistance for their various sports activities under the scheme of 'Assistance to National Sports Federations'. According to the aforesaid scheme, utilization certificate and audited accounts in respect of the government grants have to be submitted for grant of further assistance. Besides, for considering the proposals for recognition of National Sports Federations, there are some laid down criteria such as the current legal status of the organization, recognition by International, Asian Federation and Indian Olympic Association (IOA), its all India spread, internal financial and management practices and standards, electoral practices etc. The guidelines also provide for suspension and derecognition of NSFs in the event of serious irregularities. Since Sports figures in the "State List" of the Constitution, their guidelines do not have legislative backing required for strict compliance thereof.

DR. K. MALAISAMY : Sir, there are umpteen number of associations throughout the length and breadth of the country, at the State level and at the national; level in pursuit of sports and games. It is to be considered whether these associations have done enough work for promoting sports or they are just surviving for namesake. According to me, it is more on paper than in practice. The hon. Minister has said that most of the associations are autonomous bodies. In another words, it looks as if the State or the Central Government may not have much control over them. Sir, as far as I could see, even if they are autonomous, they can still be controlled. For example, as the hon. Minister has rightly said most of the associations at the district level, State level and at the Central level have been registered under the Societies Registration Act. So, the Registrar of Societies is the controlling authority to see whether they are having periodical meetings and whether they are doing all the required things. It can also see whether they are in existence or not. This kind of monitoring is not there. The first and foremost....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Minister reply.

DR. K. MALAISAMY : Sir, my first supplementary is, whether the State can still afford to have control on these autonomous associations or not. I will put my second supplementary later on.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT : Sir, as the hon Member said all these federations are autonomous bodies. As far as the Government is concerned, we supplement their efforts to enhance the performance of the players. Unfortunately, we only supplement them financially because they are autonomous bodies. The only thing is, if sometimes they commit a mistake, we can only stop giving them money. And if we stop giving them money, then the people who suffer are the sportspersons. Moreover, sports is a State subject, and we don't have an authority to take stern action against them. The only authority that we have is that we can stop giving financial help to them. But, ultimately, the sufferers will be the sportspersons.

DR. K. MALAISAMY : Sir, the hon. Minister has conceded that they have got very little control over them. On the other hand, it has led to a lot of complaints. The hon. Minister has conceded that there are complaints against national sports federations in regard to selection process, misutilisation of funds, etc. The hon. Minister said that they are supplementing the activities of the associations, and they give huge grants to them. What happens to such huge grants is this. There is misutilisation of the grant, misuse of the grant and misuse of the power. Everything is conceded here. If that is the case, do you feel that you are totally helpless, or, is it not high time to see that something is done by way of some legislation or legal backing to do something to control such type of activities?

SHRI SUNIL DUTT : I think the hon. Member has put a very nice question. As a Minister, I have my own limitations, which I have expressed to the House. But, I still feel that whatever best had to be done for the sportspersons has been done by us. We are concerned with the sportspersons. They must raise the standard of the country and bring honour to the country. I feel that the money that is being utilised is getting very good returns. In the recent times, there has been an awakening, as far as sports is concerned. It makes me very happy that the House is also helping us in this matter. You will be surprised to know that through these federations, we have helped the individuals. In the year 2003-04, we spent Rs. 36,34,49,450 on all the athletes and the federations which go abroad for higher training of their athletes and everybody. The only thing is, we cannot take stern action against them because sports is not concurrent subject. It is a State subject. The States must also come forward to help us in this effort so that we can have more control on the federations.

DR. K. MALAISAMY : Sir, it is my very strong suggestion that both the Centre and the States should put their heads together so that something is done concrete, instead of saying that we are doing everything.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Now, Mr. N.K. Premachandran.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Sir, the answer goes to show that the Government of India is having a very limited control over these autonomous sports associations. Sir, it can be very well seen that most of the sports associations are being headed by political leadership in our country. Now, it has become a ceremonial post, as most of the persons heading the sports associations do not have any interest or connection with sports.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are an expert in political sports.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Sports is now overtaken by politics. That is why you see what the scenario of our country is at the international level. It is a very pathetic situation. I would like to put a question to the hon. Minister. The hon. Prime Minister is also here. I would like to know whether the UPA Government have any proposal or plan to have a comprehensive, scientific and long-term sports policy in the immediate future.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT : As long as I am here, I think, I am supposed to answer your questions. We should not involve our Prime Minister because when I can afford to answer you, I think, you should not disturb the Prime Minister. I will be very grateful to you for that. Sir, we have already started auditing the money that we give to the federations. If they make any mistake, we stop giving them the money. When we stop giving them the money, as I told you earlier, Sir, it affects the sports people. Our Ministry, our Government, is concerned with sports and feel that we must have the best of results from the sports people. As I told you earlier also, we had a conference of the all Ministers concerned and we wanted to bring this subject under the Concurrent List, but all the States didn't agree with us. If they didn't agree, then, I think, the States must come forward to help us in this matter.

SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH : I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. Every time we hear about sports, there is only one agenda: Take over the control of the sports body. For the last fifty years, whatever India has achieved, it is because of the efforts of the various sports federations. There are proper elections in the sports federations too. Then, why,

every time, there is only one demand, to take over the control of the sports body? Are we heading towards a totalitarian State regime?

Secondly, sports is a State-subject. Every State is interested in promoting sports in its State. Why, then, is the Government of India interested to take over the control from the States?

SHRI SUNIL DUTT : I never said that we want to take control from States. I am only answering the question of the hon. Members. (*Interruptions*) According to the Sports Policy of 2001, we have achieved great excellence in so many other disciplines of sports. We have done very well in shooting and we have a silver medal holder of the Olympics with us, on whom we have spent a lot of money. If the Government is spending money, we have the right to get back information from the federations; and, federations will never give us, on time, the details of how they have spent the money. If they don't get us those details in time, what should we do? Should we stop them giving money? You are talking about federations. I appreciate the efforts of federations. But you also must appreciate that we give every money that is required for the federations for the encouragement of sports in the country, and they don't give us, on time, the audited results of how much money they spent! Suppose we stop it, who will be responsible for this?

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: We have to find out alternative routes of getting more medals in Olympics and other international sports. Nehru Yuva Kendra is under the same Ministry. I would like to know whether more funds would be allocated for the rural sports. Very much, the talent is available in the rural areas. That can be tapped. A lot of clubs were created but the scarcity of fund is the only reason for not bringing sports persons to the national-level. I would like to know whether the Government is thinking about it.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: We have very many schemes and we are also talking with the HRD Ministry. We would like to see that sports and physical fitness activities should be started right from the school-level. This, I think, is going to start very soon and this process is on the way. Even otherwise, from my Ministry, we have been helping universities, we have been helping colleges and right at the grassroots-level, district-level and State-level, we will be helping athletes who are really doing some good work.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is in a position to do something about grabbing of every sports authority post by politicians, whether it is Carom board or whether it is Kabbadi, or whether it is Kho Kho. Forget about cricket, because it is embarrassing to many of our colleagues present today. So forget about cricket. Take any sport today; it is grabbed by one political leader or the other. Is it not high time for the Ministry of Sports and for the Government to do something about this? When IT is not a politician, there will be a civil servant who will continue for 20 years and will not vacate the post. I think the Government need to do something about it.(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the most important question.(*Interruptions*).... Let him reply.(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: Sir, I am grateful to Jairam Rameshji that he has brought some life in the House by his question. I feel generally to a great extent.(*Interruptions*).... I will give a complete list of the federations and the ones who are there for the last 15 or 20 years. At this time, I do not have the number. But I promise you that I will present to this House the list showing how many politicians, how many bureaucrats are there and for how many years they are ruling the federations.(*Interruptions*)....

श्री सभापति: प्लीज, आप बैठिए। विदेश मंत्री जी कुछ कह रहे हैं।

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Sir, I am only mentioning for the sake of what Jairamji has said that people do not give up after 20 years. I was elected the President of Tennis Federation of India and I gave up in four years.(*Interruptions*)....

*490. [The questioner (Shri Dilip Singh Judev) was absent. For answer *vide* page 36].

*491. [The questioner (Shri Ekanath K. Thakur) was absent. For answer *vide* page 40].

Indo-Chinese Cooperation

*492. **SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:**
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:††

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.