

**Need to create special category of Arjuna Awards for
differently-abled athletes**

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, recently our country has lost a brilliant sportsperson in the form of Masudur Rahman Baidya, who was not only an exceptional swimmer but also an inspiration and hope for millions of people. Despite being differently-abled, he has shown the world that if you have the will power, you can dominate millions of hearts. A person with double amputation below the knee, he had conquered the English Channel in 1997, the Strait of Gibraltar in 2001 and the Palk Strait in July 2010. He certainly deserves special recognition from the country. We, as a country, have not been much generous towards differently-abled sportspersons. The efforts one undertakes to be in the field, whatever it be, need special applaud from us who enjoy that tremendous performance. The ace swimmer had said in last December that we are a part of society, given the responsibility, we too can deliver, just like we are doing at various disabled games.

Sir, the West Bengal Government and, specially, our Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, has taken various initiatives for the recognition of differently-abled sportspersons. She has also expressed her solidarity with the family of Masudur Rahman Baidya, who passed away on 26th April at the age of 46 years. Through this august House, we demand from the Government that there should be a special category of Arjuna Awards for differently-abled athletes and sportspersons, and it should be named after Masudur Rahman Baidya. Sir, this special recognition will inspire several differently-abled brothers and sisters, and they will get encouragement and special recognition while living their dreams to play the game, be it any game.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SANJAY RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

PROF. JOGEN CHOWDHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All names of the Members who are associating may be added.

Disinvestment of NALCO

श्री दिलीप कुमार तिकी (ओडिशा) : थैंक्यू उपसभापति महोदय। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार और सदन का ध्यान एक अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। ऐसी खबर है कि खान मंत्रालय ने नाल्को में सरकार के 10 परसेंट स्टेक के विनिवेश की अनुमति दे दी है। हम सब जानते हैं कि नाल्को हमारे देश की एक नवरत्न कम्पनी है और लगातार मुनाफे में है। साल 2013-14 के आंकड़ों के अनुसार इसका टर्नओवर 7,774 करोड़ रुपये है, जो पिछले साल की तुलना में लगभग 10 परसेंट ज्यादा है। उसी तरह निर्यात से भी नाल्को की कमाई लगातार बढ़ रही है। ऐसे में सवाल यह है कि आखिर इस मुनाफे की कम्पनी में सरकार प्राइवेट सेक्टर को हिस्सा क्यों देना चाहती है? अगर विनिवेश के लक्ष्यों को पूरा करना ही है तो वैसी ही कम्पनियाँ चुनी जानी चाहिए जो घाटे में चल रही हैं। नाल्को के सभी कर्मचारी सरकार के इस फैसले का विरोध कर रहे हैं। हमारी ओडिशा सरकार की ओर से हमारे मुख्य मंत्री श्री नवीन पटनायक जी ने भी कहा है कि यह बिल्कुल उचित नहीं है। इसलिए हमारी पार्टी सरकार के इस जनविरोधी कदम का कड़ा विरोध करती है। हमारी सरकार से मांग है कि नाल्को में विनिवेश का फैसला तत्काल वापस लिया जाए। थैंक्यू सर।

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं इससे एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please stop it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, fine. It may be added. ...(*Interruptions*)... That is accepted. Now, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

PROF. JOGEN CHOWDHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All names of the Members who are associating may be added. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar.