

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.

SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.

SHRI HARIVANSH (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.

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

SHRI K. T. S. TULSI (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.

SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we also associate ourselves with the matter raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.

Concern over the poor condition of ex-sportspersons of the country

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Sir, I want to speak about the tragedy of those who made our nation proud, that is, our ex-sportspersons.

जब अपनों ने दिया दर्द, तो दुनिया से क्या कहना
यूँ तो लाखों दर्द मिले हैं हमें, पर इस दर्द का क्या कहना।

†جب اپنوں نے دیا درد، تو دنیا سے کیا کہنا
یوں تو لاکھوں درد ملے ہیں ہمیں، پر اس درد کا کیا کہنا

Sir, while the nation is celebrating our recent win in cricket against England, there is a sad state of affairs which I would like to bring to the notice of the House through you.

† Transliteration in Urdu script.

A nation must honour its heroes – be it a soldier, a sailor or a sports star. Wherever they go, they are the ones who carry our country's pride and cause with them. But, are we doing enough to honour those who make our nation proud? Are we taking care of those athletes who won medals for us? Though the Ministry of Sports has always talked about the efforts to improve sports facilities in the country, it is important that they also start talking about the efforts to honour ex-sportspersons who brought glory to our nation. Sir, I am deeply saddened by the way they have been pushed to the margins of sporting history and by the fact that they have to spend their lives in poverty, struggling to make ends meet. Sarwan Singh, a gold medalist in 110m hurdles at the 1954 Asian Games worked as a cab driver and finally as an agricultural labourer at the age of 70 years.

Yousuf Khan was part of the gold medal winning team in soccer in the 1962 Asian Games. In the same Games, Makhan Singh won the relay race. Both led poverty stricken life after retirement. Gopal Bhengra, a 1978 world cup participant had to work in a stone quarry. Kabaddi champion Shanti Devi sells vegetables whereas Sita Sahu who won two bronze medals at the 2011 Special Olympics in Athens now sells gol gappas. I have named a few though there are numerous such cases. A small amount of monthly pension is now granted to our retired sportspersons from the Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious students but we need to ask ourselves, is it enough?

बेटा कैसा भी हो जाए, पर मां तो मां ही होती है।
तू झांक के दिल में देख कभी, हम कितने दर्द समेटे हैं।
मां हम भी तेरे बेटे हैं, मां हम भी तेरे बेटे हैं।

†بیٹا کیسا بھی ہو جائے، پر ماں تو ماں ہی ہوتی ہے
تو جھانک کے دل میں دیکھ کبھی، ہم کتنے درد سمیٹے ہیں
ماں ہم بھی تیرے بیٹے ہیں، ماں ہم بھی تیرے بیٹے ہیں۔

Sir, Once again I would like to bring to the notice of the House the poor financial conditions of some of our ex-sportspersons. It is their voice that I raise here, when I say.

भीगी पलकों से एक बेटा भारत मां से कहता है।
मां हम भी तेरे बेटे हैं, मां हम भी तेरे बेटे हैं।

†بھگی پلکوں سے ایک بیٹا بھارت ماں سے کہتا ہے
ماں ہم بھی تیرے بیٹے ہیں، ماں ہم بھی تیرے بیٹے ہیں۔

श्री विवेक गुप्ता (पश्चिमी बंगाल): महोदय, मैं इस विषय से अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

† Transliteration in Urdu script.

श्रीमती जया बच्चन (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी इस विषय से अपने आपको संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी इस विषय से अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं भी इस विषय से अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI K. T. S. TULSI (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI M. C. MARY KOM (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI A. V. SWAMY (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): 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.

SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI (NCT of Delhi): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is full support. Naqvi ji, you also heard what Mr. Haque has said. Many of our ex-sportspersons are starving and finding it very difficult to make both ends meet. That is what he said. He is suggesting something. Why don't you convey it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Right, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, it is a very reasonable demand. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता (झारखण्ड): उपसभापति जी, यह एक इंपॉर्टेंट इश्यू है। Across the party lines, it is the same feeling.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Everybody is supporting it.

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: कोई किसी एक पार्टी का इश्यू नहीं है। What I suggest is that we should have a one hour discussion on this issue, which is very important.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, somebody can give notice. ...(Interruptions)... I think, in this Session... ...(Interruptions)... It may not be possible before... ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Next session, Sir. ...(Interruptions)... It is a very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I also agree with you. Notice can be given and the hon. Chairman may consider it. I will also request hon. Chairman to consider it. I agree with you.

Now, Shrimati Kahkashan Perween, not present. Okay. Now, Special Mentions.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Urgent need to address gender inequality in the country

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity. Sir, this issue has been discussed many times here. However, I would like to mention the urgent need to address gender inequality. Sir, gender inequality in India is a growing concern. As per UN Gender Inequality Index, India ranks abysmally 127 out of 146 countries in gender inequality. Even McKinsey's Report "The Power of Parity: Advancing Women's Equality in India shows poor levels of gender parity. And, our global Gender Parity Score is 0.48 whereas a score of 1 would be ideal. It represents 'extremely high' level of gender inequality, which compares poorly with 0.71 for Western Europe, 0.74 for North America and Oceania.

No doubt a significant progress on promoting girls' education and advancing gender equality is made, but stark inequalities still exist between men and women in their access to education, healthcare, resources and opportunities in socio-economic and cultural spheres. Just 13 per cent of women of low economic status avail institutional deliveries, while only 19 per cent in the lowest quintile avail any kind of post-natal care. Adverse child (0-6 years) sex ratio of 914 in 2011 when compared to 927 in 2001 gives grim reminder of continuing aversion to girl child and tempering natural demography. Female literacy rate is 65 per cent against 81 per cent for men and 97 per cent women undergo sterilisation.

So, it is imperative to address low status of women as a national priority by channelizing potential of our 300 million young people to catapult itself into a new