

officials of the Forest Department are evicting the Tribals. Who is responsible for that? Who will reply to it? Who will make the rules and get them implemented? Why is it happening to the Tribals only? Why should the Tribal people wait for it for so long? Who is responsible for it? Is the Ministry of Environment responsible for it? Or, is the Ministry of Tribal Affairs responsible for it? I am putting this question to the Prime Minister. Someone should reply to it in a positive way so that we can tell the Tribals that this is the position and that the Government is doing this thing. Evictions and burnings are taking place everyday. You want to do all kind of activities, mining, etc. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question, please.

SHRI ABANI ROY: In spite of so many. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him put the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ABANI ROY: The rules should be framed immediately.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, no Tribals have been evicted by the Forest Department. They might have been evicted because of the illegal activity there. If the hon. Member brings it to my notice, definitely, we will take action. If the Tribals have been evicted anywhere, you bring it to my notice. I will certainly take care of it. There is no harm if they live there and occupy the land. They are enjoying all the rights. Through this Act, they will get the legal rights.

*208. [The questioner (Shri P.R. Rajan) was absent. For answer *vide* page... *infra*.]

Sports facility at the banks of Yamuna

*209. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:††

MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the opposition by environment groups to the setting up of sports facility for the Commonwealth Games on the banks of river Yamuna;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken initiative to engage such groups, the Local Government, its agencies and the expert groups to make an appraisal of these objections;

(c) whether Government has found the apprehensions raised by the environment groups valid, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government is considering to shift the proposed facility to an alternative site?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The site was chosen by the Government in 2003. The DDA thereafter took a number of necessary steps including moving the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF). MoEF conveyed the environmental clearance *vide* letters dated 14.12.2006, 22.1.2007, 29.3.2007 and 23.4.2007. As the Government has not found the apprehensions to be valid, no proposal for shifting the facility to an alternative site is under consideration.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Satosh Bagrodia.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Indian Olympic Association and the UNEP have signed an MoU for the Green Commonwealth Games. If, 'Yes', what are the obligations of the respective parties? Has the Government also signed any agreement with the London Municipal Authority to share technical know-how and experience of the London Olympics to minimise the adverse impact on the environment? If, 'yes', give details of such cooperation.

**ANNOUNCEMENT RE. VISIT OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM
BAHRAIN**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, before the hon. Minister replies to the question, I have an announcement to make. We have with us seated in the Special Box, Members of a Parliamentary Delegation from Bahrain currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His excellency Mr. Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al Dhahrani, Chairman of the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain. On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the Leader and other Members of the Delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here, they would be able to see and learn more about our Parliamentary system, our country and our people and that their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bond that exists between India and Bahrain. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament and the friendly people of Bahrain.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS-Contd.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, the supplementaries put by my friend, Bagrodiaji, I am afraid, do not strictly come under the purview of the question. These are questions that should perhaps be answered by our Sports Minister. Since I am answering on behalf of the DDA, what happened between the Olympic Committee and other international organisations, I won't be able to answer immediately. If necessary, I will collect the information and pass it on to the hon. Member.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: I think, there is a mistake somewhere, not with me because my question has been referred to this Ministry whereas this should have probably been referred to the Ministry of Environment and Forests. I fully agree with him, but unfortunately, since he was replying, I thought he would take the joint responsibility and tell me something.

Sir, my second supplementary is also something like the first one, but I hope he will be able to reply to this. The whole subject is of environment; that is the whole problem. Now, I would like to put my second supplementary. There was a meeting with the Group of Ministers and the Authority, where the environment activists have met them. What is the outcome of that? Another point is also very important. The farmers are selling their land along the bank of Yamuna to the MNCs; a lot of construction activities are going on. Does the hon. Minister know about it? I hope there will be some controlled activities there so that after the Commonwealth Games, we don't have more problems in that region.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: First of all, I agree with the hon. Member that the environmentalist groups were engaged with them at various levels. The L.G., the Chief Minister and the senior officials of the DDA, including the Vice-Chairman, had a number of meetings with the

environmentalist group. It is also true that the environmentalist group, comprising eminent citizens like Kuldip Nayyar, Rajendra Singh, the person who received the Magsaysay Award, under their expertise, made a presentation before the Group of Ministers headed by Shri Arjun Singh, of which I am also a Member. The GoM is still considering the presentation made. However, in my answer, I have referred to the position as it pertains today. The hon. Member has mentioned about the purchases made by private people. We will see to it that whoever may purchase will not be allowed to build constructions in contravention of environmental norms and guidelines. That is a very correct point, and I will alert all authorities to see to it that environmental norms are protected.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, on the basis of the Supreme Court orders, the slums on the wet bank of River Yamuna Pushta had to be demolished rendering thousands of slum dwellers homeless. Now you are allowing permanent structures to be built on the left bank. Isn't this a violation of the spirit of the Supreme Court's directives?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the High Court has appointed the Yamuna River Monitoring Committee. Some demolitions have taken place at the behest of the Monitoring Committee. We are doing our best to see to it that the slum dwellers' rights are protected. At any rate, such slum dwellers who have been evicted, will be provided with alternative sites.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Karan Singh.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*... are you not violating the spirit of the Supreme Court directives? That is my question. You are not answering that, Sir.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the suggestion to choose this site was taken in 2003. After that, DDA took a number of steps. It obtained clearance from the Environment and Forests Ministry; it obtained clearance from DUAC. We are taking all steps to see to it that environmental norms are not violated. We do not find too much substance in the apprehensions. However, we appreciate the concerns.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, I must declare that I am also an environmentalist. I head a body called the People's Commission on Environment and Development. These environmentalists have also met with me.

Sir, as I understand it, the Yamuna river is already gravely endangered and if you start building on the banks of the Yamuna, then, sooner or later, the water table below the Yamuna will dry up and the situation will get even worse. The main point that the environmentalists are making is that you are planning a residential complex on the banks of the river in that prohibited area and it will be used only for 15 days while the people are here for the Commonwealth Games. After that, what will happen? They will be taken over by the big companies, skyscrapers will come up and the whole thing will go out of our hands. Their suggestion was that this residential complex could conveniently be shifted to Dwarka where there is a lot of space.

Secondly, if you cannot shift the residential complex now, they say, put up temporary structures which can then, after the Games, be dismantled, so that it does not permanently stay there. Already one place of religious worship—I do not want to mention the name—has come up on the banks of the Yamuna which also is against the norms. Now, if you continue with this, the fear is that these residences will become flats like the Asian Games Village and they will become skyscraper and that will be the end of whatever is left of the Yamuna. Will the Minister kindly keep these points strictly in mind?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I don't have the expertise of our senior most Member, Maharaja Karan Singh. Let me confess and disclose my ideological interest; philosophically; I belong to the same group as he does.

Having said that, Sir, DDA went about it very carefully. We went to the Environment Ministry. They imposed as many as 56 conditionalities and each conditionality is being monitored by an institute based in Dehradun. This river bank is a huge area. The place that will be occupied by Commonwealth Games Village accounts for only 3.5 hectares. Still, I will not be able to sit in judgement because this decision or judgement is exercised by the Environment Ministry. My Ministry can only approach the Environment Ministry. The Environment Ministry, guided as it were by experts, granted the approval. Therefore, I cannot enter into a scientific debate on the virtues of clearance granted by the Environment Ministry.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: सभापति महोदय, अच्छा है कि अर्बन डेवलपमेंट मिनिस्टर और स्पोर्ट्स मिनिस्टर, दोनों यहां बैठे हुए हैं। महोदय, 2008 शुरू होने जा रहा है, अभी दिसम्बर, 2007 आने वाला है। अभी तक दिल्ली में कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स का कोई इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर बना हुआ नज़र नहीं आ रहा है। चीन में, जहां ओलम्पिक होने हैं, छः-सात साल पहले से जो माहौल था, वह देखने लायक था। यहां हमें लग रहा है कि क्या हम दो साल में स्टेडियम बना पाएंगे? अभी तो यह तय हो रहा है कि किस जगह बने? Environment Clearance हुआ या नहीं? यहां की जगह वहां शिफ्ट कर दो। इस तरह से मुझे नहीं लगता कि अभी तक, जब हम जगह तय नहीं कर पाए हैं तो इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर भी खड़ा कर पाएंगे या नहीं कर पाएंगे। मुझे लगता है कि अगर हम डंग से कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स नहीं करा पाए तो पूरे राष्ट्र को कहीं शर्म से न डूबना पड़े। मैं चाहता हूं कि दोनों मंत्री महोदय इस संबंध में जवाब दें।

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I speak for the whole Government. I would like to allay the apprehensions of the Member about our ability to conduct Commonwealth Games. I say here authoritatively that the entire programme is on course. The site has been finally chosen and we have awarded the contract to build the Commonwealth Games site in a PPP mode. All other facilities are being created. Therefore, there needs to be no doubt on this count at all.

*210.[The questioner (Shri Karnendu Bhattacharjee) was absent. For answer *vide* page 29 *infra*.]

*211.[The questioner (Shri Manohar Joshi) was absent. For answer *vide* page 33 *infra*.]

*212.[The questioner (Shri Rudra Narayan Pany) was absent. For answer *vide* page 33 *infra*.]

Marine Training Institutes

*213. **SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is ample scope for employment of youth in merchant navy/general merchant vessels as Merchant Navy Officers, Marine Engineers and Technicians/Crew Members on-board Indian or foreign merchant ships;

(b) whether there are only a few recognized Marine Training Institutes/Marine Officer Training Institutes in the country and there is no such institute in Karnataka;