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20.12.2022

Shri N.K. Premachandran
Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha
Revolutionary Socialist Party
Kollam (Constituency)

Subject: Appreciation for remarks made in Lok Sabha on low investment in sports in India

Hon'ble Sir,

At the outset, we want to thank you for your remarks in the Lok Sabha that appeared in a news report, where you spoke of the low investment in sports in India. In a representation to the Union Sports Ministry made by Confederation of Sports and Recreation Industry (CSRI) in October 2022, this was one of the points that were raised. Your remarks were as "For the last five years, the total money which we have spent for the development of sports is just Rs 11,482.77 crore. We are a 3.5-trillion economy. What is the money being spent for the sports? It is a very negligible amount. This is the reason why we are not able to go up to the international standards."

As a former sportsperson yourself and now as a parliamentarian, it is heartening to see you point this out because the fact is that the investment in sports is indeed only a small fraction of the entire Union budget. Given that India is one of the world's fastest growing economies, this should also reflect in our sporting performances, which unfortunately at the Olympic level is far from what merits India's standing on the world stage. In order to do better on the world stage, there needs to be more investment in sports and across a wide range of sports along with policy interventions that will enable India to win more medals and go further up in the Olympic medal tally.

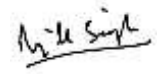
In addition, sports should not only be seen as sports but also way of life, education, health & fitness. Therefore, within the health, education and tourism sectors, there needs to be share of Sports budget. Ultimately, it has also the potential to generate huge job opportunities as mentioned in the NSDC study report.

Of course, we at CSRI as an industry association at the apex level, which connects the complete ecosystem of Sports- Sports, Physical Education, Fitness and Leisure, is also available to support you and the government's endeavour.

We also aggregate the views of thought leaders for giving inputs toward necessary policy intervention.

For further information we are attaching the profile of CSRI as well as the undersigned.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rajpal Singh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

(Rajpal Singh)