



REPORT OF THE

HOCKEY COMMITTEE

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND
YOUTH SERVICES
1969

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HOCKEY COMMITTEE

[APPOINTED BY THE ALL INDIA COUNCIL OF SPORTS]



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES
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REPORT OF THE HOCKEY COMMITTEE

Introduction

The All India Council of Sports (A.I.C.S.) at its meeting held on 5th December, 1968, considered the performance of our hockey players at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico and viewed it with some concern. The Council decided that an enquiry should be undertaken to ascertain the causes for the deficiencies with a view to benefit from such an examination as regards the future.

2. In pursuance of this decision, the A.I.C.S. nominated a committee of seven members consisting of an A.I.C.S. member as chairman with four past Olympic hockey captains and the President, Services Sports Control Board, as members; the Member-Secretary of the A.I.C.S. was nominated as the Secretary and the Convener of the Committee. The Committee was formally constituted on December 5, 1968 with the following composition:

Shri H. C. Sarin	Chairman
Major Dhyam Chand	Played in Olympics in 1928 and 1932 and was Captain in the 1936 Berlin Olympics
Shri K. D. Singh	Played in Olympics in 1948 and was Captain in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics
Shri Balbir Singh	Played in Olympics in 1948 and 1952 and was Captain in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics
Shri Charanjit Singh	Played in Olympics in 1960 and was Captain in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics
Air Vice-Marshal C.L. Mehta, AVSM	President, Services Sports Control Board
Shri K. G. Prabhu	Convener (Member-Secretary, A.I.C.S.)

Shri K. G. Prabhu resigned as Secretary, A.I.C.S. in March, 1969. The duties of Convener and Member-Secretary of the Committee thereafter were performed by Air Vice-Marshal C. L. Mehta.

Terms of Reference

3. The terms of reference of the Committee were as follows:

- (a) To review the entire pre-Olympic set-up, in particular the organisation, selection, training, etc., pre-Olympic tour to East Africa, Italy and details of fixtures and performance of the Team and the officials at Mexico.
- (b) To suggest steps to be taken as a short-term measure, for the preparation of India's participation at the next Asian Games in 1970 and at the 1972 Olympics at Munich.
- (c) To suggest ways and means in the long term, for the development and maintenance of a high standard in hockey consistent with the past traditions of the game in India.

General

4. A total of 18 sessions of the Committee were held. In the first meeting of the Committee held on 8th January, 1969 the Chairman made it clear to all members that the Committee had not been constituted for witch-hunting or apportioning blame but that it was looking to the future and its main object was to find ways and means to improve hockey in the country and to maintain its traditional high position in the game. It was agreed that hockey players, officials and observers who went to the last Olympics should be interviewed. In addition, hockey enthusiasts, past players, eminent sports writers, etc., should also be invited to give their views and suggestions. It was realised that, on the one hand, the Committee had no powers to compel the attendance of witnesses, and on the other, it was not possible to examine everyone who might be interested.

5. A list of hockey officials, past and present players, hockey enthusiasts and reputed sports correspondents who were invited by the Committee is at *Annexure I*. Those who appeared before the Committee are marked with asterisks. The Indian Hockey Federation agreed to give evidence only with regard to improvement and development of the game in the future, but were not willing to discuss the deficiencies in the last Olympics as it considered that the I.H.F. itself should have been charged with such an investigation. The President of the Indian Hockey Federation, Shri Ashwini Kumar, and one of the Vice-Presidents, Air Marshal O. P. Mehra, PVSM, had two sittings with the Committee. We are grateful to them for their valuable evidence. Their suggestions regarding the future development and improvement of the game have been fully taken into account in arriving at the recommendations contained in this report.

6. It was explained to each witness (individuals interviewed) that the approach of the Committee was not to apportion blame but to learn from past mistakes and to gain from them. The witnesses were also told that they were at liberty not to answer questions put to them and that they would not be quoted in the report though the material provided by them would be fully used.

Selection

7. From the evidence given by some members of the Indian Hockey Federation Selection Committee, it is understood that the Selection Committee generally consisted of six members and for the selection of the Mexico Olympics Team an additional selector was coopted. Under the procedure of the Indian Hockey Federation *all* the selectors are expected to witness *all* the trial matches and coaching camps held prior to the selection of a national or an international team. This rule, however, was not fully observed during the selection of the Indian Hockey Team for the Olympics. Only some of the selectors witnessed the trial matches whilst others generally went by their previous personal knowledge of the players and the information given to them of the form of the players by their colleagues.

8. The selection of the team for the Mexico Olympics was completed in three stages. The first selection meeting was held at Bombay on 21st and 22nd April, 1968, which selected 36 players based on their form in the National Championship and the Gold Cup Tournament. The second selection meeting was held at Patiala on 26th and 27th June, 1968, which selected 25 players based on the performance in the trial matches played at Patiala, and the third selection meeting was held at Jullundur on 18th July, 1968, after the Jullundur Camp, where two more players who did not attend the Patiala Camp had also been invited. A total of 18 players and 7 standby players were selected based on their form at the trial matches at Jullundur and this selected team was announced and sent for coaching at Lovedale in Wellington.

9. The total number of selectors, as far as it has been possible to ascertain, who watched the trial matches and attended the Selection Committee meetings was as follows :

(a) BOMBAY	Shri J. D. Nagarvala	.	Chairman
	Shri Victor Simon	.	Member
	Sqn. Ldr. R. S. Bhola	.	Member
	Shri Rup Singh	.	Member
(b) PATIALA	Shri J. D. Nagarvala	.	Chairman
	Sqn. Ldr. R. S. Bhola	.	Member
	Major General D.S. Kalha	.	Member
(c) JULLUNDUR	Shri J. D. Nagarvala	.	Chairman
	Shri Victor Simon	.	Member
	Shri Charanjit Singh	.	Member
	Sqn. Ldr. R. S. Bhola	.	Member

Shri Nagarvala and Sqn. Ldr. R. S. Bhola were the only members who attended all the Selection Committee meetings but even they did not attend all the sessions of the trial matches.

10. As a result of the pre-Olympic tours undertaken in 1967 and 1968 it was already known to the Indian Hockey Federation Selection Committee that the Indian Hockey Team was weak in the following positions:

- (a) Goal-Keeper
- (b) Left Half
- (c) Left Out

11. The selected team as announced by the Indian Hockey Federation was as follows:

GOAL-KEEPER

- (i) Christy
- (ii) Munir Sait

FULL BACKS

- (i) Prithipal Singh
- (ii) Gurbux Singh
- (iii) Dharam Singh

HALF BACKS

- (i) Balbir Singh (Services)
- (ii) Ajit Pal Singh
- (iii) Harmik Singh
- (iv) Jagjit Singh
- (v) Krishnamurthy

FORWARDS

- (i) Balbir Singh (Railways)
- (ii) Peter
- (iii) Harbinder Singh
- (iv) Inder Singh
- (v) Tarsem Singh
- (vi) Inam-ur-Rehman

(vii) Gurbux Singh

(viii) Balbir Singh (Punjab)

12. From the teams put up in the day-to-day matches, the above-announced team, by and large, appears to have been based on the following considerations:

- (a) Christy was selected as number one goal-keeper with Munir Sait as number two.
- (b) The full-back combination was Prithipal Singh and Gurbux Singh with Dharam Singh as the third back.
- (c) In the half line—the combination was Balbir Singh (Services), Ajit Pal Singh and Harmik Singh with Krishnamurthy, as the reserve right-half back and Jagjit Singh as the reserve centre-half back.
- (d) The combination in the forward line was Balbir Singh (Railways) right out, Peter right in, Harbinder Singh centre forward, Inder Singh left in and Tarsem Singh as left out. The additional players in the forward line were Gurbux Singh, Balbir Singh (Punjab) and Inam-ur-Rehman.

Goal-Keeper

13. The Selection Committee appears to have considered Christy and Munir Sait as the best available goal-keepers. There is, however, a view expressed by more than one person that Laxman, even though slower in his reflexes now because of advancing age, was still better than Christy and Munir Sait. Laxman had much greater experience as a goal-keeper in international matches. In this connection, the Committee noted that Christy had been dropped after the 1960 trials. He was selected as number two goal-keeper to represent India in the 1964 Olympics but was dropped during the subsequent foreign tours in 1966 (three tours) and 1967 (two tours). Despite his lack of experience he was selected as number one goal-keeper for

the 1968 Olympics. It is on record that Christy regularly played hockey for Mysore State during the years 1966 to 1968 and participated in most of the leading tournaments. It is also understood that the under-mentioned hockey players were tried as goal-keepers to represent India abroad as shown against their names but none of them was selected in subsequent years:

(a) Avadh Narash (Railways)	1966 Hamburg tour. Laxman was number one goal-keeper.
(b) Raj Kumar (Punjab)	1966 Japan tour (Only one goal-keeper was taken).
(c) Jagdip Singh (Punjab)	1966 Asian Games, Bangkok. Laxman was number one goal-keeper.
(d) Mukerjee (M.K.)	1967 Madrid tour. Munir Sait was the number two goal-keeper.

NOTE: In 1967 International Tournament at London, Laxman was the only goal-keeper sent.

14. From the above it would appear that no deliberate or consistent planning was undertaken to nurse a junior goal-keeper when Laxman for years occupied the position of a senior goal-keeper. In this respect what has actually been done is to change the number two goal-keeper from year to year resulting in no one player gaining the necessary experience to take the place of Laxman on his expected retirement.

Full Backs

14. From the above it would appear that no deliberate or Committee that in Prithipal Singh and Gurbux Singh, the best full backs available in the country were selected. The same, however, cannot be said of the third full back, i.e., Dharam Singh. Even if at that time this player was the third best available back in the country the Committee feels that a much younger player with requisite experience should have been taken

who could have gained experience to take the place of Prithipal Singh or Gurbux Singh both of whom are now getting on in years. The announcement of the selected full backs for the I.H.F. team to tour Pakistan (which did not materialise), namely, Gurbux Singh, Raminder Singh and Tasawar Hussain confirm the feeling that if Dharam Singh had the potentialities of making a permanent full back, under normal circumstances, he should have found a place as a full back on the retirement of Prithipal Singh. It must, however, also be appreciated that the form of a player is dependent on various factors but in this case the announcement of the I.H.F. team to tour Pakistan was not after a big gap of time, and had Dharam Singh been of the required standard of a full back for a national team, his selection for the above-proposed tour should have been automatic.

Half Backs

16. In so far as the half backs are concerned, Balbit (Services) as right half and Ajit Pal as centre half were the best available in the country. In this respect the I.H.F. is to be complimented on their foresight and courage in giving both these comparatively young players an opportunity to play in the Olympics. This decision should pay good dividends if these players are looked after and they maintain their form. In so far as the left half is concerned, as already stated, this was a weak link in our team in the past and continued to be so in the last Olympics. The Committee feels that Krishnamurthy who was taken as one of the half backs, should have been given more chances to play in that position in the trial matches in India and the pre-Olympic matches played in Kenya and Uganda. If this had been done, it was possible that Krishnamurthy might have proved to be a better half back in the Olympic matches. This view is supported in the report of the coach submitted to the I.H.F. which was made available to us. In this report, the coach praised the game of Krishnamurthy as left half against the West German team which was the only match in which he was tried in the Olympics.

Forwards

17. In the forward line, the Committee feels that the inclusion of Peter, though an experienced player, because of his age, tended to slow down the pace of our game. This is borne out by the report of the coach when he states, "Peter, though a brainy player was slow to move with the forward line". Peter, no doubt, has been an outstanding player, but the Committee considers that it would have been in the interest of the team if a younger player had been given an earlier opportunity to play in the right-in position. It is to be noted that Peter who is an Army player was not selected by the Services Sports Control Board in 1968 to play for the Service hockey team in the National Championship. For the Bronze medal in the last match against West Germany, Balbir Singh (Punjab) was substituted for Peter on which the coach has stated, "Our team played a combined and fast game and out-played the West German team." In the left-in position it is unfortunate that Inder Singh who is normally a good and aggressive player did not play up to the mark. This may be due to the fact that this player had an attack of jaundice in Kenya and perhaps did not fully recover for a strenuous match. Inder Singh, however, played very well as left out in the last match against West Germany when Inam-ur-Rehman was played as left-in.

18. It is not fair to suggest the "correct combinations" that could have been played in the Olympics, especially after the event, but based on the evidence recorded, the Committee is of the view that from the 18 selected players the best combination that might have been tried out for half backs' and forwards' positions and persisted with is as follows :

(a) *Half Backs*

In most of the matches Harmik Singh was played as left half, Balbir Singh (Services) as right half, and Ajit Pal as the centre half. There is no doubt that Balbir Singh (Services) was the best right half and there was no other player who could have

done better. Jagjit Singh, who is also understood to have been medically unfit, was played as centre half, for reasons which are not clear, in the first match against New Zealand which we lost. In the latter matches Ajit Pal was substituted for Jagjit Singh. In the opinion of the Committee, Ajit Pal should have been played from the very first match in the centre-half position. In so far as the left position is concerned Krishnamurthy should have been given more opportunity to show his form from the very beginning. If this had been done, the performance of Krishnamurthy might have justified his playing in the team in preference to Harmik Singh.

(b) Forwards

In the forward line the combination mostly played was: Tarsem Singh left out, Inder Singh left in, Harbinder Singh centre forward, Peter right in and Balbir Singh (Railways) right out. In the forward line it would have been desirable if the combination of Inam-ur-Rehman and Inder Singh playing at left in and left out respectively had been tried out earlier. This combination was played in the last match against West Germany and the press and critics were unanimous that the Indian team put up an excellent show in this match. Likewise it would have been profitable if Balbir (Punjab) had been tried as right in instead of Peter which would have given more thrust and speed to the right flank. In the forward line the left-out, left-in and right-in positions were the weakest with the result that our forward line, prior to the last match against West Germany, never got going. It is to be appreciated that when the opposition is strong in defence, even one weak link in the forward line is certain to affect the entire attack.

19. The main drawback in the present selection procedure appears to be that seldom, if ever, all the selection committee members watch all the players who are likely to make the grade for the national team. The effect of this is that more often than not, selection is made based on the opinion of one or two committee members who have had the opportunity of watching

the players at some of the trial matches. A player cannot be expected to maintain peak form at all the tournaments and trials, held over a length of time in different parts of the country with different living, playing and climatic conditions. Limited viewing also tends to make the prospective player "tense" during the trials and spoils his performance leading to his rejection. Such a selection procedure would not inspire confidence in the players who might get a ground to feel that prejudices and likes and dislikes" played a part in this selection.

20. To ensure that the most competent hockey team is selected to represent India, it is necessary for the Indian Hockey Federation to lay down firm rules for the guidance of the Selection Committee and insist on their observance. In this respect appropriate recommendations are made later in this report.

Training

21. At present there is no standard procedure laid down or followed by the Indian Hockey Federation in the organisation of training camps for promising potential players. For example, there is no set procedure whereby every year after the major hockey tournaments are over in the country, including the National Championship, a national team (of probables) is selected and put under special training or coaching for a laid-down period of time. Normally training and coaching camps are only held on an ad hoc basis when a national team is due to participate in an international tournament at home or abroad or a national team is due to go out on a goodwill tour.

22. In so far as organising training camps for the hockey team which participated in the 1968 Olympics is concerned, short-duration training camps were organised at Patiala and Jullundur prior to the selection and announcement of the finally selected Indian team. Even the short duration of these training/coaching camps was not fully utilised since all the players did not report on a given date but reached the training

camps in one's and two's. It is understood that this happens every time as no effective action is taken to ensure full discipline in the matter.

23. After the selected team was announced, a training camp was organised at Lovedale. This training camp was for three weeks. Even for this final camp, some of the players reported after the camp had been functioning for nearly a week.

24. Initially it was decided that a coaching camp would be held at Ootacamund. For this purpose, it is understood that about Rs. 35,000 was sanctioned for the preparation of a hockey ground and other athletic facilities for the selected teams. The Indian Hockey Federation, however, shifted the venue of the hockey coaching camp from Ootacamund to Lovedale on the ground that the hockey field prepared for the coaching camp was not ready and available in time and also that the same was unsuitable. It is unfortunate that in this matter there was lack of coordination between the N.I.S. and the I.H.F.

25. The training camp at Lovedale was put under the charge of three coaches, namely, Udham Singh, Balkishan Singh and Sqn. Ldr. R. S. Bhole. According to the statement issued by an official of the Indian Hockey Federation, Udham Singh and Balkishan Singh were the two coaches appointed to train the team and Sqn. Ldr. R. S. Bhole was nominated to give the final polishing touches and impart the finer points of the game to the team. No order was issued nominating one of them as the Chief Coach to be responsible for over-all supervision and control in accordance with a predetermined schedule.

26. It was known earlier to the Indian Hockey Federation that the Mexico Olympics would be played on turf. Despite this, satisfactory action was not taken to ensure that prolonged practice was given to the players on similar ground. The training camp held at Lovedale was on gravel. It is hardly necessary to state that playing conditions on gravel differ vastly from playing on turf. In this respect even the tour of Kenya and

Uganda was mainly played on gravel which further adversely affected the training of our players. It should also be stated that such grounds lead to greater number of injuries resulting in players fighting shy of going all out.

27. The pattern of training imparted at Dovedale generally consisted of two sessions. In the first session, training for 'conditioning' the players was imparted. This was mainly restricted to short-duration physical training, practice on individual skills, combined moves between deep defence, half defence and the forwards, and training for short corners. To achieve any worthwhile results, physical training at that level and at that stage should be handled by experts in the field so that this aspect of their training could be augmented to build up stamina, strength, speed, acceleration, agility, balance, body swerve, reaction time, eye perception, etc. or to eliminate shortcomings in them. Much more time and effort should have gone into this during the morning sessions. The second session of training was devoted to assess the best combinations by a process of "combination trials". In this session, training was also imparted in technique, strategy, tactics and other finer points of the game. The entire training, however, was confined to players playing against each other.

28. After the conclusion of the final training camp and before the departure of the team for Kenya, it is understood that no collective or individual report by the three coaches was submitted to the I.H.F. or to the manager, captain or the permanent coach appointed to accompany the team. It is appreciated by the Committee that Shri Balkishan Singh who was one of the coaches appointed at the training camp was eventually detailed to accompany the team and in this respect a certain degree of continuity was maintained. It is, however, the view of the Committee that after a high-level coaching camp, of the type that was established at Lovedale, the three coaches should have submitted a collective report for the benefit of the manager, captain and the coach accompanying the team indicating the best "playing combinations" they had judged or the "playing

that could have been tried out at the subsequent trial matches and the training camps held at Jullundur and Lovedale. The manager of the team was also announced very late in the day. It would not be wrong to state that when the team left the country, the official appointed as the manager did not adequately know all the players that were placed in his charge.

34. The Indian team, before reaching Mexico, paid a short-duration visit to Kenya and Uganda. The purpose of this visit, as can be ascertained, was to give the Indian hockey team the experience and practice of playing at high altitude. To this extent the purpose was fulfilled though the benefit was short-lived. Beyond this, the team had no advantage in performing this tour. In fact, there were distinct disadvantages in undertaking such a tour. In Kenya and Uganda most of the matches were played on gravel. In the matches played in Kenya, the spirit was not that of a goodwill tour but of a test wherein the honour of both the countries was at stake. The Kenyans are known for playing similar brand of hockey as played in India. In fact, the majority of the players in the Kenyan team are of Indian origin who had learnt their hockey either in India or from an Indian coach in Kenya. Therefore, the practice gave no advantage to our team for playing against the other world-ranking teams. On the contrary, some of our players sustained injuries due to the rough game played in Kenya. The administrative arrangements in Kenya were also not conducive for preparing an Olympic team. The players were billeted separately with families without any scope for supervision or control by the coach or the manager. The players reported at the field for a match and then dispersed to their separate places of residence. This method of administration at times even deprived the coach and the manager of appropriately briefing the players due to lack of time at their disposal after the match and the hurry on the part of the players to get back to their residence. Since first-hand supervision and control was not possible their care and administration lacked personal touch and cohesiveness which can come only through joint living as a team. The type

and standard of food necessary for a team preparing for the Olympics was not ensured. The players were entirely on their own for their welfare, diet, discipline and general behaviour.

35. The decision of the Indian Hockey Federation to play a few matches at Rome *en route* to Mexico was very unwise. Whatever little benefit was gained by playing at high altitude in Kenya was lost by the team spending about a week in Italy and another day in London before leaving for Mexico. The hockey opposition in Italy was of a poor standard and no advantage was gained even from the point of view of improving our hockey experience. As against that, there would have been immeasurable advantage if the team had directly gone from Kenya to Mexico. Our team reached Mexico only 10 days prior to the commencement of the Olympics and, as already stated, was the last of all hockey teams to arrive. In these 10 days, two days were spent in preliminary arrangements of settling down, and serious intensive hockey practice was only undertaken for 6 to 7 days, which period is inadequate for training a team competing in a keen world championship.

36. The Olympic Committee had agreed to provide free hospitality for 15 days. We could have taken full advantage of this offer instead of spending time in Rome and London. It is understood that most other hockey teams reached Mexico about 20 days ahead of the commencement of the championship and these teams had arranged a full and complete schedule of matches to obtain valuable experience.

37. From the evidence on record, it is clear that no written administrative orders were issued by the manager or the coach to the team. Administration was carried out by word of mouth, from day to day. No standard procedure was laid down or followed by the manager and the coach for the selection of the team to play in the various matches. As could be ascertained, the selection was ordinarily made by the manager, coach and the two captains in the evening prior to, or on the day of the match, and the selection was intimated by the manager only to

those players who were selected to play. No records appear to have been maintained giving the reasons for the selection of a particular combination.

Role of Officials

38. There were four officials appointed by the Indian Hockey Federation to supervise and control the team. They were, the coach, responsible for the training and playing efficiency of the team, the captain and the joint captain who were to provide the requisite leadership to the team in all respects, and lastly, the manager whose responsibility was to look after the administration, welfare, discipline and other general requirements of the team. The performance of all these officials is discussed in the subsequent paragraphs.

Coach

39. More than one coach was nominated by the Indian Hockey Federation to train the team at various stages. The players selected to represent India should be the best talent in the country and it must, therefore, be assumed that their hockey knowledge and playing ability are of a very high standard. In the training and coaching camps the players were not to be taught the "basic fundamentals" of the game but only the finer points of hockey technique and how to exploit the weak points of the opposing teams. In such coaching whatever be the period of training, it is essential to maintain continuity. In the final training camp, after the Indian team was announced, three coaches were detailed without assigning specific responsibilities to each of the coaches. As no one had been nominated as the chief coach, the training imparted by the coaches, though of a high standard individually, lacked cohesion and collective co-ordination. The permanent coach detailed to accompany the team was selected at a very late stage. The appointed coach, though qualified from the National Institute of Sports, did not have the requisite experience or specially high reputation to earn obedience and eagerness towards him. For a coach, it is not

necessary that he himself knows the game but it is essential for others to acknowledge this fact. It is only then that the coach will inspire confidence, trust and the desire on the part of the players to learn what he has to teach. It is desirable for a coach selected to train a national team participating in an international tournament to be a good and reputed player of his time having vast knowledge of the game; alternatively, he should have long years of coaching experience. The selected coach did not appear to have these qualifications in adequate measure. There were many outstanding international players available in the country, who would have filled the post of a coach to better advantage.

Captains

40. It is perhaps for the first time in the history of Indian Hockey that the Indian Hockey Federation felt it necessary to appoint a captain and a joint captain. There is no evidence to show that the two players nominated as joint captains did not get on well with each other. There must, however, have been instances where there was difference of opinion between the two captains which were amicably settled on the basis of give-and-take and compromises. Clearly there cannot be divided responsibility for leadership. The team must look to one leader to function as one unified cohesive team. With two leaders the team cannot have the cohesiveness necessary for a world's leading team.

Manager

41. Where the manager is concerned, a respected senior officer of the Armed Forces, but a complete outsider in so far as it relates to hockey at the national level, was detailed to accompany the team and look after its administration, welfare, discipline and other requirements. Like the coach, he was also selected very late and only during the final training camp. He could not come to know all the players individually on or off the field. The players could not know him well enough to bring

their problems to him and take him into full confidence. Though not his fault, this was a hindrance and a serious handicap in the proper discharge of his duties. Moreover, the manager, not being a past hockey player of all-India calibre, could not have been of any real assistance in determining, with the coach and the two captains, the techniques and strategy required to be adopted by the team.

Conclusions

42. Based on the interviews carried out, evidence recorded and other information that has come to light, the Committee is of the view that the selection, training and the management of the team which participated in the Olympics was not of the required standard. The main weaknesses are enumerated in the following paragraphs.

Selection

43. In so far as selection is concerned, as already stated, all the selectors were not present in all the trials or at the selection meetings held at Bombay, Patiala and Jullundur. We have no evidence to show that there is any written directive issued by the Chairman of the Selection Committee to the Members of the Committee on the basis of which each selector was to form his independent assessment and express his view in the selection meeting. It is our impression, although we were not able to verify this, that no records have been kept of each Selection Committee meeting showing justification for and against the acceptance or rejection of each player who participated in the various trial matches.

44. Even though the I.H.F. made a press statement that the best team was selected from amongst the players that were available, the Committee feels that, based on the evidence before it, sufficient opportunity was not given to some good players to show their best form. The Committee would place Shahir Noor and Pais in this category.

45. It was known to the Indian Hockey Federation that there were certain definite weak links in the team, namely, the goal-keeper, left-half back and the left out. In spite of this, there is no evidence to lead us to the conclusion that the Indian Hockey Federation took any planned and positive steps to train, over a period, appropriate replacements for these positions and select players who could be termed the best the country could produce.

Training

46. In the opinion of the Committee, the training imparted to the team before it left the shores of India, was not adequate. This view is based on the following considerations :

- (a) Even though the duration of the coaching camp at Lovedale was announced as 21 days, the entire team did not concentrate on coaching for the full period. The players including the captain reached the camp in one's and two's and some of them nearly a week after the commencement of the training camp.
- (b) Selection of the ground at Lovedale was an incorrect decision. During the period of training, the Indian players had no chance to wear studded shoes since all their practice was on gravel, where canvas shoes are normally worn. In Kenya and Uganda, turf fields, even if expected, did not materialise.
- (c) The nomination of three coaches with no clear-cut defined responsibility failed to produce a properly co-ordinated and competent training programme.
- (d) Even though an element of physical training was included in the conditioning of the players, this physical training was not scientific nor imparted through P.T. experts. From most accounts our team lacked stamina to maintain a high tempo throughout the 70 minutes of strenuous game at high altitude.

- (e) It is understood that adequate arrangements for giving good and nourishing diet at Patiala during the trial matches were not made. It is only after complaints were lodged that improvements were effected. Considering that the N.I.S. is an established institution, there should have been no reason for the catering arrangements at this institution not being of adequate standard. At Lovedale also the diet initially lacked nourishment. It was only after representations were received that the diet was improved to a reasonable standard.
- (f) No report was rendered by the coaches in writing laying down the various playing combinations and their justifications. Had this been done, it would have been easier for the "playing committee", namely, the manager, the captain and the coach, at Kenya, Rome and the Mexico Olympics to select or change the playing combinations.
- (g) No medical examination was carried out at the training camps or in fact at any stage before the team left. This should have been a continuous process culminating in a final medical check-up before the team left the shores of India.

Performance and Administration of the Team

47. The unusual schedule of visiting Kenya at high altitude, proceeding to Rome at low altitude and then finally going to Mexico at high altitude certainly did not help the team in acclimatising themselves to play at high altitude. The Indian hockey team gained little advantage by the matches played in Kenya since they were played, firstly on gravel ground and, secondly, against players who played the same brand of hockey as we do. The team also suffered by their visit to Rome at sea level. There was no opposition to the Indian team since the Italians are not known for their prowess in this game. They were not even competing in the Olympics.

48. The arrival of the Indian hockey team at Mexico later than other teams against whom they were expected to play, certainly proved a definite disadvantage. After settling down, the team could hardly get 6 days of serious practice, whereas it was known that hospitality to all the visiting teams was free for a period of 15 days and other European teams had arrived in Mexico even earlier than 15 days. This being the case, the Committee is unable to understand the reasons which prompted the Indian Hockey Federation to send the Indian team to Rome in preference to proceeding direct to Mexico. As far as is known to this Committee, no proposal was submitted by the Indian Hockey Federation to the Government for the Italian tour but that it was undertaken by the Indian Hockey Federation on their own initiative.

Role of the Officials

49. So far as the officials are concerned, the Committee is of the view that the coach nominated to accompany the team was not the best available in the country. It is possible that amongst the N.I.S.-trained coaches, he may have been the best but the question is not of only utilising N.I.S.-trained coaches but of detailing the best available individual in the country. There are national and international players, available in the country, with a brilliant record of coaching state and even foreign teams, who could have been selected for this assignment. It is necessary for a coach to inspire confidence in every player. The players must accept that what the coach states is correct and is based on extensive knowledge and experience of the game in national and international fields. It is only then that a coach can be expected to fulfil his assignment successfully. Shri Balkishan Singh no doubt did his best but it is our impression that he did not inspire sufficient confidence amongst the players to follow his advice. The period of association of the coach with the selected team was also too short to ensure development of tutor-pupil relationship. Initially, Shri Balkishan Singh was only one of the coaches to train the team. In fact, the Indian Hockey Federation authorities themselves appointed

Coach Bhola to impart the "finer points of the game and the required strategy to the olympic-bound hockey contingent". This statement by itself would normally lead one to believe that the other coaches were not competent to teach the finer points and the strategy of the game to the Indian team. Had it been so, it should have been Shri Balkishan Singh, the Coach eventually selected, who should have been appointed right the way through to teach the basic and the finer points, including strategy and technique to the Indian hockey team.

50. The personal knowledge and association with the players of the official appointed as manager, namely, Major General D. S. Kalha was limited to a few days prior to the departure of the team from India. The manager must have deep personal knowledge of each and every player, his individual temperament, habits, problems, difficulties and indeed everything that he needs to help him bring his best on the field. This aspect of the manager's duties, in the opinion of the Committee, was not possible to fulfil since the General did not know the players and the players had still less knowledge of the General. The manager must be an individual who not only knows the game well but is acknowledged by others to be knowledgeable. It has come to the notice of the Committee that there were breaches of discipline in regard to consumption of food and alcohol by some team members. Discipline in food and alcohol is a very important aspect when players are being prepared and trained to play against world standard teams in such a strenuous game as hockey.

51. The action of the Indian Hockey Federation to appoint a captain and a joint captain is most unprecedented. To our knowledge it is the first time in the annals of team games that two leaders with almost equal rights were appointed to lead an Olympic team. This action was basically incorrect whatever might have been the reasons which prompted this step.

Recommendations

52. Having given an assessment of the performance of the Indian hockey team, the Committee is of the view that if India is

to gain its rightful place in the world of hockey, it is necessary for the Indian Hockey Federation and all institutions associated with them to take immediate steps to rectify the shortcomings. With the Asian Championships in 1970 there is very little time left.

53. If sustained improvement is to be effected, it is necessary to lay down short- and long-term measures. The short-term measures are actions which we have to take immediately to set right the technical and administrative shortcomings which have come to light. The basic aim should be to produce a first-rate hockey team to win the Asian Championship in 1970 and later the Olympics in 1972. The long-term measures are to cover a longer period during which new schemes could be experimented upon and introduced which would, on a long-term basis, help to popularise the game of hockey at lower levels in schools and colleges and at the higher levels in the universities, districts and states. It is considered that the long-term scheme should not be theoretical but should be such as can materialise in all the circumstances prevailing in our country and show their effect within a period of eight or ten years. Any proposal which takes longer than this period to yield results would tend to dilute the effect. With this in view, the Committee has outlined its recommendations on short- and long-term measures under various heads in the succeeding paragraphs.

SHORT-TERM MEASURES

Selection

54. It should be the aim of the Indian Hockey Federation to lay down definite norms, based on which the Selection Committee should select players for the national team. It is suggested that the under-mentioned constitution and procedure for the Selection Committee should be considered:

- (a) Not more than five members including the chairman should constitute the Selection Committee. More

than this number may be unwieldy and less than five would be too few.

- (b) Three of the five members should be past international/Olympic players who have actually played for the country. There is no dearth of such players and at all times it should be possible for the Indian Hockey Federation to utilise such talent. The other two members may be individuals who are knowledgeable and have had long association with the game of hockey both in the national and international field. The chairman must be an individual who is mature, experienced and has had long association with the game preferably as a past active national/international player and in whose judgement the players have full confidence.
- (c) The Indian Hockey Federation should earmark and declare at least four major tournaments covering the whole country for purposes of selection of up-and-coming potential players. It should be advisable for the members of the Selection Committee to watch these four major tournaments and maintain their personal record of the form and progress of each potential selectee.
- (d) When a national team for a goodwill tour abroad or a championship or tournament has to be selected, this should be based on two trials, viz., preliminary and final. The Indian Hockey Federation should assemble all the outstanding players of the country at one place which has the same type of climate and playfields as exist at the place of championship/tournament abroad or nearly so. Thereafter, the necessary preliminary rounds of trial matches should be played, which should be completed in four or five days' time. Based on the trial matches, in which all players should be given adequate opportunities, a provisional batch

consisting of not more than 40 players (probables) should be selected by the Selection Committee. This provisional batch of 40 players should be given coaching for a period of six or seven days whereafter the final trials should be held in which all the players selected in the provisional batch should be given equal opportunities to show their form. These trials should be held for not more than four or five days. Based on the performance of the players in these trials, the Selection Committee should select eighteen players and appropriate stand-bys for the final team.

- (e) Each Selection Committee member should make written notes of the good and weak points of each player at the preliminary and the final trial matches so that in the final selection meeting, copies of these notes can be submitted to the Chairman of the Selection Committee.
- (f) In all the meetings of the Selection Committee, the procedure followed should be for each selector to give in writing justification for accepting or rejecting each player. In the final Selection Committee meeting, each selector should nominate the finally selected eighteen players and the stand-bys giving justification for the players selected as well as reasons for rejecting the other players. In the final discussion, the written nomination of each of the selectors should be examined by the Chairman and discussed by the Committee, and appropriate records maintained. After the finally selected team of 18 players and stand-bys has been announced, all the records of the various Selection Committee meetings, supporting the final selection of the team must be submitted to the Indian Hockey Federation. By adopting this procedure it would be possible to determine why a particular player was accepted or rejected at each stage. This

will inspire confidence in the players coming for trials, in that it will be known that a prescribed procedure is being followed and the possibility of "favouritism" prevailing with the selectors is ruled out.

- (g) When the provisional batch of 40 players is selected and announced, the Indian Hockey Federation should also at that time select and announce the names of the captain, the coach and the manager of the team.
- (h) In so far as the coaching of the team is concerned, the Committee feels that not more than two coaches, viz., the chief coach and an assistant coach should be selected by the Selection Committee and nominated by the Indian Hockey Federation. The chief coach will be responsible to the Indian Hockey Federation for training the team up to the required standard. The assistant coach will be responsible to the chief coach for carrying out his instructions. The chief coach should be the one also to accompany the team on a tour, if any. The manager of the team will be responsible for all managerial and administrative services required for the team from the time the finally selected 18 players and stand-bys announced.
- (j) The captain, the chief coach and the manager should be co-opted members of the Selection Committee when the final team of 18 players is selected. They need not, however, be vested with any voting powers enjoyed by the permanent members of the Selection Committee.
- (k) The correct selection of the team should not only begin and end with the Indian Hockey Federation laying down the procedure and system of selecting a national team. The district and the state sports councils should likewise lay down procedures of selection which should be strictly followed for the selection of the district and

the state teams participating in local and national championships. It is only when the correct system of selection is followed that we will have balanced teams, containing all the good players of the country, competing in the national championship, thereby making it easier for the Indian Hockey Federation Selection Committee to select the best national hockey team.

- (1) When the Indian hockey team is touring abroad the actual team to play in a particular match should be announced at least one day (if not two days) ahead of the date of the match to be played. The announcement should be made in writing and the notification shown to each player of the team by the manager or the coach and the signature of the player obtained. In addition, the notification of the team should be placed on an appropriate notice board if this is available.

Training

55. At present the procedure normally followed is that when a national team is to go abroad on a goodwill tour or to participate in a championship, only one coaching camp of short or long duration is held to prepare the team for the visit. As a rule, coaching camps are not held periodically or on a planned basis irrespective of whether a foreign tour is to be undertaken or not. In regard to training and coaching, it is considered that the following procedure should be followed :

- (a) The Indian Hockey Federation should select one qualified coach who has played international hockey and is academically well-read and can coach the Indian team for a minimum period of one year, the contract being renewable if the performance of the coach is good.
- (b) The Indian Hockey Federation should hold two camps every year, each camp being of eight weeks' duration. At this camp the Indian Hockey Federation should put under coaching about 40 players.

- (c) Each year after the national championships are concluded, based on the form displayed by the players in the championships, a provisional national team consisting of 18 players should be selected for that year. This national team should then be put through a coaching camp consisting of 21 days' duration. In this manner, the National team of the year would go through an intensive coaching session which would help the players to retain their peak form without becoming stale. The practice of selecting a national team every year would, in our view, be an incentive for the selected players to work hard to retain their form and position in the team in the subsequent year and be an equal incentive to those not selected to improve their form so that they can find a place in the team during the next year. The selection of a national team every year would also give the Selection Committee the added advantage of having a panel of names position-wise ready with them who would be potential material for inclusion in the team in case of a requirement at short notice.
- (d) The Selection Committee of the Indian Hockey Federation should maintain a record sheet for each player from the time he is spotted in a declared major tournament or the national championship as a possible national player till he retires. A suggested specimen proforma for the maintenance of a history sheet is attached as *Annexure III*. This proforma is illustrative and not exhaustive and may be amended by the Selection Committee in the light of their requirement and experience.
- (e) At least in two major tournaments in the country, a selected Indian Hockey Federation team (this should ordinarily be the selected national team of the year) should participate so that the Indian Hockey Federation team gets requisite tournament practice playing

against the best teams of the country, and their quality can also be assessed.

- (f) An inter-zone tournament should be organised by the Indian Hockey Federation by dividing the country into five zones, namely, North, East, South, West and Central. States covered by the zones should ensure that their best players participate in the zonal championship so that the best zonal team can be selected to compete in the inter-zonal tournament. The zonal and inter-zonal tournaments would give added incentive to young and potential players to show their form and attract the attention of the Indian Hockey Federation Selection Committee.
- (g) In order that talent is spotted without difficulty, the Indian Hockey Federation should nominate one or two knowledgeable past hockey players in each big city like Jullundur, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Lucknow, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore, Bhopal, etc., where important hockey tournaments are held, to forward names of promising players to the Secretary, Indian Hockey Federation, for subsequent follow-up of these players by the Indian Hockey Federation. To ensure that the method of recommendation is standardised, the proforma at *Annexure IV* is suggested for the purpose.
- (h) It is observed that most players reporting for coaching/training camps are not in good physical health resulting in time being wasted in first physically conditioning them. The Indian Hockey Federation in consultation with physical training experts should lay down the basic minimum physical norms which should be applicable to all players before they join the training camp. In addition, a qualified physical instructor should be attached to the selected national team for

physically conditioning the players. It should be the responsibility of this physical instructor to improve the health, strength and playing stamina, etc., of the team. The physical training programme should be worked out in conjunction with the chief coach. The physical instructor, at all times, would be responsible for advising the chief coach and the manager on the physical condition and progress of every player.

- (j) To ensure that standard pattern of training and coaching is imparted collectively to the team, it would be advisable to have a committee of three experts who should chalk out the training schedule which the national team should follow under the chief coach. The training schedule should be enforced at all levels. The training schedule should cover elementary and advance playing skill. Specially concentrated training, if necessary (even by holding a separate short-duration coaching camp) should be undertaken for players of problem positions which are our weak links. It is necessary that the basic requirements and skill of the game are checked by the coach in all trial matches to ensure that players are not only proficient in their own department of the game but as much as possible, are all-rounders having mastered the complete range of skills required for a player of a national/international calibre.

- (k) The Indian Hockey Federation should hold "Hockey Clinics" at least once a year at all big centres, for educating players on the finer points of the game. To obtain maximum benefit from the clinics, the selection of the players attending them should be restricted to those who have shown good form in local tournaments/championships and have a reasonable chance of making the grade for the state/national team,

- (i) When the national team is required to tour abroad, it should be essential that the chief coach in the coaching camp educates the players on the type and pattern of hockey that the team is expected to meet in the visiting countries. In addition, techniques, tactics and strategy to be employed by our team under varying circumstances to meet the playing conditions of the opponents should be taught. It would help immeasurably if our players can be shown actual playing films of the players of the countries to be visited. It is understood that for the Mexico Olympics, countries like New Zealand, Australia, Spain and West Germany had repeatedly shown their teams films of Indian players in action. In this manner, the opposing teams were psychologically and technically prepared to face the Indian team, and at no time the New Zealand, Australian and West German teams suffered from lack of confidence in playing against our players who had a big reputation. It was only as a result of deep study that the weak points of our team were exploited by the opponents and strong points of our team were not permitted to unduly harass them.
- (m) During the coaching camps and at the hockey clinics it will be desirable to show our up-and-coming hockey players a "Hockey Training Film" depicting the new techniques, strategy and rules and regulations of the game. This hockey training film should show the basic and advanced forms of playing the game. The making of this film should be entrusted to a committee of four past international players who should appropriately arrange the script, dialogue and demonstration in the film so as to hold the interest of all the players and educate them in the various aspects of the game.
- (n) Each state sports council should select one venue within their state where one coaching camp of 30 days.

duration is held for senior hockey players and one coaching camp of 30 days' duration is held for junior hockey players. For both the coaching camps, good coaches must be appointed, and an understanding and sympathetic coach should be specially nominated for the coaching of the junior hockey players. During the coaching camps, special diet should be provided to the players to improve their physical condition and for guiding them on their diet. A medical examination should be held prior to and after the conclusion of each coaching camp. Proper record sheets bringing out all the good and weak points of each player should be maintained so that follow-up action can be taken.

- (o) Prior to the holding of the national championship, each state should endeavour to hold a state championship to select the state XI which should participate in the national championship.

Appointment of Officials

56. It is absolutely essential that the three officials, viz., coach, manager and captain, are appointed purely on merit. Since this has not been strictly done in the past, it has led to difficulties and lack of cohesiveness and discipline amongst the players. In so far as the coach is concerned, it has been suggested earlier that the Indian Hockey Federation should appoint a qualified coach for a national team for a period of one year at a time. It is this coach who should be appointed as the chief coach to accompany a team abroad, if the need arises during his tenure of coaching. It is essential that the coach should preferably be a past national or Olympic player, with good knowledge and extensive experience of the game specially of other leading hockey countries and in whose method of training the players have confidence. Since hockey players

come from all over the country, it is of the utmost importance that the coach selected is in a position to communicate his teaching in a language which is commonly understood by all the players.

57. In so far as the manager is concerned, it would be preferable if he is a past national hockey player. The individual selected should have been in recent touch with the game of hockey and should be known to most of the players. He should be an individual who has good prestige and reputation and is known for his qualities of leadership. He should be in a position to command respect and ensure good behaviour, conduct and discipline in the players. He should be tactful, having the ability to stay aloof and yet be a part of the team. Since the manager, as part of his duties, is required to advise the coach and the captain on the technicalities of the game, it should be essential that he has considerable knowledge of the game and is fully aware of the changes in rules as well as techniques. He should have a clear idea of the strategy of the game so that he can effectively advise the coach and the captain in the day-to-day selection of the team.

58. In so far as the captain is concerned, the qualifications should be seniority-cum-merit, with good all-round knowledge of the game. The individual, apart from being a player of repute, should have strong qualities of leadership. He should be in a position during the course of a match to advise his players on the switch-over strategy to be employed. Correct guidance by the captain has changed the course of many a match but this is only possible if the captain is in a position to advise and his advice is looked upon with respect by the other players.

Medical Examination

59 According to the evidence available to the Committee no special medical examination was held of the hockey team proceeding to Mexico. In the past, however, it is understood

that medical examinations were held of the hockey teams participating in the previous Olympics. The Committee is of the view that it is essential to hold medical examinations of all the players who are finally selected to represent the national team, in or outside India, before such a team is put under the intensive coaching camp. It is also necessary to have a final medical check-up of all the players before the team leaves the shores of India. By holding these two medical examinations, it will be possible to ensure that all the players are medically fit at the time of the intensive coaching camp as also on departure from India.

General Short-Term Measures

60. As a short-term measure, it is necessary for the Indian Hockey Federation to consider the institution of national junior championships. The establishment of this championship can work as a nursery for promising players.

61. A practice should be started by the Indian Hockey Federation which, in the opinion of the Committee, would pay good dividends, of sending once in two years a junior hockey team consisting of players below 20 or 21 years of age to four countries like Australia and New Zealand or France, Germany, Holland and UK, where hockey is improving with every year. This junior team, players of which will be on the threshold of passing to the senior team, will gain immensely in experience by such tours. We have before us the example of the junior cricket team, which has recently toured UK, and Australia with profit. The funds required to meet the expenditure on the touring of the junior hockey team should be provided by the Government.

62. Every year a practice is followed to send a club hockey team to Afghanistan to participate in the "Jashan" celebrations. It is suggested that the Indian Hockey Federation should consider sending a national junior team to Kabul instead of sending

a Services or a club team. The visit of the junior national team will give its players good match practice and experience of playing on a ground away from home.

63. In conjunction with the Ministry of Education, questions on general hockey information, rules and regulations should be included in the general knowledge tests at present held in most of the schools. This will help the youth to get to know the basic game of hockey and may instil in them the desire to play this game.

64. Selected school teachers from each school, with special flair for hockey, should be given a short orientation course in hockey rules and regulations and basic coaching at the National Institute of Sports. This course should not be of more than thirty days' duration. These school teachers will then be in a position to popularise hockey at the school boys' level and teach those who are interested to learn, the basic techniques, etc. of the game.

65. During the school/college summer vacations, the Indian Hockey Federation, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and state educational authorities, should hold summer hockey training camps for selected school/college boys at convenient hill stations. Free board and lodging arrangements should be made for the school/college boys. The attraction of a free holiday during summer vacations to a hill station will be an incentive to promising school/college boys who are interested in improving their game. These summer hockey training camps for school/college boys should be put under the charge and supervision of selected school teachers who have earlier done an orientation course in the game. The teachers may be provided free board and lodging. They may also be given a small pocket allowance. In addition, the Indian Hockey Federation should detail a good coach to impart training in these summer hockey training camps. The funds for this project should be provided by the Ministry of Education.

66. Since most of the front-rank hockey players at present come from the Services, Railways, Police, Indian Airlines, State Bank and other big organisations, the Indian Hockey Federation should take suitable action in conjunction with the authorities concerned to popularise still further the game in these departments. It is felt that, with attractive incentives introduced for hockey players in these departments, there is ample scope for improving this game. The Armed Forces have already started a colts team. These departments should also be encouraged to have colts teams and the upper age-limit for them should be 20 or 21 years. Extensive use could also be made of the "boys' centres" in the Army to popularise this game. From the list of players who have represented India during the last decade, it is observed that an important field of talent has been left unexplored. The tribals in Assam, Nagaland, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, etc. who are strong and stockily built can offer very good material. Over a period of time, with concentrated training, they would develop stamina, speed, stability and the style to play hockey and this, combined with their naturally supple limbs, would throw up good material of national and international standard.

67. With the rising cost of living, the price of hockey sticks is also increasing every year. A good hockey stick today costs between Rs. 12 to 16. For many who would otherwise have been enthusiastic to play this game, the rising cost of the hockey stick is a deterrent. It is understood that some sports firms in Jullundur and Ludhiana are prepared to manufacture cheap hockey sticks made of solid wood, without elasticity, costing Rs. 2 to 3 per stick, provided a large firm order is placed on them. The Indian Hockey Federation can arrange for this. It is suggested that the Ministry of Education and state educational authorities should determine the requirements of these cheap hockey sticks for their schools and colleges and place a firm order on the manufacturers, through the Indian Hockey Federation. With the cost of cheap hockey sticks so reduced, consideration should be given by the educational authorities to provide free hockey sticks to those who wish to play the game. Action

can also be taken by hockey clubs to obtain cheap hockey sticks through the Indian Hockey Federation.

68. In the promotion and improvement of hockey, special stress must be laid on the correct physical training exercise at the training and coaching camps. At present, whatever physical training is imparted is restricted to short running, skipping and a few exercises for strengthening the wrist and back muscles. In the opinion of this Committee, the Sports Medicine Section already established in the National Institute of Sports, Patiala, should be reorganised to carry out research in the type of physical training exercises which should be undertaken for all games including hockey. Physical training is now a very highly specialised science, and, therefore, it must be pursued in all seriousness. In determining the physical training exercises to be undertaken by hockey players, it is also necessary to lay down the relationship of diet to such exercises. The Committee has understood that the Indian hockey team when touring abroad does not pay proper attention to the control of diet which adversely affects their efficient performance in the game.

69. A Record Centre should be established by the Indian Hockey Federation, where the following are readily available:

- (a) Literature on hockey, including coaching pamphlets.
- (b) Coaching and training films.
- (c) Films taken during key matches at home/abroad, including those between foreign teams. Some central parts of these should be taken in slow motion.
- (d) Record sheets of all hockey players, coaches, trainees, and administrators, etc., from the time they enter junior hockey until the time of their retirement.

70. Unpiping in our country must be of a high standard and with an eye on the standards adopted abroad—even a little stricter, if necessary. Our players when checked for things they reckoned right in their own country get completely demoralised when they go abroad and their game is adversely affected.

Effective umpiring in our country would also go a long way in rooting out foul play and unfair practices. Players bent on getting unnecessarily rough, invariably not only spoil their own game but also induce adverse retaliatory reaction from their opponents which, if not stamped out ruthlessly, could culminate in unpleasant incidents on the playing fields. The Indian Hockey Federation should ensure that procedures/examinations/conditions for promotion from the lower to the higher grade of umpiring are fully established and strictly followed.

71. It is observed that in many cases individuals are selected for umpiring duties abroad who have not umpired at home in important competitions and when these men are sent out as our best, it does not do any good to our image abroad. The Indian Hockey Federation should ensure that only individuals who are capable of "quality umpiring" are selected to represent the country abroad in international matches.

72. Prior to the Asian Championship at the end of 1970, if possible, the Indian Hockey Federation should be supported in its proposal to hold an international tournament, so that the Indian national hockey side can get sufficient match practice of playing against foreign teams. Since the financial expenditure is negligible both in foreign and Indian currency, it should not be difficult to accept such a fixture. It is understood that the All India Council of Sports has already accepted the recommendation of the Indian Hockey Federation in this respect and the proposal awaits sanction by the Government. So that full use is made of this international hockey tournament, special steps should be taken from now to give intensive coaching to all the players who are likely to participate in the trials for selection of the Indian team.

73. There is a possibility of hockey being excluded by the Asian Games Federation from the next Asian Games Championship to be held at Bangkok in 1970. It is understood that both the Indian and the Asian Hockey Federations have appealed to the Asian Games Federation not to do this. If, however,

finally hockey is excluded, it is recommended that the Indian Hockey Federation should consider holding the Asian Hockey Championship in India.

74. After the Asian Hockey Championship in December, 1970, the Indian Hockey Federation should consider sending a representative Indian hockey side to tour New Zealand/Australia. The Indian hockey side selected for the tour in 1971 should actually be the one which might participate in the 1972 Olympics. Such an action would ensure continuous practice for the Indian hockey team from 1970 till the championship in 1972 Olympics.

75. The Committee is of the opinion that greater emphasis on sports items in the news services in cinemas, television and the radio would go a long way to develop enthusiasm amongst the general public for sports. Cinema as a medium of instruction has now come to be recognised all over the world. It is generally observed that whenever sports news is shown in a cinema, the response of the general public is more enthusiastic than on the screening of other news. In the sports news hockey should be given a prominent place.

76. No team can reach world standards unless they have the "will" and the determination to win. For this it is necessary that all players should be given proper motivation. This can only be done by coaches and the officials connected with the team constantly drilling into the players the necessity to win and achieve laurels for the country.

77. The present practice of the Indian Hockey Federation approaching the Government, through the A.I.C.S. and the Ministry of Education, for allotment of funds every time an Indian team is recommended for tour abroad or a foreign team is invited to visit India is not conducive to the growth of hockey in the country or efficient functioning of the Federation. If it is the intention of the Indian Hockey Federation to maintain us as world leaders in hockey, they must ensure that they have sufficient funds to spend on coaching assignments and other

requirements and not be so heavily dependent on outside sources. If an all-out effort is made, it should be possible for the Indian Hockey Federation to augment their existing financial position, over the next two or three years, and be financially independent of the Government.

LONG-TERM MEASURES

78. In so far as long-term measures are concerned, it has to be appreciated that the recommendations made under this head cannot have immediate impact and must take time to germinate before any worthwhile results are produced. It is not only necessary to improve the standard of hockey in the country but the more important aspect is the sustenance of this improvement. This, in the opinion of the Committee, can only be achieved by strengthening the foundation and enlarging the base which would produce a much larger number of potential players who can be groomed and trained to world-class standard. It is towards this end that these recommendations are being made.

79. It is known that in almost all states, "Sports Councils" have been established. The first essential, therefore, is that, in each state, the state sports council should be greatly activated which would be responsible for promoting and encouraging the playing of all games including hockey. The state sports council should have under them active district sports councils whose responsibility it would be to implement the directives of the state sports council at the district level.

80. Action should be taken by the A.I.C.S., the Indian Hockey Federation and the Ministry of Education, with the State Governments, to ensure that playing of hockey is facilitated from the primary school level. It is from this stage that "love for the game" should be inculcated amongst the school boys who would be in the age-group of 7 to 11 years. To popularise the game of hockey, it is essential to provide adequate hockey playing fields to the schools. The woeful lack of playing fields in the schools today retards the efforts of the

educational authorities to encourage any type of games. Within measurable time, it will not be easy for the educational authorities to provide playing fields for all games in every school. But the State Governments can ensure that no high school is recognised unless a minimum of two large-sized playing fields are catered for. In the large-sized grounds, on a planned programme, both football and hockey can be encouraged and even other games. With this step alone, the Ministry of Education and the State Governments would have taken a significant step forward to encourage the game of hockey as well as interest in games in general.

81. One trained hockey coach should be appointed for a group of schools, who would be responsible for giving preliminary hockey coaching to such primary, middle and high school boys as are recommended by the school authorities for the same. There could be 3 or 4 hockey coaches per state to start with and the ultimate aim should be to have even one or two coaches per district. At the district level, action should be taken by the district sports councils to nominate an experienced hockey coach who should take over the duties of imparting lessons in the technique, strategy and tactics of hockey to the school boys who were initially trained at the primary/middle/high school level. With this enlarged scope, the district schools championships would become more meaningful. Based on the performance of this championship, a district schools XI should be selected for the state schools hockey championship in which all the selected district school XI's should participate. As a result of this championship, a state schools XI should be selected which should participate in the all-India schools tournament to be organised by the Indian Hockey Federation. In this manner, the talent available at the primary/middle/high school level can be harnessed, trained and effectively groomed over a period of years and brought up to the required standard of a state team which would take part in the national championship. Similar action should be taken for organising college XI's, state college XI's and thereafter the universities team.

82. The state sports council should take action to establish community hockey playing fields in each of the big cities in the states. These community hockey playing fields should be maintained by the state sports council and hired out on a planned basis on nominal charges to schools and hockey clubs which wish to make use of the same. In this manner, it would be possible for the state sports councils to convert open areas into playing fields the cost of which project in the long run would be met from the hire charges paid by the sports clubs for the use of the playing fields. In big cities, it would be advisable to plan establishment of community hockey playing fields on a zonal basis so that the use of these fields by local clubs is not handicapped due to long distances involved.

83. To encourage the game, the state sports council in conjunction with the state educational authorities should devise a system whereby concessions are given to such school/college boys who are selected to play hockey for the district schools teams. The concessions can be in the shape of full or partial remission of school fee, or reward of a monetary scholarship in addition to the boy being selected for advanced hockey coaching at the district or state level. Preference should be given to sportsmen in gaining admissions to good colleges even if their academic result is not first class, at least against a percentage of the vacancies to be filled. It is recommended that the Ministry of Education in conjunction with state educational authorities should take action to ensure that 10 per cent of the available seats are reserved in as many educational institutions as possible for admission of students who have attained a high standard in sports. If students in their middle and high schools know that with the lower academic achievement but high sports distinction they can seek admission in a good educational institution they will devote themselves to sports, which would be instrumental in raising the all-round sports standard of the country. It is appreciated by the Committee that the educational authorities would initially find it difficult to adjust themselves to this recommendation since

there is a danger of the academic achievements of an institution being affected. But it is the considered view of the Committee that, over a period of time, the name and reputation achieved by the educational institutions in the fields of sports will be more than compensated in the slight shortfall that may be experienced in the academic results.

84. The game of hockey has come to be recognised as our national game. To improve and maintain the standard in this game is not only the responsibility of the Indian Hockey Federation but should be so of every sports-loving citizen. Members of the public must also, therefore, participate in maintaining our hockey standard through patronisation of matches and employment of good players by private and public concerns. The Press is already doing its bit in this direction. Even greater prominence to hockey matches and commentary articles on the standard of hockey would go a long way in promoting the game.

Acknowledgements

85. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the assistance we have received from Air Vice-Marshal C. L. Mehta, during our deliberations, and in writing the report. His contribution has been considerable. Without his help it would not have been possible for us to complete the work of the Committee in the time available to us.

Sd. DHYAN CHAND
Major (Retd.)

Sd. H. C. SARIN
Chairman

Sd. K. D. SINGH 'BABU'
Sd. BALBIR SINGH
Sd. CHARANJIT SINGH
Sd. C. L. MEHTA
Air Vice-Marshal

July 11, 1969

ANNEXURE I

LIST OF PERSONS INVITED FOR INTERVIEW BY THE HOCKEY COMMITTEE

I. *Indian Hockey Federation*

- *1. Shri Ashwini Kumar, President
- *2. Air Marshal O. P. Mehra, Vice-President
- 3. Shri S. M. Sait, Hony. Secretary
- 4. Shri Gursewak Singh, Hony. Treasurer

II. *I.H.F.'s Team to Mexico*

- *1. Major General D. S. Kalha, Manager
- *2. Shri Balkishan Singh, Coach
- *3. Shri Prithipal Singh, Captain
- *4. Shri Gurbux Singh, Joint Captain
- *5. Shri Inam-ur-Rehman
- *6. Shri R. A. Christi
- *7. Shri Harbinder Singh
- *8. Shri Krishnamurthy

III. *I.H.F.'s Selection Committee*

- 1. Shri J. D. Nagarvala, Chairman
- 2. Shri Victor Simon
- *3. Shri I. M. Mahajan
- *4. Sqn. Ldr. R. S. Bhole
- *5. Shri Roop Singh

IV. *Government of India's Observers*

- *1. Shri M.R. Krishna, Dy. Defence Minister
- *2. Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, M.P.

*The persons who appeared before the Committee.

V. *Members of the Indian Contingent and Delegates to Mexico*

1. Raja Bhalindra Singh, President, I.O.A.
2. Shri Surjit Singh Majithia, President, W.F.I.
3. Shri Umrao Singh, President, A.A.F.I.
4. Shri M. S. Gill, Secretary-cum-Treasurer,
Indian Contingent
5. Shri David Abraham

VI. *Press and Radio*

- *1. Shri R. Sriman of Times of India
- *2. Shri S. Sanyal of the Planning Commission
- *3. Shri J. K. Bose of P.T.I.
- *4. Shri B. K. Mathur of INFA
- *5. Shri C.S.A. Swamy of Indian Express
- *6. Shri Surajit Sen of AIR
- *7. Shri Jasdev Singh of AIR
8. Shri Ron Hendricks of Indian Express
9. Shri Daniel of Statesman
10. Shri T.A.V. Jadav of Hindustan Times
11. Shri Layland de Souza of Times of India, Bombay
12. Shri A.F.S. Talyarkhan, Bombay
13. Shri K. N. Prabhu

VII. *Others*

- *1. Lt. Col. B. S. Jaswal, Director, National Institute of Sports, Patiala
- *2. Shri J. J. Jamson, Hockey Umpire
3. Shri R. S. Gentle, Coach
4. Shri Udham Singh, Coach

*The persons who appeared before the Committee.

ANNEXURE II

REPORT ON THE MATCHES PLAYED BY THE INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM IN UGANDA, KENYA, ROME AND MEXICO

The Indian Hockey Team comprising 18 players, coach, and manager left Bombay on 1st September 1968 for Uganda, Kenya, Italy and Mexico. Based on newspaper reports and other evidence available, an attempt has been made in the ensuing paragraphs to give the factual data of the matches played at each place.

2. Tour of Uganda

<i>Date</i>	<i>Played Against</i>	<i>Result</i>
2 Sept., 68	VS President XI	. 9 : 1
3 Sept., 68	VS Sikh Union	. 4 : 1
4 Sept., 68 (1st Test)	VS Uganda XI	. 1 : 0
5 Sept., 68	VS Ramgarish Club	. 8 : 0
6 Sept., 68 (2nd Test)	VS Uganda XI	. 3 : 0

- (a) The schedule of matches was too strenuous, playing daily without rest.
- (b) Although against weak teams our scores were good, even weak teams could score goals against us.
- (c) In both the Tests the margin of victory was very narrow.

3. Tour of Kenya

<i>Date</i>	<i>VS</i>	<i>Played Against</i>	<i>Result</i>
7 Sept., 68	VS	Nairobi XI	. . 2 : 0
8 Sept., 68 (1st Test)	VS	Kenya XI	. . 1 : 3
10 Sept., 68	VS	Nakuru XI	. . 4 : 0
11 Sept., 68	VS	Eldorate District	. . 8 : 0
12 Sept., 68	VS	Kisumu XI	. . 4 : 0
14 Sept., 68 (2nd Test)	VS	Kenya XI	. . 0 : 0
15 Sept., 68 (3rd Test)	VS	Kenya XI	. . 1 : 0
17 Sept., 68	VS	Coast XI	. . 3 : 1
19 Sept., 68	VS	Schools XI	. . 3 : 0
21 Sept., 68 (4th Test)	VS	Kenya XI	. . 1 : 0
22 Sept., 68 (5th Test)	VS	Kenya XI	. . 0 : 0

- (a) The tour programme as in Uganda was strenuous. The team sometimes travelled more than 100 miles by bus and then played a match.
- (b) The team was not billeted in one place.
- (c) Most of the matches were on gravel.

4. Tour of Italy

<i>Date</i>		<i>Played Against</i>	<i>Result</i>
25 Sept., 68	VS	Young Italian Team (under 23 years)	3 : 0
26 Sept., 68	VS	Do.	7 : 0
28 Sept., 68 (1st Test)	VS	Italian XI	1 : 0
29 Sept., 68 (2nd Test)	VS	Do.	2 : 0

- The Indian team for the first time played on turf ground but under flood-light conditions.
- This was also the first time that the Indian players could play with studded shoes.
- Score against Italian teams whose standard of hockey is not very high was poor.
- Time spent here on sea level washed away the advantage of high altitude in Kenya.

5. Tour of Mexico

The team arrived at Mexico on 2nd October 1968, i.e., 9 days prior to the commencement of Olympic games. During these 9 days the Indian team played 5 practice games as under :

Practice Games

VS Argentina	1 : 0
VS Malaysia	3 : 2
VS France	1 : 0
VS Australia	0 : 0
VS Kenya	0 : 0

The results achieved in these practice matches are not very encouraging.

6. Olympic Matches

The results of the matches played during the Olympics are as follows :

<i>Result</i>	
13 Oct., 68	VS New Zealand • 1 : 2 India Test
14 Oct., 68	VS West Germany • 2 : 1
15 Oct., 68	VS Mexico • • 8 : 0
17 Oct., 68	VS Spain • • 1 : 0
18 Oct., 68	VS Belgium • • 2 : 1
20 Oct., 68	VS Japan • • 5 : 0
21 Oct., 68	VS East Germany • 1 : 0
24 Oct., 68	VS Australia • • 1 : 2 Semi-Final
26 Oct., 68	VS West Germany • 2 : 1

Match Analysis

FIRST MATCH : It was played against New Zealand on 13th October 1968 at 10-30 a.m. Following was the line-up of players :

Christy	• • • • •	Goal
Gurbux Singh	• • • • •	Right-Full Back
Prithipal Singh	• • • • •	Left-Full Back
Balbir Singh (Services)	• • • • •	Right Half
Jagjit Singh	• • • • •	Centre Half
Harmik Singh	• • • • •	Left Half
Balbir Singh (Railways)	• • • • •	Right Out
Peter	• • • • •	Right In
Harbinder Singh	• • • • •	Centre Forward
Inder Singh	• • • • •	Left In
Tarsem	• • • • •	Left Out

- (a) New Zealand scored two goals from penalty corner and penalty stroke in the first half whereas the Indian team scored the only goal through penalty corner taken by Captain Prithipal Singh.
- (b) Balbir Singh (Services) missed a penalty stroke in the opening minutes which unfortunately hit the goal post.
- (c) According to press reports the New Zealand forwards were continuously breaking through the left side of the Indian defence.
- (d) Out of the 7 penalty corners taken by skipper Prithipal Singh, on four occasions the ball went into the goal but the Umpire disallowed 3 of his hits for a stick. While for the fourth his hit which is reported to have been in no way different form the previous hits, the Umpire gave a goal for India.

SECOND MATCH

India VS West Germany . . . Result 2 : 1

(14th October, 1968)

Following was the line-up :

Munir Sait	.	.	.	Goal	
Gurbux Singh	.	.	.	RFB	
Prithipal Singh	.	.	.	LFB	
Balbir (Services)	.	.	.	RH	Scored one goal
Jagjit Singh	.	.	.	CH	
Harmik	.	.	.	LH	
Balbir (Railways)	.	.	.	RO	
Peter	.	.	.	RI	
Harbinder Singh	.	.	.	CF	Scored one goal
Inder Singh	.	.	.	LI	
Tarsem	.	.	.	LO	

India having lost the first match against New Zealand the players really fought back and won the game. The players played a determined game to emerge as winner in the vital 2nd match.

THIRD MATCH

India VS Mexico 8 : 0

(16th October, 1968)

The line-up for this match was the same as against West Germany. The scores were :

Harbinder	.	.	.	.	4 goals
Prithipal	.	.	.	.	2 goals
Balbir (Services)	.	.	.	.	1 goal
Inder Singh	.	.	.	.	1 goal

The score till half time was 2 : 0, the second goal came just before the interval. India scored 6 goals in the second half and scored four of these goals within nine minutes.

FOURTH MATCH

India VS Spain 1 : 0
(17th October, 1968)

The line-up for this match was the same as against West Germany and Mexico except that Ajit Pal was brought in as Centre Half in place of Jagjit. India scored the only goal through a penalty corner taken by Prithipal Singh in the first half.

- (a) Our forwards failed to combine as a team.
- (b) The players appeared to be worked up to retain the lead. In doing so, the forwards were playing defensive rather than an offensive game. This approach reduced the Indian attacking power and punch.

FIFTH MATCH

India VS Belgium 2 : 1
(18th October, 68)

The line-up was :

Munir Sait	.	.	.	Goal
Gurbux Singh	.	.	.	Right-Full Back
Prithipal Singh	.	.	.	Left-Full Back Scored 1 goal
Balbir (Services)	.	.	.	Right Half
Ajit Pal	.	.	.	Centre Half
Harmik	.	.	.	Left Half
Balbir (Rly.)	.	.	.	Right Out
Peter	.	.	.	Right In

Harbinder		Centre Forward	Scored 1 goal
Inder	. . .	Left In	
Tarsem	. . .	Left Out	

- (a) The Belgians were leading by 1, goal till half time. India scored both the goals in the second half through Prithipal and Harbinder.
- (b) The goal scored by Belgium was a result of faulty clearance by M. Sait (Goal-Keeper)

SIXTH MATCH

India Vs. Japan
(20th October, 68)

The line-up was the same as against Belgium except that Inam-ur-Rehman was substituted for Inder Singh as left inner. There was no score in the first half. In the second half India was awarded a penalty stroke and the Japanese team walked out as a protest. The jury of appeal awarded 5 goals to India.

SEVENTH MATCH

India Vs. East Germany 1 : 0
(21st October, 68)

The line-up was :

M. Sait . . .	Goal
Gurbux . . .	RFB
Prithipal . . .	LFB 1 goal through penalty corner
Balbir (Services)	RH
Ajit Pal	CH
Harmik	LH
Balbir (Railways)	Rfl
Peter	RI
Harbinder	CF
Inder	LI
Tarsem	LO

- (a) India could score the only goal towards the end of the match through Prithipal Singh.
- (b) Indian defence played a good game but the forwards failed to combine well.
- (c) Prithipal Singh stretched his thigh muscle and Balbir (Services) twisted his ankle.

India finished on top in their group securing 12 points from 7 games and West Germany finished 2nd with 11 points. From the second half Pakistan emerged as No. 1 and Australia as No. 2.

EIGHTH MATCH

India Vs. Australia 1 : 2

(24th October, 1968)

The semi-final was played between India and Australia on 24th October, 1968 at 11 A.M.

The line-up for this match was the same as against East Germany in spite of the fact that Prithipal and Balbir (Services) were injured in the earlier match.

- (a) One of the reasons for our defeat can be attributed to fielding injured players when 7 reserve players were taken for these eventualities.
- (b) Harmik, our left half, fractured his finger towards the end of the 1st half. With 3 defence players having injuries India could hardly be expected to dominate the game.
- (c) Australia scored both the goals through penalty corners, the second goal was scored in the extra time when hardly 2 minutes were left.
- (d) As a result of this defeat, India was eliminated from the final round which was played between Pakistan and Australia.

NINTH MATCH

India Vs. West Germany 2 : 1

(26th October, 1968)

Humbled from the top honour, India played another game against West Germany to decide the 3rd place for the Bronze Medal.

The selectors decided to make a few changes in the Indian team. The following was the line-up :

*Christy	.	.	.	.	.	.	Goal-Keeper
Gurbux	.	.	.	.	.	.	RFB
Prithipal	.	.	.	.	.	.	LFB
Balbir	.	.	.	.	.	.	RH
Ajit Pal	.	.	.	.	.	.	CH
*Krishnamurthy	.	.	.	.	.	.	LH
Balbir (Railways)	.	.	.	.	.	.	RO
*Balbir (Punjab)	.	.	.	.	.	.	RI
Harbinder	.	.	.	.	.	.	CF
*Inam	.	.	.	.	.	.	LI
*Inder	.	.	.	.	.	.	LO

Players marked with asterisks were substituted for Sait (Goal), Harmik (L.H.), Peter (R.I.), Inder (Left In) and Tarsem (Left Out).

- (a) West Germany scored the only goal in the first half while India scored two goals in the 2nd half though Prithipal Singh and Balbir (Railways).
- (b) The team as a whole played a very good game. The forwards combined well and displayed good hockey.

ANNEXURE III
HISTORY SHEET PERFORMANCE/MAINTENANCE

Name :

Father's name :

Address :

Position :

Date of birth :



PHYSICAL PARAMETERS

Years	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Height/Weight								
Lungs Capacity								
Blood Count								
Howard Test								
Eye Sight								
Sinus								
Any Knee/ Ankle Injury								
Reaction Time								
50 yds time running with ball								
Wrist R								
Strength L								

INDIVIDUAL SKILL

Hit	S	
	R	
Trapping	R	
	C	
	F	
Push	S	
	F	
Scoop	S	
	F	
Reverse		
Flick		
Dribbling		
Tackling		

TEAM GAME

Anticipation	
Scoring Power	
Determination	
Co-ordination	
Any Other Score	

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Superstition	
Temperamental	
Timid	
Selfish	
Crowd Conscious	
Attitude towards Learning	
Lazy, Casual Approach	
Motivation	
Senior Nature	
Performance under Stress	

SCORING BOARD

Goal Scored	P.S.
	Corner
	P. Push
	Solo
Matches Played	

ANNEXURE IV

SPECIMEN PROFORMA FOR RECOMMENDING NAMES OF YOUNG PROMISING PLAYERS

(Between the Age of 14 and 20 Years)

Tournament :

Place :

Name of person recommending young players.....

Sl. No.	Name	Date of Birth	Playing Position	State/Province Club	Strong Points	Weak Points	REMARKS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Signature

(Full address in capitals)

Distribution : President, I.H.F.—2 copies

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