

June 2010

Lord Harries of Pentregarth
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0AA

Thank you for the question you asked in the House on 28 June about the funding of the Commonwealth Games in India. I welcome your concern about the possible diversion of funds intended for Scheduled Castes to the Commonwealth Games.

I would like to clarify the answer I gave to your first supplementary question about the Housing and Land Rights Network report.

The Secretary of State for International Development has not launched an inquiry into the allegations in the Housing and Land Rights Network report about the diversion of funds from Scheduled Castes to the Commonwealth Games. Funding of the Commonwealth Games in Delhi is a matter for the Indian Government. However, I would like to reassure you that the allegation made by the Housing and Land Rights Network is inaccurate. We are satisfied that, on the current funding arrangements, these funds have not been diverted from elsewhere.

The inquiry, to which I referred, will investigate allegations made by the News of the World about the diversion of DFID funds under the Government of India's national basic education programme. This is unrelated to the funding of the Commonwealth Games.

LORD HOWELL
Minister of State