President and Prime Minister Hail Victory

NEW DELHI, Oct. 23. The President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri, have congratulated the Indian hockey team on its victory in the Olympic final.

The President, in a telegram to the team, said: "I am delighted that the Indian team won the match in the hockey final. The players in both the teams were trained together in this country before Partition and no wonder both sides played brilliantly. It is a pleasure that we are again establishing our supremacy in hockey. My best wishes to the members of our team."

The news of India's victory was conveyed to the Prime Minister when he was addressing a public meeting in Khatauli village in U.P. which he was visiting this morning. Mr. Shastri said, "I send my heartiest welcome and best wishes to the team."

The Vice-President, Dr. Zakir Hussain, in a message said: "My heartiest congratulations to Charanjit, the Indian captain, and his worthy team-mates on their splendid and thrilling triumph."

The Union Railway Minister, Mr. S. K. Patil, in a cable to Raja Bhalinder Singh said, "heartiest congratulations on brilliant victory in hockey."

The Defence Minister, Mr. Y. B. Chavan has also sent a message of congratulation.

The Foreign Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh said: "I have just heard of Indian hockey team's great victory. We rejoice and send our warmest congratulations to you and each member of the team on regaining the Olympic championship by your excellent play and team spirit."

The news of India's victory was received in the capital with great jubilation. Thousands of sport fans listened to the running commentary of the match relayed by All India Radio.

Excitement mounted high as the match was nearing the end. There was the long whistle to announce the end of the match and the listeners greeted India's long-cherished victory with wild cheers. A pan shop distributed soft drinks free while a taxi driver said this was the moment he was waiting for the last four years. A student-player thought the great victory would inspire many of his colleagues to take to the game of hockey. Meanwhile, many congratulatory cables were being sent to Tokyo.

Mr. Nagarwala, Chairman of the I.H.F. Selection Committee, said in Bombay, "My joy knows no bounds. No price is too great to pay for this moment. I wish our

(Continued on page 11)
team best of luck and congratulations."

A jubilant Bombay greeted the electrifying news this afternoon. As the final came over the Radio, crowds listening to the commentary clapped their hands and ran through the streets with shouts of joy. Then, as usual with Bombay people they were back to their job. All was quiet again.

Mr. Victor Simon, a member of the Indian Selection Committee, said in Madras that while the margin of India's victory might suggest that it was not very convincing, it is clear from the description from the radio commentary that India had more of the exchanges and had more scoring opportunities. "It is all over now and we are all happy that we have won back the world title. The excitement in the country had reached incredible heights and I am sure our countrymen will give our players a great welcome when they return home.

Mr. M. J. Gopalan, who was a member of the Indian hockey team for New Zealand (1935) and Eric Blankley, former State player, expressed great delight over India's success which they described as a superlative performance. They had, they said, their ears glued to the receiving set and followed the game in every detail. It appeared to them that the Indian team had worked to a plan and quite succeeded. The players deserved all congratulations and even more the officials of the I.H.F. who left no stone unturned to bring back the gold medal which they surrendered at Rome. By a coincidence the success has taken place in Tokyo where India lost the Asian title to Pakistan. It is sweet revenge. The victory should give Indian hockey a shot in the arm.

Mr. M. A. Chidambaram, President of the All-India Lawn Tennis Association and President of the Madras Cricket Association, said he was sure that India's regaining the Olympic crown would prove a big morale booster for Indian hockey, and Indian sports in general. Mr. Chidambaram who was offering his felicitations to Indian hockey team on its creditable win hoped that proper and effective steps would be taken straightaway to develop a strong and well-knit Indian team to maintain supremacy in hockey in the next Olympics. The talk of the town in Madras was undoubtedly the news of India's victory. In street corners, in hotels, in schools and colleges, people gathered in small and large groups and gave expression to their joy in many ways. In one of the colleges the boys hovered round the radio sets and as soon as the final whistle went they jumped, whistled, danced and shouted with joy.

In THE HINDU, the telephone at the sports desk was kept busy with outside calls, for the result.

Four years ago when Pakistan defeated India at Rome Olympics, crowds in Karachi and other cities were in high spirits. Whole night they took out torch light processions and fired crackers. All offices and schools were closed in Pakistan the following day in celebration of the victory.