

Indian's performance in athletics

†1702. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's performance in athletics in Asian and Olympic Games is very poor;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to improve India's performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The performance of Indian Athletes in the last Asian Games held at Bangkok in 1998 was considerably better than in the earlier Asian Games. Indian Athletes secured two Gold, six Silver and seven Bronze (total fifteen Medals), which was much higher than the 1994 Asian Games (Three Medals).

No Athletes were sent for last Olympic Games held at Atlanta in 1996.

(c) In consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations, the sports are persons being coached in the Coaching Camp held by the Sports Authority of India, with the help of Indian and Foreign Coaches. They are being provided requisite equipment, scientific support and other assistance for participation in various National and International Tournaments.

Science City in Guwahati

1703. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any plan to develop a Science City in Guwahati which is the Gateway of whole North-Eastern Region; and
- (b) if not, whether Government would think about this plan positively within this Ninth Five Year Plan period in a time bound scheme?

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.