

up the Nuclear Power Plants, the major criteria for first order evaluation includes, sound foundation conditions, availability of large water body for meeting the cooling water requirements, low population density, magnitude of land acquisition and rehabilitation of the affected population, power evacuation, available infrastructure, land use pattern, distance from sensitive installations, archaeological monuments, large population centers and international borders. The detailed investigations and assessment of suitability of a site takes about 2 years. The site in discussion has gone through the required scrutiny before the approval of the Government.

National Sports Policy guidelines

*335. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated action to modify the National Sports Policy guidelines to infuse much-wanted transparency and accountability in the functioning of sports bodies;

(b) whether under the new guidelines, there would be a mandated upper age limit for office-bearers and limiting the number of terms of office;

(c) whether the new guidelines also envisage bringing sports federations under the purview of the RTI Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) The Government has introduced new guidelines for annual recognition of National Sports Federations (NSFs) within the existing National Sports Policy framework of 2001. This new procedure subjects NSFs to annual review before grant of renewal for each calendar year, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability in their functioning. The guidelines include the conduct of fair and transparent elections, regular conduct of national championships, up to date submission of utilization certificates, and fair and transparent selection of the national team.

(b) Separately, the tenure guidelines, which were kept in abeyance since 2001, have been restored with some modifications. Under the revised guidelines, the President of an NSF is entitled to a maximum tenure of 12 years with or without break; and the Secretary General and Treasurer can have a maximum of two consecutive terms of 4-year each across the two posts or in a single post. After two consecutive terms, a 4-year cooling-off period is compulsory. The guidelines also prescribe an age limit of 70 years on an office bearer.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) All NSFs receiving an annual grant of Rs. 10 lakh or more have been declared as a public authority under the Right to Information Act, 2005.