

[2 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether the inquiry report has since been submitted to Government; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT):  
(a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed an Inquiry Committee with Brig. (Retd.) K.P. Singh Deo, Chairman, Sports Development Commission of IOA and Dr. Manmohan Singh, Chairman, Medical Commission of Olympic Council of Asia to look into the doping controversy at the Athens Olympic Games, 2004.

On the recommendations of the Inquiry Committee, a life-time ban has been imposed on participation in sports events on the two weightlifters, namely Ms Sunamacha Chanu and Ms Pratima Kumari, who had tested positive for banned drugs during the Athens Olympic Games.

The Government has terminated contracts of the coaches involved with the training of the above mentioned weightlifters, namely Shri Pal Singh Sandhu, the then National Coach and Shri Leonid Taranenko, Foreign Coach.

### **Early warning systems to deal with Natural Disasters**

\*13.SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to frame a policy and legal framework for disaster management that would lay down precautionary and preventive measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far the proposed measures would help to control the impact of natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government propose to

formulate a National Policy on Disaster Management for adoption of a holistic and pro-active approach towards prevention and mitigation of disasters and preparedness for response. The Government of India has also emphasized to the States that as Disaster Management is a multi-disciplinary activity involving a number of Departments/Agencies, the State Governments should also have a policy in place. The Disaster Management Policies of Central and State Governments are expected to serve as a framework for action by all the relevant Departments/ Agencies. The board objective of the Policy at the national and state level would be to minimize loss of lives and social, private and community assets and to contribute to sustainable development. The Government have also recommended to the State Governments to enact a Disaster Management Act. The Act may provide adequate powers to authorities for coordinating mitigation, preparedness, response and relief measures during different Stages of disaster management.

(c) The Government have taken several measures encompassing prevention, mitigation preparedness, response and relief. These measures *inter-alia* include training and capacity building for multi hazard mitigation; upgrading early warning systems; drawing up of disaster management and emergency support function plans; setting up of emergency operation centres; setting up of specialist search and rescue teams; establishment of regional response centres where caches of essential search and rescue equipments will be stored; introducing incident command system; development of online national inventory of disaster response resources; implementation of a national emergency communication plan and introduction of disaster management in public education. These measures taken together would help to mitigate the impact of natural calamities.

#### **"Food for Work" Programme for backward districts**

\*14. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a "Food for Work" Programme has been formulated for 150 most backward districts in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the criteria evolved for indentifying the most backward districts, the number of such beneficiary