

Declining standard of sports in the country

†1550. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has ascertained the reasons of the declining standard of sports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by Government to improve this situation;
- (c) whether National Sports Federation is solely responsible for the declining standard of sports;
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (e) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) It is not true that standards of sports are declining in the country. There has been perceptible improvement in the country's performance in international sports events as is evident from the medals won by Indian sportspersons/teams in Beijing Olympics-2008, Asian Games 2010, Commonwealth Games-2010, London Olympics-2012 etc. In order to further improve the standard of sports in the country, the Government has been taking initiatives and implementing schemes for strengthening sports facilities and providing better training and coaching, etc.

(c) to (f) The Government works in co-ordination with the National Sports Federations (NSFs) for promotion of various sports disciplines. Under the Scheme of Assistance to NSFs, financial grants are provided to NSFs for coaching/training of athletes, their participation in international tournaments and organization of National Championships etc.

The Government has issued the National Sports Development code, 2011 to ensure good governance in NSFs. Among others, age and tenure limitations for office-bearers of NSFs have been provided under the code.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.