

Introducing professionalism and transparency amongst sports officials

1233. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to introduce some fresh measures aimed at making the sports fraternity officials in particular, more professional and transparent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has initiated some steps aimed at seeing India become a sporting power; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) and (b) Sir, 'Sports' is a State subject. The National Sports Federations (NSFs) are registered under Societies Act/ Companies Act and are autonomous in their functioning. For good governance in the NSFs, Government has been taking steps from time-to-time. This is an ongoing process. The Government has, *inter-alia* prescribed age and tenure limits in respect of office bearers of the NSFs as follows:

(i) The President of any recognized NSF, including the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) can hold the office for a maximum period of 12 years with or without break.

(ii) The Secretary (or by whatever other designation such as Secretary General or General Secretary by which he is referred to) and the Treasurer of any recognized NSF, including the IOA, may serve a maximum of two successive terms of four years each after which a minimum cooling off period of four years is required to seek fresh election to either post.

(iii) The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer of any recognized NSF, including the IOA, shall cease to hold that post on attaining the age of 70 years.

To bring transparency in the functioning of NSFs, Government has also issued instructions to all the major NSFs to place on their website, various details of the international events held in India and abroad such as notification of selection criteria for such events well in advance alongwith the details of time and venue for selection, list of core probables and basis of their selection, details of coaching camps organized including venues, dates and lists of participants, list of the athletes selected, performance criteria which formed the basis of selection, actual performance in terms of timing, distance, etc. and the position obtained by each athlete/team, etc. These instructions have also been made an integral part of the National Sports Development Code of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Sir, although, promotion and development of various disciplines of sports is primarily the responsibility of the States and of the relevant NSFs, Government has introduced a number of schemes for promoting sports in the country. Under Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan which has been introduced during the current year, it has been decided to construct integrated sports complexes, each costing ₹ 1.76 crores in rural block panchayats in the country. Under the scheme, sports competitions are conducted to identify sports talent. Under Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme, assistance from ₹ 4.5 crore to 6 crore is provided for laying of synthetic athletic track and synthetic hockey field and construction of multipurpose hall. Under National Sports Development Fund (NSDF), assistance is given to outstanding athletes for customized training abroad. Sports Authority of India also runs promotional schemes in which training by experienced coaches with scientific back-up is provided to players to achieve excellence at national/international level. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports) have formulated 'NSDF TOP Scheme' with the objective of identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games.

Besides above, with a view to achieving excellence, Government provides financial assistance to the athletes and their support personnel under the following Schemes:-

- (i) Scheme of Assistance to NSFs – Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided for participation of sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, training/coaching of sportspersons/teams through Indian and foreign coaches, procurement of equipment and consumables etc.
- (ii) Scheme of Human Resources Development in Sports - Under this Scheme, focus is given on developing human resources in sports sciences and sports medicine for the overall development of sports and games in the country so that self-reliance is achieved in these fields over a period of time.

Development of sports in the country is an ongoing process. Steps are taken from time-to-time for broad-basing of sports, promotion of excellence in sports, up-gradation of training centers and skill development in sports, etc. During this year's budget, the following new schemes / initiatives for Sports have been announced:

- (1) Setting up of National Sports University in Manipur.
- (2) National Sports Talent Search Scheme

- (3) Renovation and creation of sports Infrastructure facilities in Jammu & Kashmir.
- (4) Organization of sports competitions in Himalayan region.
- (5) Setting up of Sports Academies.

Refusal by sports persons to participate in Incheon Asian Games

1234. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain players, who availed grants from the Ministry had refused or shown reluctance to participate in the Incheon Asian Games;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that players, who avail grants from Government, undertake to be available whenever called upon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) and (b) All India Tennis Association (AITA) informed the Ministry that Shri Leander Paes, Shri Rohan Bopanna and Ms. Sania Mirza would not be able to take part in Incheon Asian Games 2014, as they were required to participate in prize money tournaments to improve their rankings. However, Ms. Sania Mirza participated in Incheon Asian Games 2014.

(c) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has informed AITA that the Ministry has taken a serious view of the matter as Asian Games are held once in every four years and the nation takes pride in the number of medals won in these prestigious tournaments. AITA was directed to advise the Tennis players about the importance of participation in multi-sport events such as Olympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games and that the players should be serious about representing the nation and winning medals in these events.

Further, the Ministry issued instructions on 28-10-2014 to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and all recognized National Sports Federations (NSFs) for curbing tendency amongst sportspersons for giving preference to playing in prize money tournaments rather than in tournaments where India participates for medals. In the instructions, it was *inter-alia*, made clear to all NSFs that individual players will be able to avail grants given to NSFs by the Ministry only if they undertake to play in the Indian team when called upon to do so without reservations and if there are specific exigencies because of which they are unable to play, this should be verified by the concerned NSF, which, thereupon, can make an exception at their discretion.