

- (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.