

iron rods which are not BIS certified are being imported from China for use in building construction in India, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the fact that Steel Re-rollers Association of Maharashtra has ordered three lakh tonnes of inferior grade of iron rods within two months;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against this; and

(d) if not, the steps Government has taken/proposes to take to find out the truth behind this ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR):

(a) The Ministry of Steel has received representations from several quarters regarding imports of Boron added Rebars/TMT bars capable of being used in construction sector allegedly by circumventing the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order 2012. As per the Joint Plants Committee, about 3.59 lakh metric tonnes of Bars and Rods have been imported from China during April-October, 2014.

(b) As per the information provided by the Steel Re-rollers Association of Maharashtra, no order for import of iron rods of any quality from China has been given by them.

(c) and (d) The Government have issued suitable directions to the Custom Authorities on 07-11-2014 in respect of Boron added Rebars / TMT Bars advising clearance of such consignments strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2012.

Lack of sports infrastructure

*158. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of sports infrastructure of international standards is one of the major reasons for under performance of our sportspersons in various international sporting events;

(b) whether Government proposes to promote indoor sports events like wrestling, boxing and weightlifting where India had performed well in Olympics, 2012 held in London, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the discipline-wise status of preparations of sportspersons for the ensuing Olympics likely to be held in 2016; and

(d) whether Government has fixed any target of Olympic medals likely to be won in the ensuing Olympic games, if so, the sports and discipline-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table.

Statement

(a) Sir, sports infrastructure of international standards is available in the country and is augmented/upgraded on a continuing basis. Inadequacies in terms of high performance centres, modern equipment, sports science and sports medicine facilities etc. are also addressed on a regular basis. The performance of Indian sportspersons at various international sporting events in the recent past has been quite encouraging.

Also, 'sports' is a state subject and it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to create adequate sports infrastructure within the States.

(b) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Sports Authority of India (SAI) are already paying specific attention for promoting sports disciplines like Badminton, Boxing, Shooting, Wrestling, Weightlifting etc., wherein Indian sportspersons have performed well at the International level. These sports disciplines, among others, have been kept under the 'Priority' category and are being provided all requisite support including training, foreign exposure, nutritious diet, supplements etc. under the Ministry's Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations. Under this Scheme, National Coaching Camps are organized for training and preparation of sportspersons and teams before their participation in international sports events.

Assistance for customized training abroad and for participation in competitions is also provided under the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF).

Further, for promoting these sports disciplines, among others, at grassroots and intermediate level, the Ministry launched Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme on 21st February 2014 in place of erstwhile Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA). Under RGKA, it has been decided to construct Integrated Sports Complexes in every rural block panchayat of the country. Each Sports complex will cost ₹1.75 crore and have 11 outdoor and 5 indoor games with flexibility to choose 3 local games within the limit of 16 games. The Outdoor disciplines are Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Basketball, Football, Handball, Hockey, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Tennis and Volley ball. The Indoor disciplines are Boxing, Wrestling, Table tennis, Weightlifting and also provision of a Multi-gym.

(c) Preparation of sportspersons for international sports events including Rio Olympics 2016 is an ongoing process. The Ministry and Sports Authority of India discuss Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) and Annual Calendar of Training and Competitions (ACTCs) with National Sports Federations (NSFs) and finalize coaching and training requirements of athletes and teams including foreign coaches etc.

The qualifications for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games has already begun this year, i.e., 2014 and qualification process for various sports disciplines will go up to June/July, 2016 depending upon schedule and criteria, laid down by the International Sports Federations of the respective sports discipline in consultation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Indian Men Hockey team and one Individual Shooter (Shri Jitu Rai) have already qualified for 2016 Rio Olympics. Considering the present standard of Indian sportspersons/teams maximum thrust is given to those discipline/events where Indian sportspersons stands a chance to win a medal or at least give respectable performance in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

(d) It is the endeavor of the Ministry and Sports Authority of India to maximize medal prospects of the country in mega sports events including Rio Olympics 2016. Ministry and SAI's schemes and plans are geared towards improving medals tally significantly in mega sports events so that India emerges as a leading country in the comity of sporting nations.

Fire hazards in heritage buildings in Himachal Pradesh

*159. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the location-wise details of heritage buildings situated in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) whether it is a fact that many heritage buildings are under the threat of catching fire; and
- (c) if so, the precautionary steps taken by Government to handle any emergency situation to protect these heritage buildings from fire ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for protection and safety of centrally protected monuments declared as of national importance under the provisions of section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The location-wise details of forty centrally protected monuments/site declared as of national importance under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India in Himachal Pradesh are given in Statement-I (*See* below). There are 327 heritage buildings notified in the year 2003 and further 88 heritage buildings in the year 2011 were notified by the Government of Himachal Pradesh as per details given in Statement-II and III (*See* below) respectively.

(b) and (c) There is no apparent threat to these centrally protected monuments/site to catch fire. However, as some of these monuments are largely made of wood, and