

Raj, Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) and Planning Commission respectively with RGKA. Development of playfields at village level will be undertaken under the MGNREGA.

Three Sports Trainers (one Master Sports Trainer and two Sports Trainers, out of serving Physical Education Teachers) will be engaged in each block level sports complex for training of sports persons. They will be given suitable honorarium in addition to their normal salaries received from respective school/college.

Annual Sports competitions *viz.*, Rural Sports Competitions, Women Sports Competitions, North-East Games and Special Area Games (for LWE affected regions) shall be held under RGKA upto the National level. The grants for holding the above competitions have also been enhanced.

Recommendations by Arjuna Awards Selection Committee

2829.SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Arjuna Awards Selection Committee has decided to stick to original recommendations for 15 athletes;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that many federations have criticized the list prepared by the Selection Committee; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) The Selection Committee for Arjuna Awards had recommended 15 Sportspersons for Arjuna Awards 2014. Representations were received against the recommendations which after consideration by it in its second meeting were reiterated. Shri Manoj Kumar (Boxing) filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court. Keeping in view the directions of the Delhi High Court, the case of Shri Manoj Kumar (Boxing) was re-considered in the Ministry in consultation with the members of Selection Committee and the Ministry decided to give Arjuna Award to Shri Manoj Kumar also.

(b) and (c) Shri Narinder Batra, President, Hockey India has given his observations/criticism about the selection of sportspersons recommended by the Selection Committee for Arjuna Awards 2014.