

under the National Physical Efficiency Drive, are eligible for being considered for appointment in Central Government offices against the vacancies reserved for meritorious sportspersons.

(b) and (c) In terms of existing instructions of the Government, upto 5% of direct recruit vacancies in Group 'C' and erstwhile Group 'D' are reserved for meritorious sportspersons in Central Government offices.

Further, Ministries/Department of Government of India can recruit meritorious sportsmen in any year in relaxation of the recruitment procedure, to the extent that these, including all other reservations under existing orders, do not exceed 50% of the total number of vacancies proposed to be filled by direct recruitment. Central Government organizations and Public Sector undertakings recruit meritorious sportspersons including medal winners in international sports events from time to time for which they advertise in Employment News and other newspapers.

Meritorious sportspersons are also eligible for monthly pension under the Scheme titled "Scheme of Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons". Sportspersons who have won medals in Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and World Cups/World Championships (in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines) and Paralympic Games, after they attain the age of 30 years or retire from active sports, whichever is later, are eligible for monthly pension.

The Scheme of National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons provides ex-gratia financial assistance to outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears, now living in indigent circumstances, whose annual income is less than ₹ 2 lakh for medical treatment etc.

Achievement of rural youth in Sports

†1116. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of rural youth have earned a name for themselves on the National and State level sports arena; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) and (b) While it is a fact that a number of rural youth have achieved excellence in sports at State and National level, information on the domestic tournaments are not maintained by this Ministry since this is primarily the responsibility of the National Sports Federations.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.