

Self appraisal of sports' standards

1437. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the opportune time has come for a self appraisal of our standards in various fields of sports, in view of our dismal performance in recent Sydney Olympics, where smaller countries showed better results;
and

(b) if so, by when such exercise, in each area of sports, would be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The performance of the country in Sydney Olympics had shown some improvement over the last Olympics held at Atlanta though we did not secure many medals. A detailed analysis of the performance in Sydney Olympics was done after the games. Appraisal of performance and taking corrective steps is a continuous process.

Sports infrastructure in rural areas

1438. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of sports infrastructure facilities in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to start any effective programme for youths in rural areas; and

(c) the details of schemes under which financial assistance is provided for promotion of sports in the country through NGO's and performance review of such schemes, particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) "Sports" is a State subject. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to create sports facilities at various places of the State including rural areas. However, in order to supplement their efforts in this direction, the Central Government