Bail to accused in Samjhauta Express blast case

*262. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided not to appeal against the bail granted by the trial court to some accused in the Samjhauta Express blast case;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 - (c) the impact thereof on the main case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Two bomb blasts occurred in the Samjhauta Express train near Panipat on 18.02.2007 in which 68 persons were killed and 12 others were injured. The case was initially investigated by the Haryana Police and subsequently transferred to the NIA on 26.07.2010 for further investigation. The NIA, after a thorough investigation, filed chargesheet against a total number of eight accused persons.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court passed an order on 28.08.2014 granting bail to one of the accused *viz*, Naba Kumar Sarkar @ Swami Aseemanand on 28.8.2014, subject to certain conditions. The written order dated 1.5.2015 of the Punjab and Haryana High Court was received by the NIA on 05.05.2015, which was examined by the NIA in consultation with their Legal Division. It was decided by the NIA not to file SLP in the Supreme Court against the order dated 28.8.2014 of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, since in their opinion, there were no legal grounds to challenge the order.

However, the accused, Naba Kumar Sarkar continues to be in jail since he is also an accused in the Ajmer blast case, in which he has not been granted bail. Further, he has not complied with the bail conditions prescribed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court and continues to be in judicial custody in the Samjhauta Express blast case also.

Review of performance of athletes/sportspersons in international events

- *263. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government has reviewed the performance of Indian athletes/sportspersons in various disciplines during the last three international sports events;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof and the deficiencies identified during the review; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to improve their performance in the next Olympics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) and (b) Sir, review of performance of Indian athletes/sportspersons is a continuing process. It has been seen that the performance has been improving over the years. It has emerged that more focus on medal winning disciplines and potential medal winners is required for achieving better results.