

- (e) the time by when the said proposals are likely to be considered?"

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBAScheme for development of water sports centres at different locations in the country including Gujarat and Jharkhand. However, under Special Package announced by the Government for the State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) during the year 2014-15 for Enhancement of Sports Facility at J&K", proposals for development of water sports centres in J&K have been received. The proposals have been considered and two of their proposals, viz., at Pahalgam and Mansar Lake, have been included for funding under the Special Package for J&K.

Steps to increase medal tally at Rio Olympics, 2016

795. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that good performance in sports bring national pride and glory and also instills confidence amongst the people;
- (b) if so, the details of measures taken by Government so as to increase its medals tally substantially during Olympic Games, 2016; and
- (c) whether Government has identified the events where Indian sportspersons stand a chance to win a medal at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) Preparations for forthcoming Olympic Games, which are scheduled to be held from 5-21 August 2016 at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), are going on in right earnest. Government is making every effort for training and coaching of Indian sportspersons and teams so that they win maximum number of medals and make the country proud.

Identified medal prospects are being provided financial assistance for their customized training at Institutes having world class facilities and other necessary support under Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme, which the Government specifically formulated and launched in 2014 under National Sports Development Fund with the objective of identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for Rio Olympics 2016 and Olympic Games 2020.

Further, National coaching camps are being organized and competitive exposure abroad is being provided to the identified probables so, that more and more sportspersons qualify for participation in Rio Olympics 2016 and put up their best performance in the Olympic Games.

So far, 65 sportspersons [33 individual sportspersons in the disciplines of Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Shooting and Wrestling and 16 members each of Hockey (Men) and Hockey (Women) teams] have already qualified for Rio Olympics 2016. More are expected to qualify, as the qualification process will go on till July 2016.

(c) Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Hockey, Shooting, Tennis and Wrestling are the focussed disciplines as far as India's chances of winning medals at Rio Olympics are concerned.

Meghalaya to bid for 2022 National Games

796. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the hindsight gained from co-hosting the recently held South Asian Games at Guwahati, Meghalaya is planning to bid for the 2022 National Games to coincide with the 50th Year of Meghalaya attaining Statehood;

(b) whether the Centre would consider fast-track development of sports infrastructure in the North-East region which has surfeit of sports and athletic talent; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) Allotment of National Games is done by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) from the bids submitted by the States to IOA. Government of Meghalaya has informed that it proposes to bid for National Games in 2022.

(b) and (c) Realizing the potential of talented sportspersons available in North-Eastern Region of the country, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is already providing support for creation and development of sports infrastructure in North East States. Under the Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS), the Ministry has approved grant of ₹ 87.50 crore for 15 sports infrastructure projects such as multi-purpose halls, astro-turfs for hockey, synthetic athletic tracks, during the period from 2010-11 to 2015-