

**District Science Centres in Assam**

1430. SHRIMATI BASANTI. SHARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of District Science Centres set up so far in Assam;
- (b) whether Government propose to set up the Science Centres at Block level also in the slate;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) No District Science Centre has been set up so far in Assam.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no such scheme for setting up of either District or Block Level Science Centres in Ninth Five Year Plan.

(e) 28 School Science Centres have been set up in various districts of Assam to improve science education and popularise science.

**Strengthening Sports**

† 1431. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's performance in sports has been going down continuously;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government propose to exercise control over sports organisations, in view of the deteriorating performance;
- (d) whether Government also propose to make some provision in National Sports Policy in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Our performance in Sports has not deteriorated. During the last 2 to 3 years, India's performance in

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† Original notices of the question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

most of the major international championships/games has been improving— though marginally. Still there is scope for further improvement of India's performances in international events. In the 1998 Asian Games, India won 35 medals including 7 gold medals. In this game Men Hockey Team got gold medal after a long gap of 32 years. This performance is certainly better than India's performance in the 1994 Asian Games, when India could win only 23 medals. In 1988 Commonwealth Games, India got 25 medals including 7 gold which was again better than 1994 Commonwealth Games, when India got 24 medals. In South Asian Federation Games (SAF), India's performance was spectacular as we won 197 medals including 102 gold. In 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, though the performance in term of medal tally is the same over the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, overall performances in different disciplines have been improved.

(c) to (e) There is no move under consideration to take over control of any sports organization by the Government, In the draft National Sports Policy, which is under process of finalization, provisions have been made to strengthen the activities of National Sports Federations. It is proposed that the Central Government, in conjunction with the State Government, the Olympic Association (IOA) and the National Sports Federations will concertedly pursue the twin objectives of "Broad-basing" of sports and "achieving of Excellence" in Sports at the National and International levels. The Government and the Sports Bodies have to demonstrated orientation towards the achievement of results and ensure tangible progress in the field of sports so as to make the functioning of sports bodies/Associations transparent, professional and accountable.

### **Officials and Athletes attending Olympics**

1432. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that officials from various authorities outnumbered the athletes/players in Sydney Olympics, if so, the number of officials and athletes who attended the Olympics, both from State and Union Government and SAT; and

(b) whether any criteria has been laid down to limit the officials actually