

Special reward to the winning Indian Cricket Team

396. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give special reward to the Indian Cricket team on their grant feat of winning trophies in one day and test matches series in Pakistani

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether similar rewards will be given for other games such as hockey, football, tennis, table tennis, volley ball etc.?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the 'Scheme, relating to Awards', winners of medals in international sports events and their coaches are given special cash awards in the disciplines included in the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, besides that of chess. Games like hockey, football, tennis and volleyball are among the eligible disciplines.

Pension scheme for asian Games athletes

397. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any pension scheme for athletes who have participated in Asian Games over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for such athletes to qualify for the pension; and

(d) the details of such pension and benefits presently in operation for athletes who had won medals at diverse Asian Games for the country?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (d) Under the scheme of 'Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons', winners of Asian Games are entitled to life pension from the age of 30 years @ Rs. 3507-p.m. to gold medalists and @ Rs. 3000/rTor silver and bronze medalists. However, mere participation in Asian Games does not qualify a sportsperson for pension under the scheme.