

[14 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Under scheme of 'National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons', an outstanding sportsperson, who has represented the country in an international competition including Asian Games and championships and is living in indigent circumstances is entitled to a pension not exceeding Rs. 2500/-p.m.

Construction of Olympic size swimming pools by SAI

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sports Authority of India has agreed to build Olympic size and standard swimming pools in all States;

(b) if so, the details of this decision by the SAI;

(c) when will the SAI start working on this scheme in various States;

(d) what will be the funding required for such a project; and

(e) the details of the funding pattern available if State Governments want to build such swimming pools?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Under the 'Scheme of Grant for Creation of Sports Infrastructure', State Governments can avail of Central assistance for a 8-lane swimming pool measuring 50m x 21m along with filtration plant, change rooms, toilets and showers. The cost sharing pattern between the Government of India and the State Government is 50 : 50 subject to a maximum Central assistance of Rs. 60 lakhs, whichever is less. In case of special category States and projects in notified hilly/tribal areas, the cost sharing pattern is 75 : 25 subject to a ceiling of Rs. 90 lakhs, whichever is less.

Steps to check doping menace among athletes

399. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some athletes who are preparing for the Athens Olympics, slated for August, 2004, have reportedly been taking performance-enhancing drugs, code-named "white tablets", that are banned by the International Olympics Committee, and are meticulously following a doping chart given to them;

(b) if so, the results of any enquiry made in this regard; and