

Complaints of nepotism in sports selections

148. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIR AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received complaints of favoritism and nepotism in selections for badminton/cricket/other games;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to address the issue; and

(c) whether the Ministry would consider a special audit of various sports bodies and their State level associates to stem the rot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) to (c) Sir, promotion and development of various sports disciplines, including selection of players, is the responsibility of the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned. NSFs are bodies registered under the Societies Registration Act/Companies Act. The Government does not interfere in their day-to-day affairs which include holding of sports events, selection of players, etc. However, with a view to ensuring fair and transparent selection, Government has laid down that for selecting sports-persons for participation in different sports competitions, the Selection Committee should consist of the President of the concerned NSF, the National Coach and a representative of the Indian Olympic Association.

Further, Government on 26.2.2015, has issued instructions to all the NSFs to place on their website, various details of the international events held in India and abroad such as notification of selection criteria for such events well in advance alongwith the details of time and venue for selection, list of core probables and basis of their selection, details of coaching camps organized including venue, dates and list of participants, list of the athletes selected, performance criteria which formed the basis of selection, actual performance in terms of timing, distance, etc. and the position obtained by each athlete/team etc.

NSFs are required to submit their accounts duly audited by the Chartered Accountants in the panel of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Accounts of the Federations receiving grant of more than ₹ 1.00 crore in a year are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Government of India does not deal with state level sports bodies/Associations of the NSFs.