

Criteria for choosing players under TOPS

149. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria used for choosing players under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS);

(b) the number of players considered for the scheme; and

(c) the reason for not selecting the rejected players under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) Benchmark for selection of athletes under the scheme is in relation to international standards and consistency in performance. The athletes, who are prospective medal winners, have been identified through a process of research and consultation with the National Sports Federations and National Coaches/Experts of the relevant disciplines.

(b) 106 athletes have been selected under the Target Olympics Podium (TOP) Scheme for their customized training and other support. They have been selected out of a large pool of top level and potential athletes.

(c) Since the selection was made with reference to the international standard and consistency in performance, it was not possible to select more athletes under the Scheme. Also, the selection was made on the recommendation of a committee of experts including eminent players.

Lodha Committee report

150. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the Lodha Committee report on the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has taken/plans to undertake steps to ensure the enforcement of the Lodha Committee report, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government plans to constitute a similar panel for other sporting bodies to bring about accountability and transparency in their functioning, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?