

(b) what assistance *i.e.* monetary etc. were provided to the above sportspersons by the Central Government during the last two financial years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports does not maintain comprehensive data about participation of sportspersons in national and international games.

(b) An amount of ₹ 183.93 crore and ₹ 185 crore was spent during 2014-15 and 2015-16 under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) towards participation of Indian sportspersons and teams in the international sports events, organizing coaching camps prior to international sports events, conduct of national championships, conduct of international tournaments in India, engagement of foreign coaches, procurement of sports equipments, etc.

Cash awards worth ₹ 13.11 crore and ₹ 23.92 crore were disbursed as cash awards to medal winning sportspersons and coaches during 2014-15 and 2015-16 under the Ministry's Scheme of 'Special Awards to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches'.

Steps for encouraging sports skills among youth of Jammu and Kashmir

2077. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government for encouraging sports skills among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) whether Government has any plans to launch an exclusive youth policy for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) The Government had announced a special package of ₹ 200 crore during 2014-15 for development of sports for the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Of this, a sum of ₹ 55 crore has been released through Sports Authority of India (SAI) during 2015-16 to the State of Jammu and Kashmir/implementing agency. An allocation of ₹ 75 crore has been made by the Government for this package during the current financial year 2016-17. Availability of sports infrastructure, sports equipments and coaches/trainers will help in encouraging the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to participate in sporting activities and acquire sports skills.

(b) At present, the Government has no plans to launch an exclusive youth policy for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.