

Utilisation of stadiums and sports grounds

2616. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan by the Ministry to increase the utilisation of stadiums and sports grounds across the country for public use when no sports event is being held;

(b) the number of such stadiums/facilities which can be utilised by the public, which are not available right now for public use and remain shut or locked; and

(c) whether a nominal fee-based approach can be considered for all such facilities for maintenance and security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The Ministry owns 5 stadia located in Delhi namely Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukerjee Swimming Pool Complex and Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range. All these stadia are maintained by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). In these stadia and in various other sports facilities available at SAI Regional centres, Academic Institutions and Field Units, there is a continuous effort to increase the utilisation for sports activities, *viz.* National Camps, Competitions, Training Centres and Community Sports.

(b) All the sports facilities in SAI stadia, Delhi as well as in its Regional Centres and Field Units across the country are available for general public for organising sports events, without disturbing the training activities.

(c) Yes, Sir. SAI has started schemes to encourage general public to use sports facilities available in SAI stadia, Regional Centres and SAI centres. Very nominal fee is being charged from the general public under 'Come and Play' scheme for use of sports facilities.

Employment for ex-sportspersons

2617. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a mechanism with the Ministry to ensure employment for ex-sportspersons who have competed at the national and international levels for India as suggested by All India Council of Sports (AICS); and

(b) whether there is a mechanism to ensure employment for sportspersons who are differently abled and have competed for India at the national and international levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Appointment of meritorious sportspersons in Central Government offices against the vacancies reserved for sportspersons is regulated in accordance with the instructions of the Department of Personnel and Training which, *inter-alia*, provide that vacancies upto 5% in the direct recruitment posts in Group 'C' or, erstwhile Group 'D' in Central Government offices can be reserved for sportspersons.

(b) This will be covered either under the provisions as stated in (a) above or through the provision available for disabled persons.

Youth hostels in Tamil Nadu

2618. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 4 youth hostels have been set up in Tamil Nadu, so far, by Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any proposal is pending with Government to set up more youth hostels in the prominent cities including Viluppuram in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Five youth hostels have been set up by the Government in Tamil Nadu and not 4 youth hostels. These 5 youth hostels are located in Chennai, Madurai, Thanjavur, Trichy and Ooty.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal with the Government to set up more youth hostels as the erstwhile Planning Commission had advised not to construct any new youth hostel but to complete only ongoing construction of youth hostels and also due to non allocation of funds for construction of new youth hostels.

Criteria fixed for selecting youths for IYE

2619. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is organizing International Youth Exchange (IYE) with friendly countries to promote exchange of ideas, values and cultures among youths;

(b) if so, the details of criteria fixed for selecting youths for this programme; and

(c) the details of youths selected under this programme from the State of Tamil Nadu during last three years?