

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The criteria fixed for selecting youth for International Youth Exchange programmes is as under:

- He/She should be citizen of India.
- He/She should not be undergoing/should not have undergone any civil/criminal case.
- He/She should not have visited any foreign country during the last three years on expenditure of Government of India.
- He/She should not be more than 29 years of age.
- He/She should have excellent track records in his/her field.

(c) The details of youth selected under this programme from the State of Tamil Nadu during last three years are as under:

Financial Year	No. of youth from Tamil Nadu who visited abroad under International Youth Exchange programme
2014-15	3
2015-16	5
2016-17	14 (as on date)

Discrimination between male and female sportspersons

2620. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some games like Cricket etc. female players get less remuneration as compared to male players;

(b) if so, the details of such games and amount paid to male and female players; and

(c) whether Government wish to pay equal amount to male and female players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports does not pay remuneration to players of any sports discipline.

The Ministry provides financial incentives in the forms of cash awards and pension under the 'Scheme of Special Awards to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches' and the Scheme of Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons'. Benefits of these schemes are equally applicable to all eligible sportspersons including female sportspersons.