

(b) International Paralympic Committee (IPC) *vide* their letter dated 15-04-2015 had suspended the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) due to what it called the chaotic condition in PCI mostly due to individual conflicts at the national level among different groups and persons. IPC lifted their suspension on 31-05-2016 and thereafter *vide* letter dated 03.06.2016 IPC recognized the new set of office-bearers of PCI, elected in the elections held on 08.10.2015 at Faridabad. Following this, this Ministry granted recognition to PCI on 01-07-2016.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Indian contingent will participate in Rio Paralympics Games, 2016 under the India Flag.

(d) SAI Western Centre Gandhinagar has been developed as a Centre to train the disabled sports-persons preparing for international competitions.

The Ministry is supplementing the efforts of PCI with financial assistance for conducting National Championship and International Tournaments in India, participation in International tournaments abroad, organizing coaching camps, procuring sports equipments, etc. During last three years, the following amount has been spent on the welfare and development of Para-athletes under the scheme of Assistance to NSFs:

Year	Amount (₹ in Lakhs)
2013-14	143.40
2014-15	197.72
2015-16 (Provisional)	278.51

The Ministry is also implementing the Schemes of Sports and Games for persons with Disabilities under which assistance is given for organizing competitions and for training community coaches.

Assistance to athletes under TOP scheme

1013. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of preparedness of athletes under the Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to provide all possible assistance to athletes to ensure that their training progresses smoothly and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure that athletes get timely supplements and consistently high quality food during their preparedness period for Rio and Tokyo Olympics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Athletes are being supported under Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme in their preparedness for Olympics 2016. They are being given financial assistance for training, purchase of equipment etc. A sum of about ₹ 25.00 crore has been released to these athletes under the Scheme. The assistance under TOP Scheme is over and above the amount earmarked/ utilized under the Scheme of assistance to NSFs for the purpose. Proposals of athletes under TOP Scheme for training and other requirements are being processed on top priority to ensure timely approval and release of funds.

A Sub Committee under the chairmanship of Director General, Sports Authority of India (SAL) has been constituted which monitors each case on day to day basis and takes appropriate decision to ensure that the athletes get all necessary support in time. Officers have been designated for each discipline to advise/ assist in preparation of the training plan of athletes etc.

(c) Supplements and high quality food are provided to athletes as per norms of the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) and the TOP Scheme. The Government has established a Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) to monitor preparation of probable athletes / teams on day to day basis and to ensure requisite facilities, being extended to sportspersons well in time.

Proportions to unique sports traditions of the Himalayan region

1014. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed an action plan to promote the unique sports traditions of the Himalayan region, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has also invited the neighbouring countries of the Himalayan Region to join India's initiatives, and their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. While presenting the Union Budget for the year 2014-15, the Finance Minister announced that an annual sports event will be started to promote the unique sports traditions of the Himalayan Region and countries such as