

(b) whether Government are aware that there is need to go into the working of most sports bodies in the country and provide healthy norms for their membership, election, organization, administration and functioning?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government have formulated a set of 'guidelines' to govern the functioning of recognized national sports federations and for the Government to extend financial assistance to them. These guidelines are reviewed from time to time.

Torch bearers of the olympic flame

900. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether celebrities and film stars were invited to participate in the olympic torch light procession held in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many leading sports personalities were absent on this occasion.

(c) if so, whether the authorities concerned failed to extend invitation to the sports persons to the event; and

(d) if so, the details of the criteria applied in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A total of 105 torch bearers were allotted to India by the Athense Olympic Committee (ATHOC) as under:

Indian Olympic Association and City Government — 28; National Olympic Committee (in this case, the Indian Olympic Association) — 2; Coca Cola-42; Samsung-25 and ATHOC-8.

The Indian Olympic Association has confirmed that all its nominees were Arjuna Awardees/eminant sports persons. The Coca Cola and Samsung who are Olympic partners invited film stars and celebrities including some sports persons.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.