

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (c) The performance of Indian sportspersons since the Commonwealth Games, 2002 has been quite creditable in comparison to many other developing countries. India won a record haul of 69 medals (as against 25 in the last games) in the 2002 Commonwealth Games and secured the fourth position in the medals tally. Similarly, India secured 36 medals in the Busan Asian Games. Indian sportspersons have performed creditably in a number of international competitions including the 1st Afro-Asian Games in Hyderabad in 2003 and the last SAF Games at Islamabad in 2004.

Government of India, in addition to providing sports infrastructure, has taken the following measures to further improve the performance of Indian sportspersons in various international competitions.

- (i) Finalization of Long Term Development Plans (LTDP) for various sports disciplines in consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations, former international sportspersons, sports scientists and experts. Plans are under implementation.
- (ii) Provision of equipment and scientific support to sportspersons.
- (iii) Intensive coaching of the players by Indian and foreign coaches in coaching camps.
- (iv) Financial assistance to concerned federations for participation of sportspersons in international tournaments.
- (v) Intensive training abroad to the teams.
- (vi) Assistance for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and the 'National Sports Development Fund'.

Floods in Assam

***227. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the latest situation of floods in Assam;

(b) whether Government propose to take some effective measures to control floods in Assam which is a regular feature particularly in Bank Valley; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. RAGHUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. As on 18.7.2004, 26 of the 27 districts were affected by floods. According to the reports received from the State Government, 7994 villages with a population of 85.42 lakhs and 6.43 lakh hectares cropped area have been affected. 63 human lives have been lost and about 4.29 lakh houses damaged.

(b) and (c) Flood Management including river erosion being a State subject, investigation, planning and implementation of Flood Management Schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance, which is Technical, catalytical and promotional in nature and only in specified States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The Ministry of Water Resources, the nodal Ministry for floods Management and Control, has been advising and assisting the State Government in taking appropriate measures both structural and non-Structural for flood control in the State of Assam. The Brahmaputra Board has prepared master plans for Brahmaputra and Barak Basins and subsidiaries and these were sent to the State Government including Assam for appropriate action. The Brahmaputra Board has also taken up the execution of the Pagladiya Dam Project, which was approved by the Government of India in January 2001, at an estimated cost of Rs. 542.90 crore with full central funding. This will provide flood control benefit to an area of 40,000 hectares in Assam as a long term measure. Besides above, a number of Drainage Development/Anti Erosion Schemes have been taken up by the Board in Assam at an estimated cost of Rs. 62.66 crore through 100% Central funding. This includes Harrang Drainage Development Scheme in Barak Valley at an estimated cost of Rs. 30.49 crore.

As a long term measure Tipaimukh Multipurpose Project on river Barak which was investigated by Brahmaputra Board and DPR was prepared has since been transferred to North Eastern Electric Power Corporation

(NEEPCO). This project which is located on Barak river will have flood control benefits in the Barak valley besides hydro electric power. The techno economic clearance has been given by CEA.

In order to assist Assam and North Eastern States including Sikkim and North Bengal, the Ministry of Water Resources have formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for taking up critical flood control and anti erosion schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak valley, for an amount of Rs. 166.68 crore in the ratio of 90% as Central share as grant (150.00 crore) and 10% as State share (Rs. 16.68 crore). The Planning Commission has approved the scheme for implementation during Tenth Five Year Plan.

Creation of a revolving fund for weavers

*228. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the weavers of Andhra Pradesh have requested for creation of a revolving fund of Rs. 100 crores and another Rs. 25 crores for maintaining inventory on yarn etc.; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested to sanction an amount of Rs. 25.00 crore for purchase of yarn and Rs. 25.00 crore for Export Development as "Revolving Fund" to the Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society Ltd. (APCO) to facilitate smooth supply of duty free yarn under the scheme for reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn and to promote Export Development of APCO fabrics. Earlier also the office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms had received a request from State Government of Andhra Pradesh to release of Rs. 10.00 crore as "Revolving fund" in favour of APCO for supply of yarn under CENVAT scheme.

(b) There is no provision under any of the Central schemes for the Handloom Sector for providing financial assistance for such a revolving fund. The position has been intimated to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.