

[21 July. 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

- (b) Government is not aware of such a situation.
- (c) Does not arise.

Expenditure on officials and sports persons for Athens Olympics

891. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have finalised squads for participation in Athens Olympics, 2004;
- (b) if so, the details of events in which Indian squads will participate;
- (c) the number of officials who will accompany the participants indicating the "criteria" for their selection (event-wise);
- (d) whether it is a fact that the expenditure involved in such international games on "officials" is much more than on participating players; and
- (e) if so, what is the likely "ratio" of estimated expenditure going to be incurred on officials accompanying Athens Olympics during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT):
(a) and (b) No, Sir. The Indian contingent for participation in Athens Olympics, 2004 is yet to be finalised. However, based on pre-qualification tournaments/competitions, as on 16.7.2004, 76 Indian sportspersons have qualified to participate in the Athens Olympics in events such as archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, hockey (M), judo, rowing, sailing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, tennis, wrestling and weightlifting.

(c) The criterion for ratio of officials to players is laid down by the International Olympic Committee. The exact number of officials accompanying the sportspersons, event-wise, will be known after qualifying competitions in all the disciplines are over Indian Olympic Association has intimated that the 76 athletes selected so far for the Olympic Games shall be accompanied by 47 officials.

(d) and (e) The estimates on expenditure will be firmed up on receipt of information from the Indian Olympic Association indicating the total number of sportspersons and officials alongwith their names; details of sponsorship obtained and expenditure on various items and reasons/justification for stay of each individual/team in the Games village over and above the competition period.