

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that SAI's Dope Control Centre (DCC) in Delhi has not yet been given accreditation by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter regarding signing of the Copenhagen Declaration on World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) code, by India is under active consideration of the Government of India.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, the Dope Control Centre of the SAI has already obtained ISO 9001-2000 and ISO 17025 certification which are mandatory requirements for permanent accreditation of a laboratory. Since, with effect from 1.1.2004, the power of granting permanent accreditation was transferred to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) from the International Olympic Committee, the DCC of the SAI has submitted an application to that Agency on 6.2.2004.

Raise in out of pocket allowance for athletes

898. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to raise the "Out-of-pocket Allowance" for each athlete; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to enhance the out-of-pocket allowance for sportspersons going to participate in the coming Athens Olympics is under consideration. Presently, under the provisions of the relevant scheme, all sportspersons participating in the Olympic/Asian/Commonwealth and SAF Games are entitled to get an out-of-pocket allowance of \$ 20.00 each per day. However, as a special case, an out-of-pocket daily allowance of \$ 35.00 was given to all participating sports persons in the last Commonwealth /Asian Games in 2002.

Dismal performance of Indian sports persons

899. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a Commission to go into the reasons for the dismal performance of Indian sportsmen in all areas of sports at the International competitions; and

(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.