RAJYA SABHA

[21 July, 2004]

Name of Scheme No. o projects approved from 2001-02 to	of infrastructure o 2003-04	No. of projects completed during 2001-02 to 2003- 04	Total No. of projects pend- ing for comple- tion, as on 16.7.2004 includes infra- sture projects approved prior to 2001-02)
Grants for creation of sports infrastructure	17	0	25
Grants to rural schools for purchase of sports equipment and development of playground	33	13	25
Grants for promotion of sports in universities and colleges	6	5	5
Grants for installation of synthetic playing surfaces	4	1 (sanctioned in 1999-2000)	4

(d) The status of pending projects is periodically reviewed and the State Government/grantee institutions are reminded to expedite completion of the approved sports infrastructure projects. No release by the Centre is made without receipt of progress report and audited statement of expenditure incurred by the State Government/grantee institutions from out of their share.

Investigation into IWF and IHF affairs

888. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to look into the affairs of the Indian Weightlifting Federation where doping standards are alleged and the Indian Hockey Federation where player selection appears to be on basis other than merit; and

(b) if so, by when the results of the enquiries made in this regard are expected to be known?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) National Sports Federations (NSFs) including the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF) and the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) are autonomous bodies registered under the Societies Registration Act.

140

[21 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Government does not interfere in their day to day functioning. However, the efforts of the National Federation towards promotion of their respective sports discipline are supplemented by the Government by providing financial assistance under the Scheme of 'Guidelines for Assistance to National Sports Federations'. Whenever any allegation regarding doping or wrong selection of players is received by the Government, reports are called for from the concerned National Sports Federations. Independent reports are also sought from the Sports Authority of India.

Government has dealt with the problem of doping in sports both at preventive and punitive levels. Elaborate efforts are made to educate the players during the national coaching camps about the prohibited substance and methods as notified by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and its harmful effects. Random checking of the rooms of the campers is also done to ensure that no banned drugs are being used. Apart from above, random tests are also done during coaching camps, selection trials, domestic competitions as well as prior to participation in international competitions. NSFs including IWF have been asked to take action against sportspersons found guilty of doping as per IOC code or code of the concerned national/international federation and compliance reports are obtained from them.

In the recent past, following a spate of media reports regarding selection of the Indian hockey team, the Ministry had convened a high level meeting which was presided over by the Minister. Following the Ministry's intervention, the IHF constituted a Selection Committee which selected the probables for the Athens Olympics.

International standard training facilities for Indian athletes

889. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

 (a) whether Government propose to set up international standard training facilities in the country to help Indian athletes prepare themselves in a better way for the next Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken to promote all form of sports and games in the country?

141