

- (v) **'Physical Fitness of School going Children':-** This vertical provides for measuring the physical fitness of school going children and implementing a component of enhancing their physical fitness.

Financial support to skiing sportspersons

1431. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is for the first time that India has won a medal (Bronze) at Italy in January, 2018 in the Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup organised by the Federation International De Ski (FIS), the international skiing Governing body;

(b) whether it is a fact that skiing is a costly sport as its outfit and connected gear are expensive, if so, whether Government provides any financial support to skiing sportspersons, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how does Government propose to compensate the sportsperson who won the first international medal in skiing and brought laurels to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) Yes, Sir. Ms. Aanchal Thakur, a sportsperson from India, has won a bronze medal in Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup organised by the Federation International De Ski (FIS) in Turkey in January, 2018.

(b) National Sports Federations (NSFs) are responsible for promotion and development of their respective discipline of sports, which in case of Skiing sport is Winter Games Federation of India (WGFI).

The Government supplements the efforts of recognized NSFs by providing financial assistance under the Scheme of Assistance to NSFs for holding of national championships, international tournaments in India; participation of sportspersons / teams in international sports events abroad, training / coaching of sportspersons/teams through Indian and foreign coaches, procurement of equipment and consumables etc. Under the Scheme of Assistance to NSFs, financial assistance is not given directly to any sportsperson of any sports discipline.

The Government provides support to sports persons identified as medal prospects at the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Olympics and Winter Olympics under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) within overall ambit of National Sports

Development Fund (NSDF), based on proposal received from them. Ms. Aanchal Thakur is included in TOPS.

(c) The Ministry provides incentives in the form of Special Cash Awards to medal winners in international sports events such as Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships, Asian Championships and Commonwealth Championships under the scheme 'Scheme of Special Awards to medal winners in international sports events and their coaches. The Special Cash Awards are processed based on recommendations of the concerned sports federations.

Reduced fund allocation for SAI

1432. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the fund allocation for the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has been proposed to be reduced by ₹ 66.17 crore in the current budget;
- (b) the reasons for the curtailment of funds;
- (c) whether this will affect the functional prospects of SAI; and
- (d) which are the activities of SAI that are going to suffer due to the budgetary curtailment proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) The Sports Authority of India (SAI), which is an autonomous body under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, has been entrusted to implement a number of the twelve verticals of the Khelo India Scheme being implemented by this Ministry. The verticals entrusted to SAI are such for which requisite expertise is available with them and in most cases supplement/complement the activities already being undertaken therein. Accordingly, funds earmarked for such verticals will be placed at the disposal of SAI for implementing them. Thus, effectively, there has not been any curtailment of funds for SAI, though there has been rearrangement of resources between the Ministry and the SAI. In addition, SAI is also being provided financial assistance under other Schemes of the Ministry like the Scheme for Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF), etc., to undertake their activities.

(c) and (d) Since the activities being undertaken by the SAI are being supplemented/complemented with financial support from other Schemes of the Ministry, question does not arise.