

Persons banned from visiting India

*352. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Home Affairs has maintained any list of most wanted persons who are banned from visiting India, especially Punjab; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) and (b) Names of such foreign nationals who are found to have indulged in anti-India activities or heinous crimes or who have violated visa rules are placed in a negative list after due consultations. Such persons are barred from entering into India for a specified time period. Government of India does not maintain state or region-wise data in respect of such persons. The negative list is reviewed from time to time as per established procedure in consultation with the concerned agencies.

Funds to athletes under the TOP Scheme

*353. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently revised the guidelines for issuance of funds to athletes under the Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to curb red-tapism as well as misuse of funds by athletes under the TOP Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) Sir, Selection of athletes for inclusion in Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme was being done on the basis of recommendations of Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Elite Identification Committee, the proposals of athletes for inclusion in TOP Scheme are now being considered by the designated committee in the Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) headed by Director General, Sports Authority of India (SAI). The designated Committee in MOC can ask the existing members of TOP Elite Identification Committee to attend the meetings.

There is no change in the overall procedure in providing financial support to

the Athletes selected under Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme. The MOC takes a holistic view of the requirements of the Athletes and approves financial support. Funds, upto 90% of the approved amount of assistance, are released to the Athletes and/or the Training Institutes; balance amount is released after completion of training and submission of necessary documents, which include report of the Institute/Coach on performance/training of the athletes and statement of accounts. The Athletes under TOPS are also given 'Out of Pocket Allowance' at the rate of ₹ 50,000.00 per month, which is released directly to the accounts of concerned athletes.

(c) Procedure listed in reply to parts (a) and (b) above simplifies the processing of proposals and ensures expeditious release of funds to athletes.

To ensure that funds are properly utilized by the athletes, report from training institutes are sought and examined. Accounts on training expenses submitted by athletes are also verified and examined.

Caste based census

†*354. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any caste based census in India after the year 1931;

(b) if so, the year when the census was conducted; and

(c) if not, by when the caste based census is likely to be conducted in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) Sir; After 1931 Census, data on caste was collected in the year 1941, but was not published. Thereafter in each Census from 1951 till the last Census conducted in 2011, data in respect of those castes and tribes, which are notified as Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs), are collected and published.

Further, a Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) was conducted in 2011 by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) in rural and urban areas respectively. The SECC 2011 data excluding the caste data has been finalized and published by MoRD and HUPA.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.