

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1589

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008

PERFORMANCE BY INDIAN SPORTSPERSONS IN BEIJING OLYMPIC

Athawale Shri Ramdas;Chandrappan Shri C.K.;Murmu Shri Rupchand

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of medals won by Indian sportspersons at the Beijing Olympic,2008;
- (b) whether the Indian sportspersons have made dismal performance as compared to the sportspersons of other competing countries;
- (c) if so,the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Sports Authority of India (SAI) is responsible for the poor performance in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details of responsibility fixed in this matter;
- (f) whether the Government has made a critical assessment about this performance in the Beijing Olympic;and
- (g) if so,the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve performance of Indian sportspersons in the ensuing International Sports events including the next Olympic Games to be held at London?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS(DR. M.S. GILL)

(a)to(c): India won one gold medal in discipline of Shooting and two Bronze medals,one each in the discipline of Boxing and Wrestling at Beijing Olympics,2008.India's performance in terms of medals tally at Beijing Olympics 2008 was better than the country's performance in previous Olympic Games.India's rank in the medal standings was 51st at Beijing Olympics in which 204 countries participated.

(d)&(e): In view of above reply,the question does not arise.

(f)&(g): Evaluation and assessment of country's performance in international sports competitions, including Beijing Olympics,is an ongoing process for taking progressive measures.The overall performance of the country in major international sports tournaments has not been optimal in the past mainly because of the narrow pool of elite athletes from which our talent is drawn.With a view to addressing this issue,the Ministry has recently launched a centrally sponsored scheme entitled 'Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan' which aims at providing basic sports infrastructure and promoting sports competitions at grass-roots level.Apart from encouraging more participation in sports in the long run,it is also expected to expand the talent pool for grooming high performing athletes,which would ultimately lead to better performance at the international level.

The Government has recently launched an ambitious scheme for the preparation of our athletes for participation in the Commonwealth Games 2010,which provides for longer duration training, state-of-the art equipment,higher duration of international exposure,and comprehensive sports medicine support.