

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2535
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010
REFUSAL OF VISA TO INDIAN LAWN BOWLS TEAM
Toppo Shri Joseph

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

- (a) whether there are reports that the Indian Lawn Bowls Team was denied visa for Sydney to get training for the Commonwealth Games;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up the matter at the appropriate level; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a) to(d): Yes, Madam. The Australian High Commission had refused visas to the members of Lawn Bowl Team for visiting Australia for training citing reasons of low balance in individual bank accounts indicating that the economic situation of the members did not constitute a strong incentive for them to leave Australia. Senior officials of the Australian High Commission were called in the Ministry and the matter was taken up with them strongly. They were informed that the entire cost of the training programme including to and fro air passage, boarding and lodging etc. was being funded by the Government. They agreed to consider the visa applications afresh, however visa application fee would have to be paid again. In the light of the above uncertainties which would adversely affect the training programme, it was decided not to send the Lawn Bowls team to Australia and the team was instead sent to New Zealand for training.