

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1565

ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012

PERFORMANCE IN LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES

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

- (a) whether China, having almost the same level of population as India, has been able to achieve excellent result in medals tally in the London Olympic Games, 2012 whereas the sportspersons from the country could not achieve the same;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, sports discipline-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to review the performance of the sportspersons in the said Games;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to revamp the sports strategy followed in the country to achieve better results?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) & (b) : The size of population of a country is not the only factor having an impact on the performance in the sports competitions in the major international sports events. There has been perceptible improvement in the performance of the Indian sportspersons in recent years. The performance of our sportspersons in major international tournaments since Beijing Olympics, 2008 has been encouraging. India won 3 medals (1 Gold and 2 Bronze) in Beijing Olympics, 2008. In Commonwealth Games, 2010, India won 101 medals (38 Gold, 27 Silver and 36 Bronze) and was 2nd in medals tally. In Asian Games, 2010 held in Guangzhou, China, India won 64 medals (14 Gold, 17 Silver and 33 Bronze) and was 6th in medals tally, which was India's best since inception of the Asian Games.

In the London Olympics, 2012, Indian sportspersons came up with a record performance by winning 6 medals. Although some of the sportspersons such as P. Kashyap, Tintu Luka, Vikas Gowda, Krishna Poonia, Irfan, Vijender Singh, Devendra Singh could not win medals but their performance was creditable.

(c) & (d) : The review of performance of the sportspersons in the major international sports competitions including Olympic Games is an ongoing process, which is done in consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations (NSFs).

(e) For improving the country's performance in international sports events, the Government introduced the following Schemes/Programmes These include Schemes/Programmes which provide focussed attention to major international sporting events.

(i) Schemes for Preparation of Indian Athletes for Commonwealth Games, 2010 and Asian Games 2010 :

For Commonwealth Games, 2010, the Ministry had undertaken a massive and unprecedented training programme for the elite sportspersons of India, to prepare the Indian contingent for CWG 2010. Scheme for Preparation of Indian Athletes for CWG 2010 with an outlay of Rs. 678 crore was put in place for providing comprehensive and intensive training and exposure to Indian sportspersons, both domestically and abroad. 170 Indian and 30 Foreign Coaches, 78 supporting technical personnel were involved in the effort.

For the Asian Games 2010 disciplines, which were not included in CWG, 2010, similar level of assistance, as provided for under the 'Scheme of Preparation of Indian Athletes for CWG 2010' was provided to athletes/teams preparing for Asian Games, 2010.

(ii) Operation Excellence for London Olympics 2012 (OPEX 2012):

With a view to preparing athletes and teams for London Olympics 2012, the Government launched Project 'Operation Excellence for London Olympics 2012' (OPEX 2012) under which Core probables were identified and were provided comprehensive and intensive training, both within the country and abroad as well as competition exposure in International Sports competitions. Keeping in view the performance of Indian teams/individuals in Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and other international tournaments, 16 disciplines, namely, Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Rowing, Sailing, Swimming, Shooting, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Tennis, Weightlifting and Wrestling were identified for systematic and scientific training. Out of these 16 disciplines, Indian sportspersons have qualified for participation in 13 sports disciplines.

Funds for preparation of athletes for London Olympics were provided with further upscaling in certain areas, such as lodging, nutrition, scientific support and daily allowance. About Rs. 148 crore has been spent on the training, coaching and competition exposure of the sportspersons for London Olympics 2012.

(iii) widening the base: introduction of Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA):

For broad-basing of sports in the country, the Ministry introduced Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA), which is aimed at providing basic sports infrastructure and promotion sports competitions at the grass-root level. Though PYKKA is essentially aimed at participative sports, it is only through widespread sporting activities among the young, from childhood upwards that sporting excellence might be progressively achieved. An exponential growth in the base of active athletes will automatically lead to a significant increase in number of high performing athletes and thus of medal prospects at the international level. PYKKA aims at spreading the base in rural areas throughout the country after which Sports Authority of India and the National Sports Federations would have a much larger pool of sportspersons to identify the talented and gifted sportspersons and nurture them into medal winning sportspersons at international sporting events.

Efforts have also been initiated to provide better scientific support and coaching facilities to sportspersons.