

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3701

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014

PERFORMANCE IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS

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

- (a) whether Indias performance at international sporting events has not been satisfactory in comparison to the other countries, despite the huge expenditure incurred in this regard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to change the mind of guardians and society towards sports and to bring reforms in sports management and administration;
- (d) the efforts being made to improve the performance of the country in the ensuing international sporting events; and
- (e) the funds allocated for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) & (b): There has been perceptible improvement in the performance of Indian sportspersons and teams in international sports events, as is evident from the countrys performance at London Olympics, 2012, Commonwealth Games 2010, Asian Games 2010, Commonwealth Games 2014 and Asian Games 2014. However, the countrys performance in major sports events has not been of the level as is expected from a country of Indias size and population due to various factors like lack of sporting culture, lack of expertise in sports sciences and sports medicine etc. The Government has been making regular efforts to address such issues through its schemes and initiatives. Since sports is a state subject, primary responsibility for development and promotion of sports lies with state Governments. Responsibility to promote particular sports discipline lies with National Sports Federations (NSFs) which are autonomous in functioning. Union Government only complements and supplements the efforts of state Governments and NSFs through its schemes.

(c): For changing the mindset of guardians and society towards sports, the Government has been promoting sports at the grassroots level and is incentivizing the achievements of sportspersons and honouring the sportspersons with Sports Awards in recognition and appreciation of their achievements. Further, vacancies upto 5% in direct recruitment category in Group C and erstwhile Group D posts are reserved for meritorious sports persons for appointment in Central Government offices.

(d): Preparations for improving the performance of the sportspersons and teams of the country in international sports events is an ongoing exercise. Coaching camps, customized training within the country and abroad with scientific back-up, competition exposures and engagement of foreign coaches are planned accordingly for improving the performance of Indian sportspersons and teams in international sports events including forthcoming international events.

Further, in order to support Indias best medal prospects for 2016 and 2020 Olympics and other major sporting events up to 2020 Olympics, the Ministry has started a Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOP Scheme), promoted by the National Sports Development Fund. An Elite Athletes Identification Committee has been set up under the chairpersonship of Shri Anurag Thakur, Member of Parliament and having Shri Rahul Dravid, Shri Pullela Gopichand, Shri Abhinav Bindra and Ms. Manisha Malhotra as members among others to evaluate and select talented potential medal prospects for 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games for support under the TOP Scheme; Focused disciplines will be Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Wrestling and Shooting.

(e): Budgetary allocation of Rs.1259 crores has been made for the Department of Sports during the current financial year i.e. 2014-15.