

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3834  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014  
NON-PARTICIPATION IN ASIAN GAMES  
Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao

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

- (a) whether the Asian Olympic Council had indicated the Sports Authority of India to take action against the authority for non-participation by the Indian contingents in sports events like Football, Basket Ball, Hand Ball, Table Tennis etc. in the 17th Asian Games held in Incheon, South Korea in October, 2014;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reasons for non-participation of the Sports Authority of India in some sports events and the role of the said authority in formulating the sports policy in it; and
- (d) the actions taken by the Government to make India famous in the world by boosting the Indian sports?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry had received an email from the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) through Indian Olympic Association (IOA) wherein OCA stated that they had received news that Sports Authority of India (SAI) may be forcing the IOA to withdraw from Football, Basketball, Handball, Table Tennis and Sepak Takraw in 17th Asian Games 2014. It was also stated in the email that the team draw had already been completed, and as per the constitution, if the IOA withdraws then, a penalty would definitely be levied and the whole draw would need to be done again.

IOA had sent a proposal for participation in Incheon Asian Games 2014 in 35 sports disciplines viz., Aquatics (Swimming and Diving), Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Bowling Tenpin, Boxing, Canoeing & Kayaking, Cricket, Cycling, Equestrian, Fencing, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Handball, Hockey, Judo, Kabaddi, Modern Pentathlon, Rowing, Rugby Sevens, Sepaktakraw, Shooting, Soft Tennis, Squash, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Tennis, Triathlon, Volleyball, Weightlifting, Wrestling, Water Polo, Yachting and Wushu. After examination of IOAs proposal in the Ministry in consultation with SAI and IOA and taking into consideration performance levels, the Ministry had given approval for participation in 28 sports disciplines viz., Aquatics (Swimming), Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Canoeing & Kayaking, Cycling, Equestrian, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Handball, Hockey, Judo, Kabaddi, Rowing, Sepak Takraw, Shooting, Squash, Taekwondo, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling, Wushu, Weightlifting, Yachting. The Ministry also conveyed to IOA that the principle of No Cost to the Government would not apply for adding any other name to the contingent for Incheon Asian Games 2014.

(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 Pallella 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.