

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1155  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006  
POOR PERFORMANCE IN ATHENS OLYMPICS  
Pathak Shri Brajesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to find out the reasons for poor performance of India in the Athens Olympics;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Sports Authority of India is responsible for the poor performance of India to some extent;
- (d) if not, whether the Government has fixed any responsibility in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

- (a) During the Athens Olympic Games, Indian sportsperson Major R.V.S Rathore won a silver medal in shooting. This is the first silver medal won by an individual sportsperson since India's independence. Over the years, the performance of Indian sportspersons in the Olympics has shown some improvement. While no medal could be won in the 1984 and 1988 Olympics, in 1996 and 2000 India won a bronze medal each. Moreover, during the Athens Olympic Games, 2004, in the disciplines of Archery, Shooting and Weightlifting Indian sportspersons were close to medals. In the disciplines of Athletics, they created new national records.
- (b) After the Athens Olympic Games 2004, meetings with office bearers of the major National Sports Federations (NSFs) were held to analyse their past performance and discuss their future plan of action for achieving excellence in international events.
- (c) Since sports is a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments and National Sports Federations to promote sports. However, the Government of India supports and supplements their efforts for preparing training of Indian Sportspersons/athletes to win medals in international events. As such, within the present system/resources, the best efforts were made to improve the performance of the Indian Contingent for the Olympic Games. In order to focus on India's performance in international events, specifically the Olympics, the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations was revised in 2005 to introduce dynamic categorization for recognition of disciplines by the Government.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise