

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3203
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS
Athawale Shri Ramdas;Singh Shri Lakshman

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

- (a) the details of recommendations made in the meeting held with the office bearers of the Indian Hockey Federation to analyse the performance in hockey after the Athens Olympic Games-2004;
- (b) the future action plan for achieving excellence in the International events;
- (c) whether sportspersons are unable to win enough medals in the International events due to lack of sports infrastructure in the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to improve the sports infrastructure in the country?

Answer

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

(a) After the Athens Olympic, 2004, the then Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports held discussions with the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF), inter alia, on the issue of the disappointing performance of the Hockey team, wherein they were advised to introspect and pinpoint where things went wrong and initiate the necessary corrective measures. The office bearers of IHF indicated that they had undertaken a close scrutiny of overall individual performance and initiated steps to search talent at the junior level and induct young blood with an eye on the future. The need for preparing a vision document and action plan based on that was stressed, along with the need for broad-basing of sports and arranging for the requisite expert scientific and technical support. The Indian senior Hockey team has recently been provided with a foreign physiotherapist and a physical trainer from abroad.

(b) `Sports` is primarily the responsibility of State Governments and, in respect of specific disciplines, the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the NSFs by providing assistance for training and participation of sportspersons/teams in international tournaments abroad, organization of national/international tournaments in India, coaching/training of the teams under Indian and foreign coaches, procurement of equipment and provision of the requisite technical and scientific back-up etc. Long Term Development Plans, linked with the 4-year cycles of all major international events are prepared by the NSFs and the SAI for different disciplines, based on which assistance as mentioned above is provided.

(c) It is a fact that there is need to expand and strengthen sports infrastructure in the country. There has been improvement in the performance of Indian sportspersons in the recent years and efforts are being made continuously to further improve the same through focused action as indicated in part (b).

(d) Till 31-3-2005, the Government of India was providing financial assistance to State Governments, Schools, Universities, NGOs etc. for creation/development of sports infrastructure. However, these schemes were transferred to the State sector with effect from 1.4.2005 and, accordingly, no provision is now made for new infrastructure projects under the schemes and it is the responsibility of the State Governments to do so from their own resources. However, in recognition of the shortage of sports facilities in the rural areas, and the consequent lack of access to organize sports and games for a large section of the youth and potentially talented sportspersons, consideration is being given in the Ministry to the promotion of a Panchayati Raj Yuva Khel Abhiyan in collaboration with various stakeholders including Panchayati Raj institutions, youth organizations, education institutions, etc.; the proposal will be finalized after necessary consultations with the Ministries and organizations concerned as also the State Governments. Thereafter, approval of the competent authority will be sought.