



Shiva Keshavan K P
5-time Olympian & 2-time Asian Champion

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To
Shri. Sarbananda Sonowal
Honorable Minister,
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Government of India, New Delhi 110001

22 January 2016
cc: PM Office

Subject: Urgent appeal to support Indian Olympian and Asian Champion

Respected Hon'ble Minister Sir,

I am writing to apprise you on my performance for India this current competitive Season 2015-16.

It is known that your esteemed Ministry granted me INR 10 lakhs as Coach Salary

I was able to represent India in 2 World Cups out of a total of 9 World Cups and 1 Asian Championship, with expenses paid for out of personal funds and loans.

My best results for the competitions are:

1. Personal Best timing with 15th Place at Nations Cup in Lake Placid, USA
2. Silver Medal at Asian Championship in Nagano, Japan

Unfortunately for India, I have been forced to withdraw from the World Championships and the 5 remaining races on the World Cup circuit since the Ministry has not addressed my application for full funding.

My Coach, Mr. Duncan Kennedy, who was granted only 1/3rd of his salary by your Ministry has also resigned since he has been given no communication from the Ministry about his continuation as the coach.

The withdrawal from the World Championship will no doubt be an embarrassment for our country since many important dignitaries like the IOC President Mr. Thomas Bach, the IOC Sport Director Mr. Kit McConnell and the International Federation President Mr. Josef Fendt are attending and our country shall not be competing despite our earlier qualification and registration.

This is indeed a sorry situation for us as the next 2 winter Olympic Games are set to be held in Asia (Korea 2018 and China 2022), and I remain the only active medal winner in winter sports for India



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At present I do not have any government support or corporate sponsorship. I am ready with my training, form and equipment, but I do not have any funds to cover expenses.

I have submitted applications under NSDF numerous times over the past 2 years, and again recently in January 2016. The 2 documents recently submitted are:

1. Application for Award for Silver Medal in Asian Championship
2. Application under NSDF for training, competition and coaching related expenses

I sincerely urge you to look into this matter personally.

I have dedicated 20 years to the country and the sport and am still willing to continue to represent India as well as lend my experience to make a difference for all the aspiring young winter sports athletes, but I need full support from you and the Ministry.

As the Honorable Minister for Sport, I hope you will heed my humble plea and not let winter sports and Indian athletes needlessly suffer while we fight for our country.

I remain available for any assistance that you require from me.

With best regards,

Shiva Keshavan