

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:302
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
SCHEME FOR RURAL SPORTS PROGRAMME
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

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

- (a) whether the scheme of `Rural Sports Programme` was launched in 1970-71 with a view to broadbasing games and sports and tapping the hidden talent in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the extent to which this scheme has been implemented so far;
- (c) the amount being allocated to the States in this regard;
- (d) whether the Union Government are monitoring the progress of the implementation of this scheme; and
- (e) if so, the extent to which the scheme has been successful ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 302 13.08.2001 REGARDING SCHEME FOR RURAL SPORTS PROGRAMME ASKED BY SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGIAN Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since 1970-71 till date, the competitions are organised for the boys and girls at Block, District, State and National levels. The competitions upto the State level are organised by the States/ UTs. According to the present pattern of financial assistance, funds are made available to the States/ UTs for State/UT level competitions. The National level competitions are organised by the Sports Authority of India on behalf of the Government of India in collaboration with the host States/ UTs. The number of participants at the National level tournament, which was 239 in 1970-71, has now gone up considerably to 2015.

In order to broad-base games and sports in the otherwise neglected areas of the North Eastern States and to tap the hidden talent which is in abundance there, the Government of India approved the scheme of Sports Festival for the North Eastern Region in 1986-87 and made it a component of the Rural Sports Programme.

(c) Financial assistance for holding the State level tournaments is provided to the State Governments at the rate of Rs.30,000/- per discipline upto 10 disciplines for organisation of State level sports tournaments. In the case of Union Territories, this assistance is given at the rate of Rs.15, 000/- per discipline.

For National level tournament a financial assistance of Rs.2.00 lakh per discipline is made available to the Sports Authority of India (SAI), who conducts the tournaments in various states by rotation.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Since the inception of the scheme, tournaments at National level are being organised regularly. States and UTs are also organizing lower level competitions. The scheme has helped to make young boys and girls in rural areas sports conscious and has provided them an opportunity to participate at various levels of competition.