

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:277  
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001  
SAGS IN TRIBAL/HILLY AREAS  
N.T. SHANMUGAM

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

- (a) whether the Special Area Games Scheme (SAGS) is being implemented to scout and nourish natural talent for modern competitive games and sports and tribal, rural and hilly areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the Government's stand to educate the villagers to inculcate the genetically gifted individuals in a particular sports discipline under this scheme in Tamil Nadu especially in Vellore district and its surroundings; and
- (d) if not, the reasons thereof;

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKIRISHNAN)

(a)&(b) : Yes Sir. Special Area Games Schemes aims at scouting and nurturing natural talent for modern competitive sports and games from inaccessible tribals, rural and coastal areas of the country. The scheme envisages tapping of talent from indigenous games and martial arts also from regions which are either genetically or geographically advantageous for excellence in a particular sports discipline. The main objective of the scheme is to train meritorious sports persons in the age group of 14-20 years. The trainees admitted into these schemes are provided boarding and lodging facilities, sports kits, sports equipment, competitive exposure, insurance and medical expenses etc.

(c)&(d) : Wide publicity is given to the Scheme and efforts are made to identify talented genetically gifted trainees and train them for modern competitive sports. At present there is one SAG Centre functioning at Nagercoil with 21 trainees in the discipline of Athletics and Karate.