

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:14

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010

SPORTS OPPORTUNITY TO RURAL YOUTH

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

- (a) whether the Government has any scheme for promoting traditional sports/games in the country including rural and hilly areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether rural youth were given opportunity to participate in the games/sports organized in the country /abroad;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the names of games organized in the country and abroad in which rural youth participated during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a) to (e) Yes, Madam. A centrally sponsored scheme entitled 'Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan' (PYKKA) is implementing through the state governments/Union Territories administrations from 2008-09 for creation of basic sports infrastructure and promotion of sports and games, including traditional sports and games in all village and block panchayats of the country. The scheme envisage to cover around 2.50 lakh village panchayats and 6,400 block panchayats (including their equivalent units) in a phased manner over a period of 10 years at an annual coverage of 10% and (the coverage will be 20% in the case of special category states including North Eastern States).

Under the PYKKA scheme, annual Competitions with 100% central assistance are conducted at block, district, state and national level. National Competitions in four groups comprising 16 sports disciplines including traditional games like archery, kabaddi, kho-kho and wrestling were held in 2009-10 and around 4,505 rural youth participated in the competitions. During 2009-10 National level competitions were held under Group-1 consisting of Athletics, Basketball, Taekwondo, Wrestling and Weightlifting in Chennai in November, 2009; Group-II consisting of Football, Badminton and Table Tennis held at Sports Authority of India(SAI), Central Center ,Bhopal in January, 2010; Group-III consisting of Archery, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho and Boxing held at Anandpur Sahib (Punjab) in January, 2010 and Group-IV consisting of Judo, Handball and Hockey held at Chhitradurga (Karnataka) in January, 2010. This scheme is not only expected to promote mass participation in sports but would also eventually lead to expansion in the talent base amongst rural youth, including tribal areas, which would then lead to better performance in international competitions.

Further, scheme of Special Area Games (SAG) is implemented by Sports Authority of India (SAI) under which, sports talent in tribal areas is identified and nurtured. The trainees, who are in the age group of 14 to 21 years, are admitted in the training centres on residential and non-residential basis. They are provided with sports kit, sports equipments, competition exposure, insurance, medical expenses, etc. There are 21 centres wherein 1142 boys and 775 girls are now being trained.