

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:65  
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010  
POPULARISATION OF SPORTS  
Mandal Shri Mangani Lal

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

- (a) whether due to excessive stress on cricket the country is lagging behind the international standards in the field of other sports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether sports like hockey, football, volleyball etc. are losing popularity due to weak financial support and neglect by the Government; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): While cricket is an extremely popular game in the country, the Government does not provide any financial assistance to the Board of Control for Cricket in India, as they are self sufficient. With regard to other sports disciplines, Government provides financial assistance to the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned for the promotion and development of their respective sports, including holding of national championships and preparation of national teams.

(c) & (d): No, Madam. The Government is providing liberal financial support to hockey, football, volleyball and other mass sports. Similarly, comprehensive Action Plans have been put in place for preparation of teams for the Commonwealth Games-2010 and Asian Games-2010.