

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012

STANDARD OF SPORTS

Singh Shri Ijyaraj ;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified the reasons for the declining standard of sports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the situation;
- (c) whether the National Sports Federation is solely responsible for the declining standard of sports;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a)to(e): It is not true that standards of sports are declining in the country. There has been perceptible improvement of country's performance in the international sports events as is evident from the medals won by Indian sportspersons/teams in Beijing Olympics-2008, Asian Games 2010, Commonwealth Games-2010, 11th South Asian Games 2010 and World championships, Asian Championships and Commonwealth Championships of in specific sports disciplines. Further the Government took several initiatives addressing challenges regarding Sports facilities, training and coaching.

For broadbasing of sports at the grassroots level, the Government introduced the Scheme of Panchayat Yuva Krida aur khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) which provides for creation of basic sports facilities in all village panchayats and block panchayats of the country in a phased manner over a period of 10 years and access to organized sports competitions at block, district, state and national levels. This Scheme is not only expected to promote mass participation in sports but would also eventually lead to expansion in the talent base, which would, then lead to better performances in international competitions.

For creation/development of sports infrastructure in urban areas, the Ministry has introduced the Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) on pilot basis from 2010-11.

For improving the performance in mega sports events such as Olympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, the Ministry took special initiatives in consultation with National Sports Federations. For preparation our athletes for Beijing Olympics, 2008, the Government identified the disciplines in which the country had medal prospects and prepared plan in consultation with Sports Authority of India and concerned National Sports Federations for comprehensive and intensive training of the sportspersons.

For preparation of our athletes in Commonwealth Games 2010, Scheme of Preparation of Indian Athletes/Teams for Commonwealth Games 2010 with outlay of Rs. 678 crore was put in place for providing comprehensive and intensive training and exposure to Indian sportspersons, both domestically and abroad. For preparation of athletes for Asian Games 2010, which were held one month after Commonwealth Games 2010, in order to ensure a level playing field to the disciplines which were included in Asian Games 2010 but not in Commonwealth Games 2010, the Ministry decided to adopt the norms of Scheme of Preparation of Indian Athletes/Teams for Commonwealth Games 2010 for the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federation as the ceiling for assistance for such sports disciplines. For this purpose, action plans were drawn up in consultation with concerned National Sports Federations and the Sports Authority of India for providing assistance towards coaching camps, sports equipments, engagement of Indian and Foreign Coaches and support personnel, participation in international competition and training abroad etc.

For preparation of our athletes/teams for forthcoming London Olympics 2012, the Ministry has launched "Operation Excellence for London Olympics 2012", (OPEX 2012) project. Under OPEX 2012, the athletes are being provided comprehensive and intensive training, both within the country and abroad as well as competition exposure in international sports competitions. Funds for preparation of athletes for London Olympics are being provided at norms, which are at par with scales for Commonwealth Games 2010, with further upscaling in certain areas, such as lodging, nutrition, scientific support and daily allowance.