

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2688
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
PROMOTING SPORTS IN RURAL AREAS
Singh Smt. Meena

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

- (a) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to promote sports at gram panchayat level in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Sports Authority Council in view of discrimination, partiality and extravagant expenditure in sports;
- (c) if so, the time by which the said council is likely to be constituted in the interest of the sportspersons;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) The Government of India is running a scheme to promote sports at gram panchayat level in the rural areas of the country in the form of the 'Panchayat Yuva Krirda Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) scheme, which was introduced in 2008-09, aimed at development of playfields in all the village and block panchayats across the country in a phased manner and conduct of annual sports competitions for providing ample opportunity of participation in competitions to rural youth. Around 54,999 Village/block panchayats have been covered under the PYKKA Scheme, for the last four years and current year (upto 31.07.2012). Annual sports competitions are conducted at block, district, state and national level. More than 28 lakh rural men and women participated in the annual sports competitions held during 2011-12.
- (b) No, Madam.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) & (e): Sports is a state subject and the primary responsibility to develop sports in a proper way is that of the State Governments. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments. As far as fair selection of players is concerned, the responsibility mainly lies with the sports federations. The Central Government does not interfere with the selection process.