

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3365
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
CONSTRUCTION OF SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE
Pakkirappa Shri S.;Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje

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

- (a) whether the Central Assistance provided by the Union Government for the construction of sports infrastructure to various State Governments has been discontinued;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Central Assistance is likely to be restored or a separate fund is proposed to be provided to the State Governments and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken note of the slow pace of construction work of Central Regional Centre of Sports Authority of India; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be completed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS(SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The erstwhile centrally sponsored sports infrastructure schemes were discontinued w.e.f. 01-04-2005 and shifted to the state sector by the Planning Commission as part of their exercise to rationalize and reduce the number of centrally sponsored schemes.

(c) The matter of revival of erstwhile Sports Infrastructure Schemes was discussed at the Conference of State Sports Ministers held in 2009 and 2010, and it was unanimously resolved to introduce a comprehensive scheme for supporting the creation of urban sports infrastructure. Thereafter, this matter was taken up with the Planning Commission during the Mid-term Review of the Xlth Plan as well as the Annual Plan discussions. The Planning Commission agreed in principle for the introduction of a comprehensive scheme for promotion of Urban Sports Infrastructure on a pilot scale.

Accordingly, in the year 2010-2011 Government approved introduction of a central scheme titled 'Scheme of Assistance for the creation of Urban Sports Infrastructure' on pilot basis with a view to addressing the entire 'sports eco-system' holistically i.e. players' training and development, coaching and infrastructure.

Under the Scheme, financial assistance is made available to States etc for creation and development of sports infrastructure such as synthetic athletic tracks, astroturfs, football grounds and multi-purpose halls. The Scheme also focuses on promoting and supporting a mechanism at national and state level to encourage, assist and preserve community playfields, incentivizing utilization of infrastructure already available in the State at all levels by filling up critical gaps, creating need-based infrastructure and creating capacity building among coaches including community coaches.

(d)&(e) All the sanctioned works at the Central Regional Centre, Bhopal of Sports Authority of India have been completed except laying of Synthetic Athletic Track. It is difficult to indicate any definite time-frame for completion of the project, as this is dependent on a number of factors.