

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4238

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013

CONSERVATION AND PROMOTION OF TRIBAL SPORTS

Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Tandon Annu

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any special scheme is being implemented by the Government for conservation and promotion of tribal sports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the institute set up at national level for coordination of activities in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Traditional Skill Development Mission to protect tribal folk art forms and crafts as tangible and intangible cultural heritage; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SMT. RANEE NARAH)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and the Sports Authority of India lay adequate emphasis on promotion of indigenous and traditional games of the country such as archery, chess, hockey, atya patya, malkhamb, wrestling, tug-of war etc. Further, talented youth from tribal areas are scouted and nurtured under the Special Area Games (SAG) scheme of the Sports Authority of India. SAG scheme aims at scouting natural talent for sports and games from inaccessible tribal, rural and coastal areas of the country and nurturing them scientifically for achieving excellence. The scheme envisages tapping of talent from indigenous games and martial arts and also from regions/communities which are either genetically or geographically advantageous for excellence in particular sports disciplines. The scheme is to train sports persons in the age group of 12-18 years. The trainers admitted under the SAG Scheme are provided free boarding and lodging facilities, sports kit, sports equipment, competition exposure, insurance, medical expenses, etc.

(d) to (e) : Ministry of Tribal Affairs has no proposal to set up a National Traditional Skill Development Mission to protect tribal folk art forms and crafts as tangible and intangible cultural heritage. However, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs runs a Centrally Sponsored Scheme: Research & Training-Grants-in-Aid to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), under which funds are provided to the State Governments for various activities performed by these institutes which include, conducting research on different aspects of tribal life including their languages and art and culture and also setting up of tribal museums for exhibiting tribal artifacts and promotion of tribal culture. Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, also organizes a National Tribal Festival to showcase a holistic picture of tribal culture and heritage in all its vibrance and colours. The Festival provides glimpses of rich cultural heritage through unique forms of folk dances. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs also supports State Government/ Union Territories in organizing tribal festivals in their own environment. Grants are given to various cultural organizations under the Ministry of Culture for providing financial assistance to promote and preserve various cultures and cultural activities including Tribal Culture and activities connected therewith.