

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:727

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009

DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRAINING

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

- (a) whether sports is not being accorded highest priority in India as compared to several other countries in the world;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether shortage of infrastructural facilities and training to sports persons in the country is seriously affecting their performance in various international events;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government/Sports Authority of India (SAI) proposes to enhance the infrastructural facilities and training to sports persons in the country;and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds provided by the Government/SAI to all the States during each of the last three years and the current year; State-wise ?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The National Sports Policy accords high priority to both mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports. With a view to achieving these objectives, Government, for the first time, has introduced a Nation-wide scheme in 2008-09 to provide basic sports facilities at the village and block panchayat level, including access to rural sports competitions. The scheme envisages to cover all panchayats and their equivalent units over a 10 year period @ 10% per annum. Similarly, Government also supports the National Sports Federations in the promotion and development of sports, especially in the preparation of national athletes. Comprehensive plans have been put in place for training of national teams for the Commonwealth Games -2010 and Asian Games -2010. It is expected that these efforts will enable India to perform better in major international events, especially in the long run, through expansion of the talent base.

(e) & (f): The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has a large network of sports training centres and special area games centres, which are located all over the country, besides major Regional Centres. These are being continuously upgraded to provide State-of-the-art training facilities to both budding and established sportspersons. The States are being funded under the Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) to establish basic sports infrastructure in block and village panchayats. Details regarding release of funds since inception of the scheme is Annexed.