

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:194

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015

PROMOTION OF SPORTS IN RURAL AREAS

Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad; Mondal Shri Sunil Kumar

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

(a) the details of programmes/schemes being implemented by the Government for the development and promotion of sports in rural areas of the country and the funds allocated, released and utilised for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT and scheme wise;

(b) the details of schemes being implemented by the Government to provide sports training and other facilities to the rural youth to develop their sports talent along with the financial assistance provided to them during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to promote and develop traditional and indigenous games and sports in the country including rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated/released for the purpose during the said period, State/UT and sports discipline-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 194 FOR 10/03/2015 ASKED BY SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA AND SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL, MPS REGARDING PROMOTION OF SPORTS IN RURAL AREAS

(a) The Central Government is implementing only one Centrally Sponsored Scheme specifically aimed at development and promotion of sports in rural areas of the country, namely, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) [erstwhile Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA)] under which construction of a sports complex in each block of the country both for outdoor and indoor sports disciplines on land measuring about six - seven acres at a total cost of Rs. 1.60 crore (Rs. 80 lakh each for outdoor playfield and indoor sports hall) will be undertaken. Under the RGKA, there is also provision for conducting of annual sports competitions viz., Rural Sports Competitions, Women Sports Competitions, North East Games and Competitions in Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas. Further details about the RGKA Scheme is enclosed at Annexure - I. Since both the above Schemes are demand driven, funds are not allocated under the said Scheme State/UT wise. However, State/UT wise details of funds released during the last three years and the current year are enclosed at Annexure - II to IV.

(b) Apart from the RGKA, there is no other scheme being implemented by the Government specifically for providing sports training facilities and other facilities to the rural youth to develop their sports talent. However, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has the following Sports Promotional Schemes aimed at talent scouting, imparting of training and provision of sports facilities in various parts of the country:

- i. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
- ii. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
- iii. SAI Training Centres (STC)
- iv. Special Area Games (SAG) Extension Centres of STC/SAGs
- v. Centre of Excellence (COE)

The Government also provides full assistance for intensive coaching of the national teams through national coaching camps organized by the Sports Authority of India besides providing Foreign Exposures/ Competitions and State of the art equipments. The Government also provides financial assistance under National Sports Development Fund for various activities including giving assistance to elite athletes, who are medal prospects for their customized and tailor-made training and competition exposure and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Department of Sports) have formulated 'NSDF Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme' in the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) with the objective of identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games.

(c) & (d) The RGKA Scheme aims at providing sporting facilities at the Block Level Sports Complex for 11 outdoor sports disciplines, namely, Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Basketball, Football, Handball, Hockey, Kabbadi, Kho-Kho, Tennis and Volley ball. Out of these 11 outdoor sports disciplines, 5 sports disciplines namely Athletics, Badminton; Football / Hockey; Kabbadi / Kho-Kho and Volley ball / Basketball are compulsory. Out of the balance 6 outdoor sports disciplines, the States will have an option to select any

three or all disciplines. However, with a view to promote and develop traditional and indigenous games, the RGKA provides that the States will also have an option to substitute any of the balance 3 outdoor sports disciplines out of the 11 outdoor sports disciplines with any sport / game of local importance and demand.

Further, unique sports traditions have developed in the Himalayan region in the countries and the states that are a part of it. To promote these, the Government proposes to start an annual event to promote these games. In this event, countries such as Nepal and Bhutan are proposed to be invited to participate in addition to the Indian states such as J&K, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and the North Eastern States.

In addition, the Indigenous Games and Martial Arts (IGMA) Scheme forms part of the National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme of the SAI.

No funds have been released for creation of infrastructure (Block Level Sports Complex) under RGKA till now. As regards the annual event in the Himalayan region to promote unique sports traditions developed there, the proposal is still in conceptual stage. Therefore, it is not possible to provide further details at this juncture. The budget provision is made for the NSTC Scheme as a whole and not separately for IGMA.