

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3412

ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015

PROMOTION OF SPORTS AMONG TRIBALS

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

- (a) the number of sports persons belonging SC/ST/OBC communities, dalit and backward in the country, State/UTwise;
- (b) the details of sports persons from tribal areas who have participated in various National and International sporting competitions within and outside the country, sports discipline-wise;
- (c) the details of schemes implemented by the Government to search talented sports persons from tribal community and to provide them sports training in the country, State/UT and scheme-wise; and
- (d) whether new players from tribal community are not getting proper facilities to compete at national and international sporting competitions and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) The Ministry does not maintain caste and community-wise data about the number of sportspersons.
- (b) Sportspersons from tribal areas participating in various national and international sports competitions in various disciplines. However, the Ministry does not maintain separate data about such sportspersons.
- (c) Following schemes are being implemented by Sports Authority of India, an autonomous body under administrative control of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, which aim at talent identification and nurturing of identified talented sportspersons, including tribal community:
 - (a) National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC): The main objective of the scheme is to identify gifted and talented sportspersons among school children in the age group of 8-14 years.
 - (b) Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC) is implemented in collaboration with the Army. Children in the age group of 8-16 years are imparted scientific training to achieve excellence at national and international levels. The scheme also provides job opportunities in the Indian Army.
 - (c) Special Area Games (SAG): This Scheme follows an area-specific approach to scout and nurture talent for modern competitive games and sports from tribal, rural, coastal and hilly areas of the country. The main objective of the scheme is to train talented and meritorious sportspersons in the age group of 12-18 years.
 - (d) SAI Training Centres (STC): Under this scheme, talented youth in the age group of 12-18 years are given the option to join the scheme on residential or non-residential basis.
 - (e) Centres of Excellence (COX): The main objective of this scheme is to identify and train outstanding sportspersons who are medal prospects for the country in international competitions. Further, talent identification is done through from following sports competitions conducted under Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), which includes sportspersons from tribal community as well:
 - (i) rural competitions
 - (ii) women competitions
 - (iii) North East Games
 - (iv) competitions conducted in Left Wing Extremism-affected areas (LWEAA)Further, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has recently introduced National Sports Talent Search Scheme, which would apply to sportspersons from tribal areas also. The Scheme has following objectives:
 - (i) Identification of sporting talent among students in the age group of 8-12 years (for admission in Class IV to Class VI) who possess

inborn qualities such as anthropometric, physical and physiological capabilities without any anatomical infirmities

(ii) Nurturing of the Sporting Potential / talent in District level Sports schools / Central Sports Schools / National Sports Academies etc., to make them excel at the national and international sports competitions.

(d) New players from tribal community are also getting facilities to compete at national and international sporting competitions under various schemes of the Government and SAI. Constant efforts are made to provide them better facilities subject to availability of resource.