

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3448  
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO MEN AND WOMEN  
Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

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

- (a) whether the Government gives grading to the sports persons in some categories for making the payments to them accordingly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the discriminations made against women players in the hockey and other sports;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for increasing participation of the women including those belonging to Scheduled Castes in sports;
- (e) whether any initiative has been taken by the Government for active participation of girls/ women in national and international sporting events; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the achievement made as a result thereof and the steps taken/ being taken by the Government for promoting girls/women through sports education?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The Government does not give any grading for making payments to sportspersons. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has not made any discrimination against women players in the discipline of hockey and other sports disciplines, as all the schemes of the Ministry including the scheme of Special Awards for Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches', under which cash awards for winning medals in international sports events are given, are gender neutral and sportswomen and sportsmen are treated equally.

Further, sports competitions are organized exclusively for women at block, district, State and national levels under Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), apart from other sports competitions organized under RGKA, in which both men and women sportspersons participate.

(d) All Schemes of the Ministry and the Sports Authority of India aiming at participation of sportspersons including those belonging to scheduled castes are gender neutral and are inclusive schemes and equally applicable to women sportspersons.

(e) & (f): Schemes of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Sports Authority of India aiming at participation in sports events at national and international level are equally applicable to women sportspersons.

Under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations, the NSFs are given financial assistance to conduct national championships for women also in various categories namely senior, junior and sub-junior. The assistance is primarily for the purpose of providing boarding and lodging, transportation etc to participants.

Further, the Scheme of National Championships for Women, which was started in 1975, aimed at promotion of sports amongst women. Under this Scheme, national level competitions were preceded by holding of lower level competitions (District & State level) for which States/ UTs were provided financial assistance as per norms. The Scheme of National Championship for Women was integrated with erstwhile Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) now revised as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) and the Ministry provides assistance to States for conduct of sports competitions at block, district, State and national levels.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, has been enacted, making elementary education a Fundamental Right, which, inter alia, provides for

- (i) a play ground for each school;
- (ii) A part time instructor for physical education in upper primary school;
- (iii) Supply of play material, games and sports equipment, as required, to schools.

In terms of the provisions of the RTE Act, no school shall be established or recognized unless it fulfils the norms specified in the Schedule attached to the Act.

Further, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made it mandatory for all schools affiliated to it to provide one compulsory period for sports upto 10th class and two periods in a week for classes 11 and 12.

