

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1214

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2015

Review of Sports Schemes

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that importance is being given only to cricket and other sports in the country are in a state of neglect;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the details of sportspersons/coaches provided financial assistance and other incentives during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT and scheme/ sports discipline-wise;
- (d) whether the Government conducts periodical reviews of its schemes; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof and the deficiencies identified in the working of these schemes and the corrective steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of the schemes during the said period, scheme-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No Madam, it is not true that the Government is giving importance to cricket only and neglecting other sports in the country.

Primary responsibility for promotion and development of specific sports disciplines is that of the concerned National Sports Federations (NSFs). However, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Sports Authority of India supplement the efforts of NSFs.

The Ministry does not provide any financial assistance to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Although BCCI has not been officially recognized by the Ministry, but since International Cricket Council (ICC) recognizes BCCI as the apex body for promotion of cricket in India, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports provides only clearance from sports angle for organizing international Cricket matches in India by BCCI and participation of national team in international events abroad at no cost to the Government subject to clearances from Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs.

The Ministry provides financial assistance to recognized NSFs under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) towards conduct of national championships in Senior, Junior and Sub-junior categories both for men and women, conduct of international tournaments in India, participation of Indian sportspersons and teams in international tournaments abroad, organizing coaching camps, etc.

(c) The Ministry provides lump sum ex-gratia financial assistance from the National Welfare Fund to the sportspersons of yesteryears and their families, who are now living in indigent conditions. The Ministry gives cash awards to medal winners in international sports events under its scheme of Special Awards to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches. The Ministry provides lifelong monthly pension to Meritorious sportspersons who have won medals in Olympics Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships in the disciplines of Olympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, and Paralympic Games, after they retire from active sports or they attain the age of 30 years, whichever is later.

Details of financial assistance given from National Welfare Fund to sportspersons are given in Annexure.

(d) & (e): The Ministry reviews its schemes from time to time in consultation with the concerned stakeholders such as State Governments, sportspersons, coaches, Indian Olympic Association, Sports Authority of India and National Sports Federations (NSFs). Based on review, the schemes are reviewed and revised. Recently, the scheme of Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) was reviewed and in its place, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) scheme has been introduced on 21st February, 2014. Scheme of Special Awards to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their coaches has been revised on 29th January, 2015, in which apart from enhancement of award money, sports events belonging to para-sports and Special Olympics, Deaf Sports and Blind Sports have been included. Schemes for Rajiv Gandhi Kehl Ratna Awards, Arjuna Awards, Dronacharya Awards and Dhyanchand Awards have been reviewed and revised on 23rd February, 2015.

A new scheme namely National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS) has been formulated on 20.02.2015 for talent identification in age group of 8-12 years and nurturing of identified talented sportspersons.
