

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5563
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
SCHEMES FOR PROMOTION OF ATHLETICS
Ajmal Shri Sirajuddin

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

- (a) whether the Government has appointed a high powered panel to rationalise various schemes for the welfare of Youth and Promotion of Athletics;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of programmes/schemes implemented to promote athletics and the number of training centres set up for the purpose along with the number of athletes benefited therefrom during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UTwise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to tap rural talent and provide training to such athletes in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote sports in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. A Committee each has been formed in Department of Youth Affairs and Department of Sports under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Youth Affairs) and Director General, Sports Authority of India (SAI) respectively to rationalize various schemes for the welfare of Youth and promotion of sports, including Athletics.

(c) The primary responsibility for the development and promotion of a sports discipline rests with the State Governments and the concerned recognized National Sports Federation (NSF), which in the case of athletics is the Athletics Federation of India (AFI). The Government supplements the efforts off the NSFs by providing financial assistance for holding national/international sports events in India, participation of sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, training/coaching of national level sportspersons/teams through Indian and foreign coaches, procurement of equipment and consumables etc. as per agreed Long Term Development Plans.

At State level, it is the responsibility of state level federations and the concerned State Governments to develop various sports disciplines. Apart from this, the Sports Authority of India is running the following promotional schemes in which athletics is one of the disciplines and training by experienced coaches with scientific back up is provided to the players to achieve excellence at national/international level:

- (1) National Sports Talent Scheme (NSTC)
- (2) Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
- (3) SAI Training Centre (STC)
- (4) Special Area Games (SAG)
- (5) Centre of Excellence (COE)

SAI has sports promotion schemes where training in the disciplines off Athletics is imparted. These schemes are :

National Sports Talent Contest

Army Boys Sports Companies

#SAI Training Centres,

#Special Area Games,

Extension Centres of STC/SAG

National Sports Academies

Scheme-wise and Centre-wise details of Athletics discipline for the last 3 years is provided at Annexure.

The Induction process for year 2015-16 has just started. Therefore, no figures can be presented for the current year.

(d) & (e): The Government taps rural talent through Annual Sports Competitions under Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) Scheme. The talented youth identified during National Level Sports Competitions under Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan are considered for admission under various Sports Authority of India (SAI) schemes, if found otherwise eligible. The Sports Authority of India also spots and nurtures athletes from all sections of the society. Its catchment area includes rural and tribal areas.

Ministry has also launched National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS), which aims to identify the sporting talented children (Both Boys and Girls) in the age group of 8-12 in schools all over the country by conducting 6 battery of tests at each selection level on student in each school of block and develop them so as to enable them to participate in National and International sports events. The guidelines for the above scheme have been issued to all the Principal Sec ret ary/Sec ret ary of Sports of all States/UTs on 20th February, 2015. The scheme is proposed to be implemented from 2015- 16 onwards.

2000 children (1000 boys and 1000 girls), who will be identified under NSTSS, will be admitted for further training in the following schemes:

- (1) Junior Sports Academies
- (2) State Sports Academies/Sports Hostels run by State Governments
- (3) State Sports Scholarships
- (4) State Sports Schools
- (5) Central Sports Schools and
- (6) Sports Training Centre (STC)/Special Area Games (SAG) of Sports Authority of India (SAI).