

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:433

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014

SPORTING CULTURE

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Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any programme for developing sporting culture among the schools/colleges going children/youths in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to include sports in the school curriculum through a law; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As Sports is a State subject, the primary responsibility for developing sporting culture among the school/college going children/youth in the country is that of States. However, Department of Sports and Sports and the Sports Authority of India supplement the efforts of the States. School Games Federation of India (SGFI) and Association of Indian Universities (AIU) have been recognized by the Government of India as National Sports Promotion Organizations (NSPOs) and are eligible for the same level of assistance as are available to National Sports Federations (NSFs).

For identifying the talent and nurturing and training the identified talent in the age group of 8 to 25 years, which is mainly from schools and colleges, the Sports Authority of India is running the following schemes:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) SAI Training Centres (STC): Under this scheme, talented youth in the age group of 14-21 years are given the option to join the scheme on residential or non-residential basis.
- (v) Centres of Excellence (COE): The main objective of this scheme is to identify and train outstanding sportspersons in the age group of 12 to 25 years who are medal prospects for the country in international competitions.

Trainees under the above-mentioned schemes are provided with stipend, sports kit, accidental insurance as well as competition exposure.

(c) & (d) 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.