

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3747
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014
TALENT SEARCH IN SPORTS
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to identify and nurture the sports talent in the country including in rural areas, Scheme wise;
- (b) whether the existing systems for identifying and nurturing the young talent in rural and urban areas are not working effectively;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Sports is a State subject. However, Government of India through Sports Authority of India (SAI) is implementing various sports promotional schemes to identify and nurture sports talent in the country including rural areas. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) scheme of Sports Authority of India (SAI) is making every effort to engage young boys and girls in the age group of 8-14 years from school and nurture them by providing scientific training. Following are distinct Schemes of NSTC:-

- i) Indigenous Games and Martial Arts (IGMA)
- ii) Akharas
- iii) Regular School of NSTC Scheme

Further, the Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) Scheme is joint venture of the Army and SAI wherein boys in the age group of 8-16 years are inducted under the scheme and after attaining the age of 17 years, the trainees are enrolled in Army.

In addition to above, the Government is also considering a proposal known as National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS) under which it is proposed to identify sporting talent among students in the age group of 8 to 12 years and to nurture them so as to enable them to participate in National and International sports events. At present this is at a conceptual stage only and therefore it would not be possible to furnish details at this juncture.

(b) to (d) No Madam. The existing system is working satisfactorily. However sports promotional schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI) are currently under review. The objective of the restructuring is to rationalize the resources available with the scheme in operation.