

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4881
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014
SPORTS TALENTS
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Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the allocation under the 'Scheme for identification and nurturing of sports talents' has been reduced in 2014-15 as compared to 2013-2014;
- (b) if so, the reason therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has not given priority for identification and nurturing of sports talents in the country;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to encourage sports talents in the country;
- (e) whether the Government has allocated Rs. 50 crore for 'National Sports Talent Search Scheme'; and
- (f) if so, the objectives of the scheme?

Answer

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

(a) No Scheme for identification and nurturing of sports talents was being implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports during 2013-14. It was in conceptual stage only.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) 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 sub-Schemes of NSTC:-

i) Indigenous Games and Martial Arts (IGMA)ii) Akharasiii) 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 ½ years, the trainees are enrolled in Army. The other schemes of the SAI which help in scouting of sporting talent and nurturing them are the SAI Training Centre (STC) Scheme, the Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme, Extension Centres of STC/SAG and Centre of Excellence (COE).

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. An amount of Rs.50 crore has been allocated by the Government for this purpose during the current financial year. At present, this is at a conceptual stage only and therefore it would not be possible to furnish further details at this juncture.