

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:217  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005  
RURAL SPORTS PROGRAMME  
Baitha Shri Kailash;Jogi Shri Ajit

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

- (a) whether Rural Sports Programme launched in 1970-71 have achieved its desired objectives;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has not been able to harness emerging sports talents in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to promote sports activities in the country specially in rural areas?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 217 FOR 07.12.2005 REGARDING RURAL SPORT PROGRAMME ASKED BY SHRI KAILASH BAITHA AND SHRI AJIT JOGI

(a) & (b): The Rural Sports Programme was launched in 1970-71 with a view to tapping hidden talent in rural areas. Through this programme, Government has been able to generate awareness and interest in sports amongst the rural masses. This is evident from the increase in the number of participants at the national level competitions. Starting from 239 participants from 5 disciplines in 1970-71, we have now 3099 participants, from 10 disciplines, in 2004-05. This has also helped in spotting of talent hidden in the rural areas. A large number of sportspersons from the rural areas have joined the sports mainstream and are now participating in the regular open competitions organized by the sports associations/federations.

(c) & (d): `Sports` is a State Subject under the Constitution and promotion of the same at State level is mainly the responsibility of the concerned State Governments and respective Federations. However, the Government of India, through its own Schemes and Schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Governments and Federations in promotion of sports. The Schemes of Government of India have definitely contributed in harnessing talents from rural areas.

(e) Under the umbrella scheme of `Incentives for Promotion of Sports Activities` of the Government of India, the Rural Sports Programme is being implemented throughout the country, through the Sports Authority of India. Under this programme financial assistance is provided to the States and Union Territories for organizing sports competitions, in the rural areas, at the district, State and National level.

Sports Authority of India is also implementing the following Sports Promotion schemes in the country :-

1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
2. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
3. SAI Training Centre (STC)
4. Special Area Games (SAG)
5. Centres of Excellence (COX)

The above mentioned schemes also benefit promising sportspersons from rural areas.

In addition, through following components of the Sports Infrastructure scheme under which grants were given till 1.4.2005, Government of India has supported creation of infrastructure:-

- (i) Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure
- (ii) Grant to Rural Schools for Purchase of Sports Equipment and Development of Playground
- (iii) Grant for Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges.
- (iv) Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces.