

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3144  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF SPORTS PERSONS  
Vijayashankar Shri C.H.

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is satisfied with the results of its sports authorities/agencies in producing competitive sports persons in the country;
- (b) if so, the results of international level events in which Indian team have performed well;
- (c) the special schemes in place to identify untapped talents at village levels; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by the Union Government to provide infrastructural facilities such as Indoor/Outdoor stadiums, gyms and trained coaches at block and sub-division level?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): While there is considerable room for improvement in the standard of sports in the country, the performance of Indian sportspersons has shown some improvement. At the Commonwealth Games 2002 held in Manchester, India secured the fourth position and won 69 medals, as against 25 medals won by Indian participants in the earlier Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. In the Commonwealth Games held at Melbourne in 2006, India retained the fourth position despite the fact that certain disciplines, where India has a strong medal winning potential like Wrestling and Judo were not included and the number of medals available in the Weightlifting had been significantly reduced. Indian sportspersons have performed creditably in a number of other international competitions, including the First Afro-Asian Games in Hyderabad and SAF Games in Islamabad in 2004 and various other recent international championships/events. In the Athens Olympics 2004, India won its first ever Silver medal in an individual event since Independence, while some of the Indian sportspersons also gave their best performances. In the Paralympic Games 2004 at Athens, India won 1 gold medal in athletics and 1 bronze medal in power-lifting. Efforts are being made on a continuous basis to try and further improve the standards, performance and achievements of Indian sportspersons.

(c) & (d): The promotion of Sports is primarily the responsibility of State Governments and National Sports Federations. The Government of India, directly and through schemes of the Sports Authority of India

(SAI), augments the efforts of the State Governments and Federations in the promotion of sports.

The Sports Authority of India implements 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) Scheme.
5. Centres of Excellence (COX).

All these schemes, especially NSTC and SAG, also focus on identifying untapped talent from rural areas. These are in addition to the schemes being implemented directly by the Ministry viz., Rural Sports Programme and Scheme for Talent Search and Training.

Till 31.03.2005, the Government of India was supplementing the creation of sports infrastructure in State by means of a centrally sponsored scheme. The scheme included assistance for creation of Indoor/Outdoor Stadia and gyms etc. From 01.04.2005, the scheme has been transferred to State Sector. Accordingly, fresh proposals of infrastructure would have to be funded by State Government out of their own resources.

However, in recognition of the shortage facilities in rural areas, and the consequent lack of access to organized sports and games for a large section of the youth, consideration is being given in the Ministry to the promotion of a Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan in collaboration with various stakeholders, including Panchayat Raj Institutions youth organizations, educational institutions etc. The proposal will be finalized after necessary consultations with the Ministries and Organizations concerned, as also the State Governments. Thereafter, approval of the competent authority will be sought.