

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2712

ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006

PROMOTION OF FOOTBALL

Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Union Government to increase the standard of football at the college and university level in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India has never been able to make a mark in the Olympics in football;
- (d) if so, the reasons for not encouraging the youth to take up football;
- (e) whether any alternate football governing body is likely to be floated to encourage youngsters to take up football; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : Football is one of the identified disciplines under the schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) under which sportspersons with potential are selected and admitted in SAI Sports Centres for regular training in this discipline.

In addition, as per information received from the All India Football Federation (AIFF), various steps are being taken by AIFF to encourage football at the youth level. Inter-State championships for boys & girls for various age groups are being held. Besides this, selection and training camps are held at Zonal & National level.

(c) India's best performance in the Football discipline in the Olympics was in 1956 when the Indian team reached fourth place. However, after the qualifying rounds were introduced after the 1960 Olympics, India participated in the qualifying rounds but has not qualified for the football competition during the Olympics games.

(d) to (f) : In the context of the Scheme for Assistance to National Sports Federations, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has been recognized for the discipline of Football. AIFF have informed the Ministry that youth football will be looked after by a separate Department within AIFF; there will also be Youth Directors appointed by the AIFF.