

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2884
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPORTS
Khair Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) the details of the existing and future plans to encourage sports other than cricket, football, hockey and tennis in the country; and
- (b) the details of plans to upgrade or revamp sports infrastructure in the country?

Answer

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

(a) Sports is a State subject and the promotion of sports is the responsibility of the States. However, the Government of India through its various schemes and also through the schemes of Sports Authority of India augments the efforts of the State Governments in the promotion of sports all over the country.

The Sports Authority of India is the apex body promoting sports in the country. The aims and objectives of SAI are to broadbase Sports at the grassroots level and to achieve excellence in sports at the international level through its various schemes being implemented at the Sub-Junior, Junior & Senior level. Talented young persons are being nurtured and given scientific training in order to improve medal prospects at various international events like the Olympics, World Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games etc. The following are the schemes for promotion and development of sports in the country:

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

At present, there are 10,630 young sportspersons, who have been inducted in these schemes in order to give them scientific training in Athletics, Archery, Basketball, Boxing, Badminton, Cycling, Diving, Equestrian, Football, Fencing, Gymnastics, Hockey, Handball, Judo, Kho-Kho, Karate, Kabaddi, Kayaking & Canoeing, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwando, Rowing, Volleyball, Wushu, Weightlifting & Wrestling.

It is planned to increase the number of trainees to broaden the base. It is also planned during the 10th Plan Period to adopt 100 Navodaya Vidyalayas, which have adequate infrastructure facilities with a view to providing greater balance to village children in sports training. One of the future plans is also to adopt 50 Akharas with trainees and to provide equipment support to 100 upcoming Akharas in the form of wrestling mats or/and multi-gyms during the Tenth Plan Period. SAI also have another scheme with a focus on the school level in rural, semi-urban and coastal areas for promoting indigenous Games & Martial Arts.

(b) As part of the on-going process of upgradation and revamping of sports infrastructure, work in following SAI Centres is in progress: -

1. Northern Regional Centre at Sonapat.
2. Central Regional Centre at Bhopal.
3. Sub-Centre at Lucknow.
4. Sub-Centre at Hazaribagh, Chhatisgarh.
5. SAG Centre at Dhar, MP.

Besides the above-mentioned sites, Sports Infrastructure at existing Centres is being upgraded as per requirements like replacement of the Synthetic Athletic track at Gandhinagar and providing a new one at Lakshmbai National College of Physical Education (LNCPE) Trivandrum, Guwahati, Sonapat, Kandivali. Construction of new Hostels is also being taken up at Patiala and Kolkata.