

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2068
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
PERFORMANCE OF INDIAN ATHLETES
Kuppusami Shri C.

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

- (a) the initiatives taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the performance of Indian athletes and sportspersons in international sporting events;
- (b) the results achieved or likely to be achieved as a result thereof;
- (c) the approach adopted by the Government for the identification and development of athletes and sportspersons in the country and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and
- (d) the amount allocated for the development of sports in the country for the year 2007-08?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PANCHYATI RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANISHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) The primary responsibility for the development of various sports disciplines vests in the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned. The Government supplements their efforts through financial assistance for holding national/international sports events in India, participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, training and arrangements for coaches, both Indian and foreign, procurement of equipment and consumables etc., as per agreed Long Term Development Plans. In this connection, detailed discussions are also being held with the various NSFs and other stakeholders like the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Sports Authority of India (SAI) etc., to further streamline the process of identification and nurturing of talent, development of well-planned strategies for the identification of elite sportspersons capable of winning medals and related training requirements such as exposure and participation in events at the international level, and other measures for the planned development of different sports disciplines. In addition, Government is also providing assistance to meritorious sportspersons for purchase of equipment, provision of scientific support and training and participation within country and abroad, under the `Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training` and through the `National Sports Development Fund`. Efforts are also being made to further expand and strengthen the infrastructure and arrangements for training etc., under the various schemes of the SAI.

(b) As a result of these efforts, there has been improvement in the performance of Indian sportspersons in international events. India won 54 medals in Asian Games, 2006 against 36 medals won in Asian Games 2002 and 234 medals in SAF Games, 2006 against 191 medals in SAF Games, 2004.

(c) Action is being taken by the Sports Authority of India for scouting and nurturing talent and training of the identified sportspersons at the sub-junior, junior and senior levels by providing vital inputs i.e. coaching, infrastructure and equipment support, sports kit and competition exposure etc. under the following schemes:

- (i) National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme;
- (ii) Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) Scheme;
- (iii) SAI Training Centres (STC) Scheme;
- (iv) Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme; and
- (v) Centre for Excellence Scheme.

The number of trainees under SAI has already increased from less than 10,000 at the beginning of 10th Five Year Plan to 13,000 at present. The Ministry is also considering launching a scheme under the title of `Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan` with a view of providing basic sports infrastructure and promoting sports activities at the grass root level, both as an essential ingredient of youth development and for significantly widening the catchments area for the identification and nurturing of sports talent.

(d) A budget provision of Rs. 540.00 crores has been made for the sports during 2007-08.

