

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2069  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007  
PROMOTION OF SPORTS  
Pateriya Smt. Neeta

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any concrete scheme to promote sports in the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether schools and colleges are not giving adequate importance to sports;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the details of the schools and universities from where sportspersons represented in Olympics and Asian Games; and
- (f) the measures taken to promote sports in schools and colleges of the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION  
(SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): Sports is a State subject and the primary responsibility for promotion of sports in their respective States vests with the State Governments, while the responsibility for the development of different sports disciplines lies mainly with the respective National Sports Federations (NSFs) which are autonomous registered institutions.

However, the Government of India is supplementing the efforts of State Governments and NSFs for promotion of sports in the country through the following schemes: -

- (i) Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federation;
  - (ii) Scheme of Talent Search & Training;
  - (iii) Scheme of State Sports Academies;
  - (iv) Scheme relating to Awards;
1. Special Awards to Winner in International Sports event and their Coaches
  2. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award
  3. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy

In addition, the Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in sports, the Dhyan Chand Award for life-time achievement in sports, and Dronacharya Awards for eminent coaches are awarded every year under Non-Plan Scheme.

- (v) Incentive for Promotion of Sports Activities;
1. Pension to Meritorious Sports Persons.
  2. Rural Sports Programme.
  3. Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools.
  4. Sports Scholarships.
  5. National Sports Development Fund. In addition, Sports Authority of India (SAI) implements the following schemes to promote sports

in the country through grants provided by the Ministry:

- (i) National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
- (ii) Army Boys Sports Company (AB SC)
- (iii) SAI Training Centre (STC)
- (iv) Special Area Games (SAG) and
- (v) Centres of Excellence (COX)

The SAI has established extensive infrastructure and training facilities at its Centres in various parts of the country, and the number of trainees under SAI schemes has increased from less than 10000 at the beginning of the 10th Plan to around 14000 (anticipated) by the end of the current year. This is proposed to be further increased to 50000 in the XIth Plan.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is also considering the launching of a scheme 'Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan' with the objective of developing basic sports infrastructure, and promoting games and sports activities, at the village/sub-district level, both as an essential ingredient of the development of the Youth and to significantly expand the catchment for spotting and nurturing of sports talent. Consultations are being held in this regard with all the stakeholders concerned with a view to finalizing the proposal

(c) & (d): It is a fact that the Sports and Games require greater attention in Schools and Colleges. The emphasis on sports & games in the Schools/Colleges has not been sufficient on account of: -

1. General lack of sports consciousness, and focus on academics, among parents and teachers;
2. Inadequate emphasis on implementation of the policy to make Sports & Physical Education compulsory;
3. Non-availability of adequate sports facilities and playgrounds in educational institutions.

(e) This information is not maintained in the Ministry.

(f) The Government promotes sports in Schools and Colleges in the country through organization of Multi-sports competition in identified Olympic and indigenous disciplines at District, State and National level through the Sports Authority of India in coordination with the State Governments.