

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2093  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007  
TAPPING OF SPORTS TALENTS  
Meinya Dr. Thokchom;Yadav Shri Giridhari

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has explored avenues for tapping maximum sports talents in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the facilities being provided by the Government to the sportspersons to hone up their talents;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to give stipend or financial support to the prospective sports persons;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any dispensation to provide Government jobs to all the medal winners in international games and sports events;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) if not, whether the Government would like to initiate any such scheme;
- (h) whether various sports federations are not utilising the facilities for the benefits of the sportspersons; and
- (i) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Sports is a State subject. The National Sports Policy 2001 envisages that the broad-basing of sports would primarily remain the responsibility of the State Governments and the Union Government would actively supplement their efforts in this direction and for tapping latent talents. The following schemes are being implemented by the Government of India and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for tapping and nurturing of sports talent:

- (a) National Sports Talent Contest Scheme
- (b) Army Boys Sports Company Scheme
- (c) SAI Training Centres
- (d) Special Area Games Centres
- (e) Centre of Excellence
- (f) Talent Search & Training
- (g) Assistance to National Sports Federations
- (h) National Sports Development Fund
- (i) Sports Scholarship Scheme.

The sportspersons identified for training in the various Centres of SAI are being provided stipend, sports kit, medical/insurance expenses, competition exposure, etc. besides facilities for scientific training and coaching.

In addition, the Ministry is also providing incentives for sportspersons through Special Awards for medal winners in international competitions and their coaches, and various other awards to sportspersons for outstanding performance; and through the Scheme of Pensions for medal winning sportspersons, who have brought glory to the country, after they retire from an active sports career.

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.

(e) to (g): As per Guidelines of the Department of Personnel & Training, upto 5% of the vacancies in Group `C` and `D` posts in the Government Departments/Ministries/ Undertakings can be filled up from among eligible meritorious sportspersons by relaxation of rules pertaining to age limit.

(h)&(i):Government of India gives financial assistance to recognized National Sports Federations for organizing domestic and international tournaments in India, participation of Indian teams in tournaments abroad, coaching through Indian and Foreign coaches, backed up with the requisite scientific support, purchase of equipments, etc. Funds under these schemes are being released after duly audited accounts and Utilization Certificates are submitted by the Federations.