

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3476  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015  
SAI Centres for Promotion of Circus/ Martial Arts  
Mullappally Shri Ramachandran

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Sports Authority of India centre established at Thalassery in Kerala for promoting Circus and Martial Arts is neglected since its inception;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard;
- (c) the number of coaches and other staff posted and the number of boys and girls undergoing coaching at the centre;
- (d) whether the adequate sports infrastructure facilities have not been provided at the centre; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR  
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) & (b): Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre at Thalassery was established on 6th May, 1990 with the objective to scout talented children hailing from the circus families in and around Thalassery and to provide them exposure in modern sports. Promoting circus and martial arts was not its primary objective. Initially, the focus was given to Gymnastics and 35 trainees were selected for coaching. From 1999 onwards, SAI expanded its induction with the objective of further broad-basing of sports and providing other under-privileged children an opportunity to excel in sports and games. This exercise also included introduction of other disciplines in addition to gymnastics. These include Basketball in 2000, Fencing, Athletics and Volleyball in 2001 and Wrestling in 2015. The discipline of Fencing was particularly introduced to provide an opportunity to trainees of Kalari Payattu, a local martial art, to excel in the modern art of fencing. Every year SAI is inducting fresh trainees against the vacancies arising due to weeding out. These freshers are mainly from the circus families.

(c)  
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Coaches Posted 06 nos. (male)  
Athletics 01  
Basketball 01  
Fencing 01  
Gymnastics 01  
Volleyball 01  
Wrestling 01

Staff posted 03 nos. (male)  
Upper Division Clerk (UDC) 02  
Bearer 01  
Groundsman 01

No of Boys and Girls undergoing training  
Regular 109 girls trainees  
Day Boarder scheme 10 boys and 03 girls – Gymnastics  
Come and Play Scheme 14 boys and 11 girls –Gymnastics

(d) No, Madam.  
Adequate sports facilities have been provided at the centre. The following facilities are available:-

1. 80 bedded hostel for girls with mess.
2. Athletic field: Utilizing Municipal Stadium, Thalassery
3. Basketball Court: Utilizing Municipal Basketball Court(cemented), Thalassery
4. Gymnastic hall : One
5. Volleyball Court : One (Mud Court)
6. Conditioning Hall: One </pre>

Future Plan

Multipurpose Indoor hall at SAI premises for which estimate is being prepared.

(e) In view of above, question does not arise.

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